

Concluding Remarks

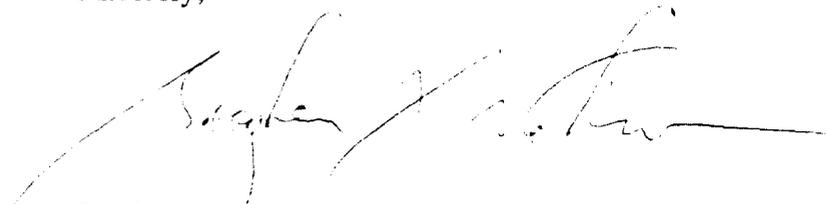
Section 2.4.3 of the draft EIR cites Objective 12 of the Residence Element of the San Francisco General Plan: "To provide a quality living environment." As discussed above, Sutro Tower impedes on this objective for the residents surrounding the tower. The addition of DTV adds to the intrusion of Sutro Tower on this community and would obviate the possibility that Sutro Tower could be removed entirely after the transition away from NSTC is completed in less than a decade.

Also cited on page 2-12 is Object 7, Policy 2: "Protect land from changes that would make it unsafe of unsightly." Certainly Sutro Tower would qualify as an unsightly addition to the landscape of San Francisco. If, as posited by the draft EIR, the selection of an offsite alternative such as San Bruno Mountain would allow for the eventual removal of Sutro Tower, this objective would be better met by rejecting the current proposal. Certainly the final EIR should discuss and expand on these points.

I request that the Planning Department require that the final EIR contain a detailed study of the off-site alternative project locating DTV broadcasts at San Bruno Mountain. The study should at minimum answer the question of whether locating DTV broadcasts at San Bruno Mountain would in fact provide adequate coverage for each of the television stations now broadcasting on Sutro Tower, and whether any additional off-site locations could be utilized in place of the proposed project.

If this study confirms that DTV broadcasts from San Bruno Mountain would provide adequate coverage, then I urge the Planning Commission to disallow the proposed project and require that the project sponsor utilize this alternative. Sutro Tower has been an intrusive presence on San Francisco for three decades. Further intrusion violates the San Francisco General Plan and is not warranted when an alternative exists.

Sincerely,



Stephen X. Nahm
President, Midtown Terrace Homeowners Association
(for identification purposes only)

*Midtown Terrace Home Owners Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 31097*

September 9, 1997 *San Francisco, California 94131*

Hillary E. Gitelman
The Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1660 Mission Street, 5th floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Gitelman:

I am writing in reference to the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Sutro Tower Digital Television (96.544E, July 9, 1997).

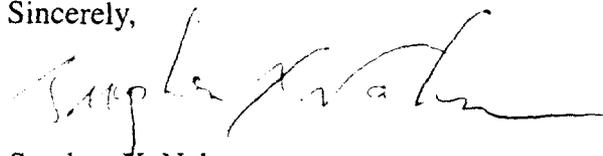
Attached are petitions from Midtown Terrace, Twin Peaks and residents of communities surrounding Sutro Tower regarding the inadequate notification and review period which has been conducted for the above referenced draft EIR.

Regarding inadequate notification, only a small fraction of the homes of our communities received notification of the proposed work, even though clearly Sutro Tower significantly impacts every home within at least a one mile diameter from the tower. Sutro Tower, Inc., also sent notification to a small subset of homes near the tower as notification of an information meeting he held which you attended on July 15th. I estimated the attendance as 30 or possibly 40 people. For a subject as important as this, that number was incredibly small. My organization, with Twin Peaks Improvement Association, subsequently held our own informational meeting providing notice to every member of our Associations. The meeting, held on September 3rd, was attended by nearly 200 people. Clearly, notification about this project was inadequate by at least an order of magnitude.

Regarding inadequate time for review, the period allowed for the draft EIR review was woefully inadequate for a project of this complexity. I was unable to attend the July 24th public hearing, however a request was made at that meeting to extend the review period to six months. This request was denied, and instead the period was extended a mere one month. Given the scope of this project and the nature of the potential impacts (RFR, seismic, population stress, technology alternatives), only a sufficient review period can allow a thorough review of the project allowing proper due process to be achieved.

We therefore demand that the draft EIR review period be extended to six months and notification of the project be conducted to all residents within a one mile distance to Sutro Tower as well as prominent publication in all major newspapers in San Francisco.

Sincerely,



Stephen X. Nahm
President

cc: MTHOA Board of Directors, TPIA Board of Directors

Mrs. Frank Navarra
183 Marview Way, San Francisco, California 94131

Sept. 5, 1997

Hillary E. Gitelman
Environmental Review Officer
Planning Dept.
1660 Mission St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: Sutter Tower

We are 40 year residents of Madtown Terrace
and very concerned about the proposed
addition to Sutter Tower for the Digital TV
Antennas.

As we understand it, the studies done on
the health issues are a bit outdated and
we feel there should be an updated study
done in this area.

Also with all the technology out there, why
can't there be something done about all the
interference we have in our electronic
equipment. You must know by now that
this area has very poor reception and lots of
interference on radios, T.V. etc. Yet they
can't tell us what will happen after all
the additional equipment is added.
This should be investigated.

Mrs. Frank Navarra
183 Marview Way, San Francisco, California 94131

Page 2

Please do not rush into
allowing this addition to
be added until further
investigation is done.

Rosemary Navarra

WALTER E. PAULLY

9/5/97

Planning Commission
City of San Francisco
1660 Mission Street. 5th Floor
San Francisco CA. 94103

Gentlemen:

We wish to lodge a protest against
the proposed expansion of the Sutro Tower.

Mrs Paully and I, long time
home owners at 130 St. Germain Avenue,
have been concerned over the potential
hazard this tower poses in event of a disaster.
Our lives and our home could be in jeopardy.

This tower is objectionable in other ways.
It is noisy in a high wind, causes interference
with our telephones and electronic music
systems and also is such an ugly mark on
our otherwise beautiful city.

San Francisco is widely recognized as
one of the most beautiful cities in the world,
yet we tolerate a visible cancer on our
landscape. The tower should be removed in
the interests of civic pride and thus return
San Francisco to its pristine beauty.

Sincerely

W E Paully

PS. move the tower to San Bruno Mountain or
Mt. Diablo.

Copy

Beverly Scholar and Faye Tauber 109 Olympia Way, San Francisco, Ca 94131

Hillary E. Gitelman
The Environmental Review Officer
Planning Dept
1660 Mission Street
San Francisco, Ca 94103

Sept 3 1997

Dear Mrs. Gitelman:

We oppose the addition to the Sutro Tower. Our main concern is the health and safety of our neighborhood. Without proper research, we have no idea what the consequences of increased transmissions will do to human beings, or to animals and birds that also live here. Too many industries have already polluted this country's water, air, and soil. Twenty years from now the people who have lived in this community may have cancers and other related health problems directly caused by the continual bombardment of the tower's signal waves.

We need proper scientific research that clearly lets us know that such a tower transmitter is totally safe to the health of the community. My Mother and I are opposed to any additions to Sutro Tower.

Sincerely,

Beverly Scholar - Faye Tauber

Beverly Scholar and Faye Tauber

James A Schuyler

220 Palo Alto Avenue
San Francisco CA 94114
(415) 759-0220
(500) 367-7590

COPY

September 6, 1997

Hillary E. Gitelman
Planning Department
City and County of San Francisco
1660 Mission Street
San Francisco CA 94103-2414

Dear Ms Gitelman:

I am concerned about the expansion of Sutro Tower for Digital Television (DTV) transmission.

I am a direct neighbor of the tower, living approximately 600 feet from its base in a recently-renovated house. I have lived in San Francisco since 1975 and bought this house two years ago.

Before buying my house I thoroughly researched the presence of the tower, contacted Sutro Tower, Inc., and was more or less satisfied that steps were being taken to ensure that it was sound and safe, although specific answers to many questions I had were not available. At that time, the impression I had was that the lifetime of the tower was approximately another 20 to 25 years. I also reviewed the evidence available on the health impacts of radio frequency radiation (RFR) and am generally familiar with the tone of current thinking on this matter. I am also well-versed in radio and television transmission and reception, particularly NTSC but to some extent with DTV as well, and am an FCC-licensed radio operator. I am Chief Executive Officer of a company working in the field of computer software and communications.

However, since the time I bought the house, Sutro Tower has proposed a physical expansion of the tower (the DTV mast) which only came to my attention through neighborhood action. I am surprised that this expansion was not brought to neighbors' attention by City Planning, and I request that I be placed on all neighbor notification lists which City Planning might require for Sutro Tower in the future.

Since moving into my home, my electronic devices have been plagued with problems. These include reception of FM radio stations on all of the telephones within the house, despite the fact that I have shielded all telephone and computer cabling in the dwelling. Some answering machines and cordless phones have malfunctioned or ceased to function. The problems also include overloading of sensitive FM receivers so that they are practically unusable. They also include malfunctioning of car alarms of visitors to my house. And it is still unknown whether I can install a garage door opener which will

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function correctly. During the expansion of my house, I installed shielded cables for all electronic devices, including telephones and computers, at greater expense than would otherwise be required.

Looking at the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Sutro Tower DTV raises several questions, which I would like to see addressed by City Planning. First, the EIR presents a plethora of information regarding the radio frequency (RF) expansion which is planned for the tower. Presumably that information and the research into health-related effects of RF broadcasting, is not the purview of City Planning, or perhaps of the EIR itself, but it happens to be the bulk of the EIR. Let me quickly address that, and then move on to what I feel are the additional questions which I'd like to see City Planning address.

The EIR reviews research into health-related effects of heating caused by electromagnetic radiation in the RF spectrum. I find that review interesting and informative. The EIR claims an increase in RF power density of about 10% due to the Effective Radiated Power (ERP) of additional DTV transmissions (currently around 19,205 kW ERP for NTSC television, with 4,983 kW of additional ERP being added for DTV transmission). The increase of 4,900 kW is an increase of 25.94%. On a straight-line basis, you would expect an increase of 25.94% in the heating effects of these new transmitters. That's not insignificant. A more detailed analysis of the figures shows that the increase will be smaller due to the frequencies and power at which the new DTV transmitters operate, for which we local residents are thankful, but speaking on behalf of those I've talked with, I know that people are concerned about any increase in ERP and an increase of 25% is certainly frightening to many people.

My greater concern is with the dangers of such a heavy structure, hopefully engineered to withstand certain natural perils, so close to a residential district. Adding the DTV pole to the Sutro Tower will certainly affect the structure in some ways, and I'd like to be sure that a thorough investigation has been done and that all parties, including the public, feel that Sutro Tower is adequately prepared to withstand all threats. I know that building codes apply as of the time structures are constructed or significantly altered, but Sutro Tower is too large a structure to ignore what we have learned about earthquakes and other natural phenomena just because the building code says we don't have to take the current code into account.

I have inquired, and have been told that no structural failure scenarios have been worked out for Sutro Tower. Failure under various conditions, such as wind, lateral and vertical acceleration due to earthquake, and explosion or sabotage, has not been researched. The increased weight and aerodynamic cross-section of the proposed DTV antenna can probably be more adequately modeled by computer today than in the 1960's, and it would be prudent to thoroughly examine how the new antenna configuration (and the tower

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itself) would perform under severe wind stress such as that experienced within the last two years (100 mph+ winds) during storms. I also understand that engineers have not examined the probable scenarios for collapse of the tower - a large water reservoir exists near the foot of the tower, as well as a number of homes. If the tower collapsed by toppling or crumpling, rather than by a failure resulting in its pieces dropping directly downward, or if it caused significant subsidence or landslides, it could lead to significant loss of life, both directly and due to the effects of water from a ruptured reservoir washing away dwellings, streets, automobiles and people. A collapse involving the loss of dozens or even hundreds of lives would presumably not be a tolerable event either from a humane standpoint or from a political standpoint.

It would also make sense that the city's emergency response plans would include scenarios for failure of the tower and possible rupture of nearby reservoirs. Has this been addressed?

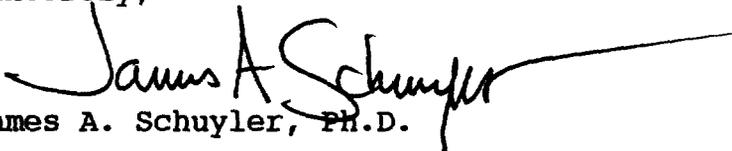
With respect to the DTV/NTSC migration, I am pleased that the period of overlap of DTV and NTSC broadcasting is currently envisioned to end at the year 2006. I would really prefer that DTV activities be removed from this residential area (that is, not begun in the first place) but if they commence, we still cannot count on the market forces which will determine whether NTSC broadcasting is continued at Sutro Tower, and therefore we should not assume that power will be reduced on the current FCC-mandated schedule, nor that the DTV antennas would eventually be moved upward (which might also cause potential danger to nearby residents during the construction).

In conclusion, although the management personnel at Sutro Tower act as good neighbors by trying to help mitigate the interference caused by the incredible RF "hash" flying off the tower, the tower itself is a potential hazard under some realistic scenarios, and I feel that any step which reduces the number of years we have to live with it here is a good step on the part of the City and County.

Please send me a copy of the Revised EIR prior to approval, so that I may comment upon it, and add my name to the list of "Interested Parties" regarding any issue pertaining to Sutro Tower, Inc.

I respectfully request that the Planning Department deny the requested expansion of Sutro Tower to add a mast for DTV transmission, or at least postpone this expansion until all concerns can be adequately addressed.

Sincerely,


James A. Schuyler, Ph.D.

SAN FRANCISCO CA
SUNDAY SEPT 7, 199.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OFFICER
MS HILLARY E GITELMAN

HAVING LIVED AT THE CURRENT ADDRESS SINCE 1953 WHICH ADJUTS THE ACCESS ROAD SUTRO TOWER WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO NUMEROUS NEGATIVE CHANGES THAT HAVE TAKE PLACE, INC. BUILDING, SERVICING AND MAINTAINING THE TOWER IN A WORKABLE FAS HAS BEEN AN OVERWHELMING ENDEAVOR TH WE HAVE ENDURED.

THE CONSTANT TRAFFIC OF AUTOS AND TRUCKS (INC. LARGE DIESEL SEMIS AND OTHERS) DAY + NIT WHICH HAVE BECOME PHYSICALLY TAXING, BEC OF NOISE AND EXHAUST POLLUTION, DUE TO THE GEOGRAPHIC LAY OUT OF ROAD HAVE MADE A ENVIRONMENTAL NEGATIVE OF THE SITUATION

WE WERE INFORMED AT THE TIME OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE CURRENT TOWER, TH THERE WOULD BE LESS MAN-HOURS NEEDED SERVICING TOWER, DUE TO UPGRADING (INC REMOTE CONTROL PLUS COMPUTER PROGRAMED AND OTHER MODERNIZATION, BUT THIS SEEMS TO H WORKED IN REVERSE, THERE IS CURRENTLY MORE TRAFFIC TO THE SITE THEN WHAT WE HAVE WITNESSED IN THE LAST 46 YEARS TH WE HAVE RESIDED AT RAD PAKO ALTO AU

THESE FACTORS PLUS THE NOISE OF THE G WIRES AND CABLES, SANDBLASTING, METAL BAW

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OFFICER

ATT: MS Hillary F. Gitelman

ALYCE BEZMAN TARCHER, M.D.
1545 DIVISADERO STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94115
(415) 885-8114
INTERNAL MEDICINE

7 September 1997

Planning Commission
City of San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

Dear Commissioners:

I am a homeowner residing at 36 Graystone - in close proximity to the Sutro Tower. I want it known that I vigorously oppose any plan to expand Sutro Tower for the purpose of broadcasting digital TV.

The expansion which includes the addition of a 125 ft. steel beam to the tower poses undue and indeed unnecessary risks to the heavy populated area nearby.

My objections are as follows:

I am concerned about the real risks to the residents and school children (there are three public schools in the vicinity) should the tower collapse during an earthquake.

I am concerned about the potential adverse health effects of exposing large numbers of people including the children in three nearby public schools to increased radiofrequency radiation (RFR).

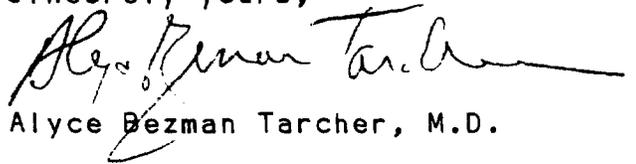
In my view, equating the adverse health effects of excessive amounts of RFR exposure with an increase in body temperature is, at best, simplistic. The data used to conclude that the "DTV antennas will not cause any negative impacts to people living near the tower" in my view, is insufficient to support such a broadly worded conclusion.

Be aware, that many times in the past environmental exposure initially thought to be harmless were subsequently discovered to be major health risks. Witness the adverse effects of such agents as asbestos, cigarette smoke, ionizing radiation and low level lead exposure.

Further, it must be emphasized the infants and children are well recognized to be more susceptible to the adverse health effects of environmental exposures. There are three public schools in close proximity to the Sutro Tower.

A decision to permit the expansion of Sutro Tower must weight heavily on the conscience of those favoring such a decision. Particularly when a suitable site for digital TV antennae exists on Mt San Bruno.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alyce Bezman Tarcher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Alyce Bezman Tarcher, M.D.

Ted Thiele
Jeanne Lamosse
422 Dellbrook Avenue
San Francisco, California 94131
(415) 759-7980

September 6, 1997

Hillary E. Gitelman
Planning Department
1660 Mission 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103-2414

Dear Hillary Gitelman:

This letter is written to express our concern about the proposed changes to the Sutro Tower which include it's expansion as well as it's increase in transmission levels. We relocated to San Francisco from outside the Bay Area and moved into this neighborhood, Mid-Town Terrace, in January 1994 and we immediately became aware of electronic interference. Our simple but modern telephones would not function because of the high levels of static. Pacific Bell repair personnel found no wiring abnormalities in the house, but advised us that older dial or early push-button telephones would be more heavily shielded from the tower which is situated directly behind the hillside bordering our property. We were thus forced to go out and purchase reconditioned AT&T desk top telephone and spend close to \$100, our initial purchase in San Francisco. This was our first inkling that the "The Tower" above us was the culprit for all kinds of problems which were to follow.

Next in line for correction were our phone answering machines. These gave garbled sounding out-going and in-coming messages as well as cut off incoming callers. We contacted the engineer at Sutro Tower, Mr. Gene Zastro, and he came to our home to investigate, seeing need to install ferrite devices on all phone cords, answering machines, radios and stereo equipment (some as many as three devices on one machine)! Despite all the efforts of Mr. Zastro, we continue to have problems with telephone interference, malfunctioning of answering machines, and have, consequently missed many personal as well as business opportunities due to these problems.

Radio reception is miserable at best on the FM band. We both love classical and jazz music and in our home we cannot receive stations such as KDFC or KCSM. In light of the fact that one of us is a musician, this is not only an inconvenience but seriously detrimental to our art.

In addition to cramping of our enjoyment of our home which the tower causes, we want to make you aware of the menacing quality of Sutro Tower during a storm. With weather causing high winds, which in San Francisco is quite often, the tower cables clank loudly and the wind howls fiercely causing frightening and stressful noises. On many occasions we are forced to sleep with earplugs if we want to get any rest at all. We find this

to be an ironic situation for an otherwise quietly idyllic neighborhood, in fact one of the few in the city sheltered from traffic sounds and other urban noise pollution.

But more important than these annoyances, daily stresses, and limitations to our enjoyment of our life under the tower, is our very real concern over greater issues such as the negative impact of the proposed tower expansion and extension of transmission power which we think are of a more serious nature. First, in light of the fact that San Francisco lives with the constant, very real threat of a serious earthquake, we think that such a tower in a residential neighborhood is a danger and the possibility of its falling or collapsing during a major quake poses a catastrophic threat to the lives and property of many of the people in the neighborhood. Additionally, many of us in the neighborhood believe that the electronic emissions from the tower impact one's health in a detrimental way. Many of our neighbors who moved into the neighborhood when it was first formed back in the late '50s and early '60s have cancer and have told us that they believe that is the result of the emissions from the Sutro Tower. We are all concerned about the negative impact on our health, especially in light of the Sutro Tower's intent to increase these emission levels over the next ten years.

We have taken the time to write you as concerned and conscientious citizens, but we wish also to inform you additionally that one of us is a professional visual artist who finds Sutro Tower to be an aesthetic abomination and a serious blight to the visual appearance and skyline of San Francisco, a city loved for its physical beauty. On many days we have personally been able to see the ugly structure of Sutro Tower from our beautiful hikes along the Bolinas Coast, or from miles across the East Bay. With organizations such as San Francisco Beautiful who celebrate the protection of this city's beauty and history, it is atrocious that Sutro Tower has been allowed to be built here at all or that it continues to increase its hideous and detrimental presence.

For all of the reasons we have listed above, ideally we would like to see Sutro Tower dismantled and removed permanently from our otherwise beautiful and quiet neighborhood. But realistically, at least we demand that Sutro Tower not be allowed to expand or to increase its emissions. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Ted Thiele and Jeanné Lamosse in cursive script.

Ted Thiele and
Jeanné Lamosse

George S. Wooding
11 Dellbrook Avenue
San Francisco, CA. 94131
(415) 695-1393

September 5, 1997

Ms. Hillary E. Gitelman
The Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1660 Mission Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California 94103-2414

Re: Sutro Tower's planned digital antenna additions

Dear Ms. Gitelman,

I have lived in the Midtown Tower neighborhood since 1989. My first residence was at 429 Panorama as a renter. I never realized what a nuisance the tower could be until the first time I turned on my television set and received extremely poor reception. I had assumed that television reception underneath the tower would be excellent. Unfortunately, I came to learn that television reception was awful. Unbelievably, I had to order cable television just to watch television while I lived a quarter mile away from Sutro Tower. What's wrong with this picture?

Phone reception at this address was also terrible. I had to install a second phone downstairs because the upstairs phone received so many radio frequencies that talking on phone for more than five minutes became unbearable. You can imagine the headaches of always running up and down the stairs just to have a phone conversation. The phone problem was a major inconvenience.

I will never forget the day my landlady came over to our house crying and let me know that her 26 year old son had just died from cancer that he had contracted as a young boy. Her son had grown up in the house that we were renting. She felt that the tower may have somehow contributed to his cancer. Of course none of this could ever be proven. Her grief for her lost son was sobering. I came to realize later that no one really yet understands how radio frequency radiation effects the human condition. I also came to realize that the people who live underneath the Sutro Tower were the "Guinea Pigs" who were being used to study the effects of radio frequency radiation on human beings. I may have forgotten to mention that I have a young son who spent years 0 - 5 sleeping in the same bedroom that the landlady's son had lived in.

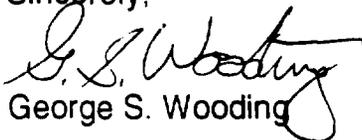
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I now own a house at 11 Dellbrook. I love the Midtown Terrace neighborhood and the people, but I can truthfully say that I hate the Sutro Tower's daily intrusions into our lives. Whether its the new strobe lights, or the tower reinforcement or the new plans for the digital antennas or the increased radio frequency radiation, the tower has a daily impact on our lives. I feel the most sorry for the original residents who owned their homes before the tower was built. Imagine the shock of seeing your beautiful neighborhood transformed from a quiet, safe place to raise children into essentially the foundation of an antenna. From the Sutro Tower's original inception, the neighbors in the Midtown Terrace neighborhood have been bullied, misinformed and lied to in regards to the Sutro Tower. The addition of the new digital antenna's is just another example of the Sutro Tower management trying to do another end-run around the neighborhood. What's good for Sutro Tower and it's management is not always what's good for our neighborhood. I believe that the Midtown Terrace neighborhood and the areas that surround the tower should be given a larger voice in what the Tower can and cannot do. Certainly, we need more than a month to analyze the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I have read the EIR for Sutro Tower's addition of 10 digital antennas and would like an answer to the most obvious questions. The report goes to great lengths to discuss radio frequency radiation and its effect on people. My concern is that there are no studies pertaining to the combination of digital and analog frequencies and their effect on people. Certainly, this combination of two different types of radio frequency radiation is what the Sutro Tower is proposing to do and yet there is absolutely no mention of the combined effects. My second concern is simple. Why can't the new digital antennas be located on San Bruno Mountain? The draft EIR states that San Bruno Mountain may be an acceptable alternative site.

Thank you in advance for your concern, interest and quick response. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,


George S. Wooding

September 9, 1997

Hillary E. Gitelman
The Environmental Review Officer
Planning Department
1660 Mission Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, California 94103-2414

Dear Hillary:

My family and I have lived in our home in Midtown Terrace for over ten years, and feel it is of grave importance that I express our concerns regarding the proposed project to install Digital Television (DTV) antennas onto Sutro Tower.

When we acquired our home in 1987, we were well aware that Sutro Tower (the "Tower") was in close proximity to our residence, but we were not aware of the effects the Tower would have on our lives. Initially, the Tower proved to be a nuisance when we found that it impaired our electrical equipment, and especially when some of the equipment had to be replaced with higher grade equipment, so that the interference was not as severe. Throughout the years, we have learned to accept the inconvenience of the interference caused by the Tower, but did not bargain for the addition of DTV, which is being considered.

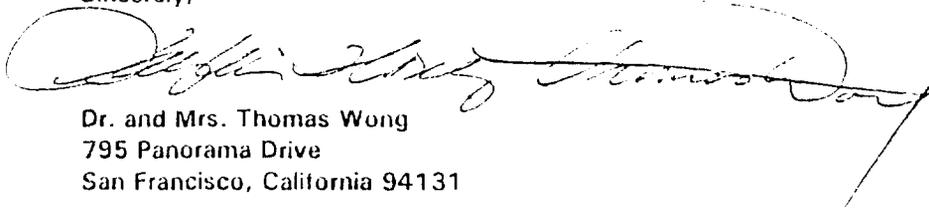
Of greatest importance, my husband and I gave birth to a child over five years ago who was born with a birth defect. The medical specialists at California Pacific Medical Center said that radiation has in the past been found to be a cause of the defect. Having lived below the Tower for five years prior to my pregnancy, I cannot help but wonder if the Tower contributed to my son's defect. I would be very interested to know if other neighbors have experience similar problems of this nature, and feel that the EIR report prepared by the City and County of San Francisco Planning Department dated July 9, 1997 gives a very shallow look into the effects on "Nearby Humans".

I am sure that if approved for installation, DTV will not only make the interference worst, during the projected nine years of overlap when signals from both National Television Committee and DTV are being emitted, but will surely cause a decrease in property values throughout the neighborhood as well. Even if we wanted to relocate, this would not be feasible, as we would be obligated to disclose the unwanted effects of the Tower and likely discourage potential buyers, or sell the house for less than its worth to get away from the Tower. The most important issue is that we are concerned with the long term health effects on our children. **Can you unequivocally state that the Tower does not cause adverse health effects to the residents of the neighborhood?** Had we known that the addition was in store, we would NOT have purchased this home.

I understand that you have an alternate site that is removed from residential homes, and ask that you relocate the project there. It is quite simple to say that DTV will benefit the reception of the residents in San Francisco, but I believe the proponents are doing it at the expense of the current residents located within the vicinity of the Tower. For those who strongly advocate this project, I suggest that they consider installing the equipment in **their** back yards, and playgrounds, so that they would understand what the residents of Midtown Terrace, Forest Hill Extension, Forest Knolls, and Twin Peaks are fighting about. It's always easier to sacrifice neighborhoods that are not your own.

INSTALL THE DTV EQUIPMENT WHERE THERE ARE NO RESIDENTIAL HOMES, CHILDREN'S PLAY GROUNDS, AND SCHOOLS. PLEASE LEAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ALONE.

Sincerely,



Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Wong
795 Panorama Drive
San Francisco, California 94131

September 9, 1997

**Re: Environmental Impact Report for Proposed Digital TV Technology
for Sutro Tower, Inc.**

To: Gerald Green, Director of San Francisco City Planning Department
Robert Passmore, Zoning Administrator
Hilary Gitelman, Environmental Review and Planners Paul Maltzer and Jim
Miller
Planning Commission: Hector Chinchilla, Vice-President, Dennis Antenore,
Richard Hills, Cynthia Joe, Larry Martin, and Beverly Mills

Dear Fellow San Franciscans:

Thank you so much for the extension of time to submit written responses re
above referenced. Herewith, some of my concerns.

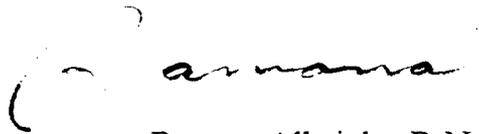
After repeated requests for same we still have no copies of "Exhibit #4, 5, 7"
referred to on page 2 of the March 10, 1966, Resolution No. 5967. This document
allowed the Conditional Use Permit which is undoubtedly what our zoning
administrator is basing his decisions upon as year after year he has allowed a new
building and numerous auxiliary antennae and microwave dishes hung on the tower
and piled on the transformer building, under the original CUP.

I am unutterably saddened to learn that the person hired by our Public Health
Department (though paid for by Sutro Tower, Inc.) C.K. Chou, Ph.D. is reportedly
under contract to the telecommunications industry. A million dollar plus current
contract.

For years my neighbors and I, in close proximity to Sutro Tower, Inc. have
asked for a government funded epidemiological study. This has been echoed by
C.I.E.R., Committee to Investigate Electromagnetic Radiation, since its for-
formation at the request of the Planning Commission and ratification by the Public
Health Commission eight years ago. (DURING WHICH TIME C.I.E.R. HAS MET
REGULARLY WITH THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.) No study has
been forthcoming. Now, with preeminent authors such as Dr. Robert Beckman^{SA}
stating "THE EVIDENCE NOW INDICATES THAT THE PRESENT
ABNORMAL ELECTROMAGNETIC ENVIRONMENT CONSTITUTES A

SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISK" we must insist as a part of your revised E.I.R. that such a study be undertaken immediately.

Considering all of the above, please do not make any decisions that could drag down our citizens' welfare. We have lived for too many years with too much emissions from Sutro Tower, Inc. This new digital TV technology must be placed in one of the OTHER EIGHT BAY AREA COUNTIES! San Mateo, for example, where a tower already exists with the capability to provide this new digital technology with equal success to that of Mt. Sutro in San Francisco County. Our citizenry with their inordinately high cancer rate deserves no less. The Commission has heard from the San Bruno legal representatives that they are desirous of the DIGITAL business and have a right to same.



Ramon Albright, R.N.
Chair Health, Public Safety, and Environment Committee
of the Colalition for the San Francisco Neighborhoods, CSFN
Co-founder of the Committee to Investigate Electromagnetic
Radiation, C.I.E.R.
Member Citizens Advisory Committee, San Francisco
Department of Public Health

Phone: 621-9621

In the past, Sutro Tower has impacted my life and or the lives of the occupants in my residence in the following manner :

On Dwelling ::

1. **Electromagnetic ::**

- Ω Television Reception Interference
- Ω Radio Reception Interference
- Ω Short Wave Radio Interference
- Ω Taping of Radio Or Cassettes Interference
- Ω VCR Playing Clarity
- Ω VCR Taping Clarity
- Ω Telephone Clarity
- Ω Answering Machine Clarity
- Ω Garage Door Malfunction
- Ω Spontaneous Power Surges ←
- Ω Car Alarm Malfunction
- Ω Other: _____

*all of the
below SUFFERED
BY ME OR MY
NEIGHBORS*

*EVEN
SET OFF
HOT WIRED
SMOKE
DETECTORS*

On Environment ::

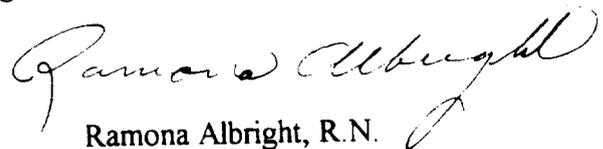
2. **Use and Enjoyment ::**

- Ω Noise from :
 - Ω Night Repairs
 - Ω Day Repairs
 - Ω Cables blowing, Guy Wires
 - Ω Rust from Tower on property
- Ω Sandblasting Dust/Debris
- Ω Bolts, small objects falling
- Ω Metal siding falling on property
- Ω Metal siding falling near property
- Ω Painting Dripping on House
- Ω Paint Dripping on Car or other
- Ω Other: _____

Additional Comments, Questions, and Concerns Regarding Sutro Tower::

Nine months ago I was diagnosed with a tumor of the pituitary gland of the type typical of pathology induced by emissions of the sort which come from Sutro Tower!

I have lived under Sutro Tower since its erection and shopped continually at West Portal Shopping Center, which is in direct "Line of Sight" for the entire street.



Ramona Albright, R.N.
September 9, 1997

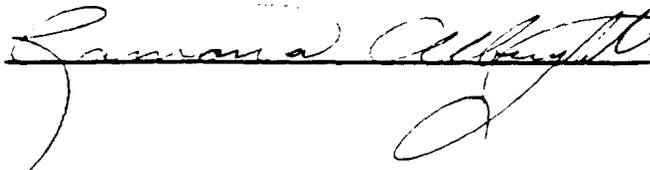
I OPPOSE ANY EXPANSION OF SUTRO TOWER FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- A suitable site for digital TV antennae already exists on Mt. San Bruno such that Mount Sutro will be obsolete and no longer needed.
- I am concerned about a reduction in property values in adjacent neighborhoods.
- I am concerned about the collapse of the Tower in the event of an earthquake
- I am concerned about the collapse of the Tower in the event of a landslide as well as the weight of the Tower on the hill-side.
- I am concerned about the structural failure of the tower.
- I am concerned about projectiles from the Tower striking my neighborhood. (ie metal siding, bolts, wires, cables, tools, etc.)
- I am concerned about any additional interference with telephones, radios, TV's, etc. which limit the use and enjoyment of my home.
- I am concerned about the unknown health effects of combined analog and digital electromagnetic radiation. ^{← AND KNOWN}
- I oppose continued use or additions to Sutro Tower absent the completion of an independent reliable epidemiological study pertaining to any and all related health effects which Sutro Tower and or its emissions are responsible for introducing into my residential neighborhood. GOVERNMENT FUNDED.
- I oppose continued use or additions to Sutro Tower absent the completion of a comprehensive disaster preparedness plan by the City and County of San Francisco pursuant to the Master Plan which will examine the potential impacts of the tower on emergency response, upon the lives and health of the residents, and the mitigation plans needed to be put into place to combat the effects of the Sutro Tower on any emergency or evacuation plans.
- I am concerned about the unknown effects of the tower upon emergency disaster plans and upon the structural integrity of neighboring reservoirs.
- Sutro Tower is visually obtrusive and would like to see it phased out.

Name RAMONA ALIBRIGHT, RN

Address 127 CROWN CT San Francisco, California 94 114

Please send me a copy of the Revised EIR prior to approval, such that I may comment upon it. In addition, please add my name to the list of "Interested Parties" regarding any issue pertaining to Sutro Tower, Inc.

Signed:  Date: SEPT. 9, 1997 (over)

COMMUNITY CONCERNS REGARDING EXPANSION OF SUTRO TOWER

COMMUNITY CONCERNS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

... the installation of a large (125 foot, 3 ft X 3 ft) beam on an aging (over 20 years) transmission tower which is constantly subjected to moisture (fog), and high winds

...increased maintenance problems - sandblasting, painting, etc.

...the increase in broadcast capacity necessitating an additional transformer be added to each of the existing 12 kilovolt feeder lines operating now

...the potential for increased interference based upon two sets of signals (analog and digital) operating simultaneously for an estimated nine (9) years...increased potential for noise pollution

...the potential for even greater expansion of Sutro Tower's existing building and electrical operating facilities, as it is noted that each tenant may wish to make "improvements" to their leased space

For many years, the residents of San Francisco accepted the location of Sutro Tower as the result of FCC and FAA decisions. New technology allows the DTV expansion to be placed on smaller and shorter towers.

The current tower, located in the midst of a City greenbelt, adjacent to the City's emergency water supply and in a single family residential area, should be phased out. The best location for DTV is on Mt. San Bruno, an "alternative" mentioned in the EIR.

as PER attached motion from the CSFN, Coalition for S.F. Neighborhoods...

Tower of power

Local TV stations want new antennae on Sutro Tower

FOR ABOUT a quarter-century, Sutro Tower has loomed above San Francisco neighborhoods, transmitting the signals of local television and radio stations. It has also been a beacon of controversy throughout those years, with many residents considering the 977-foot tridentlike structure to be an eyesore and a potential public-health hazard.

Now, under a new proposal pending before the city's planning department, Sutro Tower's operations may be expanded — a move that a group of concerned San Franciscans called the Committee to Investigate Electromagnetic Radiation has vowed to fight.

After the expansion plan was submitted last month, "my reaction was total shock," Ramona Albright, the group's cofounder, told the *Bay Guardian*. "We're looking for an environmental lawyer right now."

KRON, KPX, KGO, and KTVU,

the local television stations that own the tower under the name Sutro Tower Inc., want to add new antennae to the existing structure to help them compete in the coming era of "advanced," or digital, television. The tower currently serves a total of 10 television and four radio stations.

If the proposal goes through, four antennae would be fastened to a new 125-foot-long beam that would be placed inside the tower more than 600 feet above the base, according to the environmental-review application filed by Sutro Tower Inc. Those antennae would allow the networks to broadcast in advanced television bands.

"What [advanced television] will do is give you a much better picture and a much higher-quality sound," Sutro Tower Inc. counsel Bob McCarthy told the *Bay Guardian*. "It will be as dramatic a change in the quality of your picture as it was when we went from black-and-white to color."

Advanced television will mean something else for local broadcasters, McCarthy said. The four new antennae would allow each station to offer five or six different programming choices on the same frequency at one time. According to McCarthy, the Federal Communications Commission has said that local networks have the right to offer more options in order to compete with cable and that they must change over to advanced television.

But according to FCC senior en-

gineer David Bennett, the agency has not finalized the change.

Andy Schwartzman, president of the Washington, D.C.-based Media Access Project, a legal firm representing the public interest in the changing communications laws, said the FCC is considering whether to allow broadcasters to change to advanced television after they "obsessively" lobbied the federal government, he said. "They begged for it," Schwartzman said. "Nobody's holding a gun to their heads. He also said advanced television could increase the stations' monopoly of the local airwaves.

"Insofar as they will control that many more channels, it will increase their local domination," Schwartzman told the *Bay Guardian*, adding that the technical and regulatory standards applying to advanced television have not yet been set.

The planning department's next step is to produce a report studying the environmental impact of the new antennae. Paul Maltzer, an environmental planner, told the *Bay Guardian*.

And that report — which is being conducted by Sutro Tower Inc.'s consultant — will focus largely on potential health hazards, he said.

Albright worries that the addition to the tower, combined with the increasing number of cellular-phone antennae being erected around San Francisco (the city is considering applications for 30 new sites), may put residents at a greater risk of developing cancer.

"We're mad as hell," Albright said. "We absolutely oppose this new addition. There are volumes upon volumes of data and reports written about the potential hazards of electromagnetic radiation. Why should San Francisco have [the Sutro Tower expansion], especially with all the new cell-phone towers?"

McCarthy told the *Bay Guardian* that the existing tower, including the new antennae, would not pose a threat to residents' health. The level of radiation Sutro Tower emits is far below the national safety standards, he said.

"We'll be operating at one-thousandth of the human exposure level," he said.

But Louis Slesin, editor of *Microwave News*, a New York City publication that reports on electromagnetic radiation, said he has little faith in the national standards.

"They were basically written by the industry," Slesin told the *Bay Guardian*. "Those standards are written in terms of acute, short-term effects, not in terms of long-term ef-

ANTENNAE from page 12

fects. People who live in the shadows of those things are exposed at low levels over a long period of time."

Asked about a report released last week by the National Research Council declaring that there is no clear evidence that electromagnetic fields from power lines and appliances harm human tissue, Slesin cautioned that emissions from television and radio broadcast towers are much more powerful than those from power lines.

"If I had to be worried about one thing in the radio frequency department, it would be the existing load of radio and television towers across America," Slesin said.

Savannah Blackwell

22 November 6, 1996 ■ San Francisco Bay Guardian

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o An oversize page or document (such as a map) which was too large to be scanned into the RIPS system.

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o Other materials which, for one reason or another, could not be scanned into the RIPS system.

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