

It is disingenuous and dangerous to mislead voters into thinking there is no plan behind Ocean Beach Park. For that matter, no one has sprung anything on anybody regarding the proposal to replace an outdated Highway, built in 1929, with a 21st Century Park, giving people the opportunity to experience the joy of Ocean Beach without having to cross a truly dangerous Highway to get to it.

The City has been preparing for sea level rise for some time. Sea level rise is inevitable as greenhouse gas emissions continue to trap heat. With the long and vulnerable shoreline on which The Great Highway was built at risk of rising sea level, we must do a managed retreat. The southernmost portion of The Great Highway will be closed to vehicle traffic permanently starting in 2026. The Great Highway will no longer be "great". It will end at Sloat. The Ocean Beach Climate Change Adaptation Project will reroute traffic away from Sloat. We are preparing for the inevitable by creating a proposal for a better use of our coast than an outdated freeway.

Many political leaders and organizations have endorsed Prop K. It is the only comprehensive plan before us to meet the challenge of climate change in our Westside community before it is too late. The consequences of erosion of the coast and rising sea level will be disproportionately borne by lifetime Westside natives like myself, my children and my grandchildren, who will inherit my property in the Westside.

It is shameful that Josephine Zhao is using race politics to divide the Westside community when there

is a much greater diversity of supporters for Ocean Beach Park than she portrays. That being said, Ms. Zhao packed the meeting of the Democratic County Central Committee (DCCC) voting to endorse Prop K with opponents of the proposal. They booed, jeered, and shouted down speakers who wanted to express their approval of Prop K. This is not inclusive politics – this is political intimidation to shut down and silence stakeholders with opinions and politics different than Ms. Zhao's.

Please do not say that putting a Park where a dangerous Highway is conflicts with SF's Vision Zero Plan. That is manipulation of a statistic heartbreaking to all of the people who have lost loved ones to car collisions in the City. There are dangerous crashes on The Great Highway. Just a few days ago, two cars collided where it extends to Pt. Lobos and the Cliff House and crashed through the wall along The Great Highway. One driver died and the other sustained injuries. Our beloved abandoned Cliff House was damaged. If there had been people standing at the wall looking out at the Pacific, which I do often enough, or runners gasping up the hill, which I have done on my Fun Runs, the loss of life would have been greater.

There is no compromise on a Highway dominated by 2-ton vehicles traveling at 40 mph and driving is not "climate friendly" at all. Cars cause the biggest share -48%- of carbon dioxide emissions globally, according to an analysis by Statista. This makes cars and vans the most emissions-laden mode of transportation worldwide, over 4X that of domestic air travel pegged at 11%.

Emergency vehicles do not need a 4-lane Highway to reach an emergency at the sand dunes of Ocean Beach. The expense of continually removing sand, in order that motorists do not have to drive on a dangerous slippery road, will be lowered. In April 2022, The Great Highway had to be closed for a month for the removal of sand and the motorists' world did not come to an end.

Prop K will not end a pilot program. It will expand it. What will be built is a permanent multi-use public trail and Park with sweeping views of the Pacific Ocean, clean air, and freedom from the ever-present noise and stress of City traffic.