

San Bruno Fires Project

Where are we now?

February 21, 2019

Topics

- ▶ What's the Problem?
- ▶ What's the current effort?
- ▶ What needs to be done?
- ▶ How will we fund it?

What's the Problem?

The right-of-way landscape

- Created in 1954, bushes turned in to trees are covered by ivy
- Some areas have been clearcut, but now grass-weeds are rampant and are fire hazards
- Irrigation installed in 1954 is broken and has not worked for 15 years
- Area is hard to access
- Caltrans Maintenance does not have the resources it needs in order to prevent fires and camping
- CHP responds to complaints, but does not have a regular monitoring schedule.

Trespassing to camp

- Overgrown landscaping hides illegal activity
- CHP, not SFPD is responsible for the state land
- Gates are locked but there is freeway access
- Homeless who refuse services camp there.

What's the Problem?

- Since 2013 multiple fires have been reported on Caltrans Right-of Way between Potrero Hill Homes and the 101 Freeway every year.
- In 2015 the fires were reported on by KTVU news: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/2-investigates-neighbors-furious-over-fires-on-caltrans-owned-land-threatening-homes>
- There has been no official investigation, but these are thought to be fires by illegal camping. Warming fires, meth related fires, etc. Note: SFFD says investigation responsibility belongs to CALFIRES. CALFIRES investigated in October 2018 and, in a letter, requested a plan from Caltrans to eliminate the fire hazard.



What's the Problem?



Weeds, Weeds, Weeds.....



Overgrown growth - Areas to hide

What's the Problem?



Green that turns brown

What's the current effort?



New fences were installed in 2016 -better than chainlink, but



Gates installed on new fences

Gate lock consistency is a problem
- here two Caltrans locks and one SFFD lock

What's the current effort?



Caltrans Maintenance cleans up what they can.



What's the Current Effort?

Caltrans Maintenance does their best to respond to complaints from neighbors in unusual places.



At the North 40, completely boxed in by soundwall, back yards and two fences, neighbors work with Caltrans to keep weeds down.



At the Vermont offramp, suffering fires, encampments, garbage and graffiti, Caltrans Maintenance has recently cleaned the area and installed rocks.

What's the current effort?



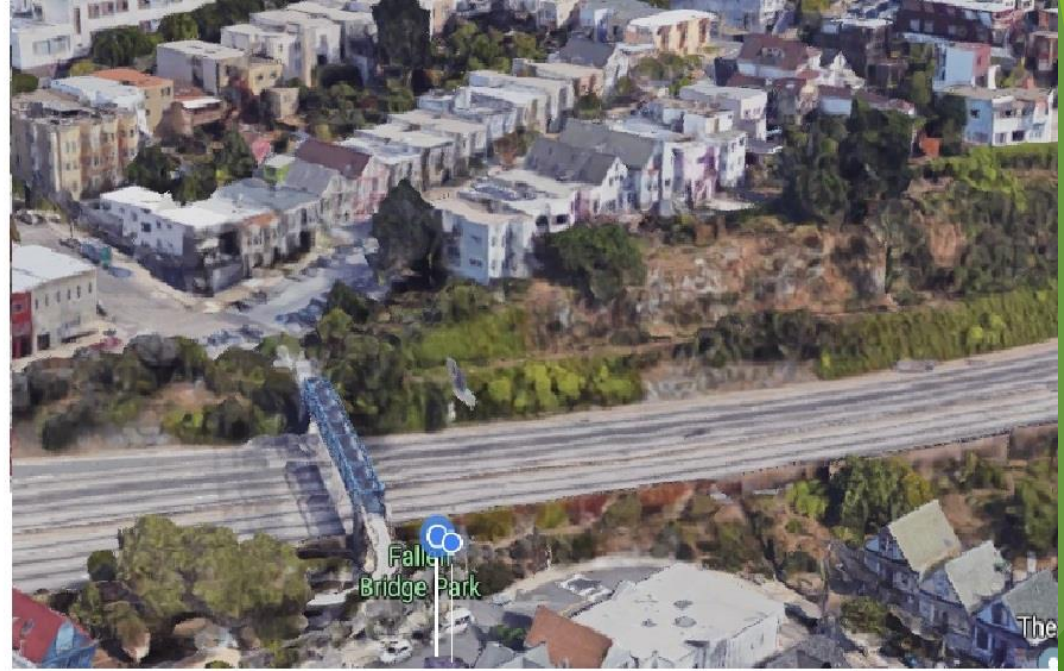
Highway Patrol is called when there is an incident.

There is no weekly or biweekly monitoring of the area.

How did it get this way?



“Above San Francisco”, Robert Cameron, 1975



Google Maps 2018

State funding has not maintained the irrigation of the right-of-way landscape touching urban homes. Problems are addressed when they are emergencies.

No large scale systematic planning efforts have taken place.

Caltrans Maintenance budget has been severely restricted over the last twenty years. That restriction has led to the fire hazards and enabled homeless encampments.

What needs to be done?

A Short Term Plan

- Vermont Offramp
 - Find a solution for the cave there. Rocks were suggested
- Locks
 - Current lock situation needs to be corrected
- North 40
 - Remove dead Pine tree, access to sliding door only from inside
- Monitoring
 - CHP set up a weekly/monthly monitoring foot patrol protocol
 - CHP coordinate with HOM to keep track of any campers

Long Term Plan

- Landscape from Vermont Exit to 20th Street so it can be monitored and easily maintained
 - Create a landscape plan that eliminates fire hazard
 - Insure the Landscape plan has neighborhood approval
 - Execute the plan
- Monitoring
 - CHP set up a weekly/monthly monitoring protocol
 - CHP coordinate with HOM to keep track of any campers

How will we fund it?

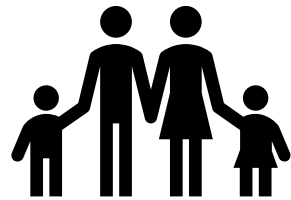
Fund a Landscape renewal project with Caltrans budget
Increase Caltrans Landscaping Maintenance budget

California Grants

- Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program (next cycle April 2019)
- Urban Greening Grant Program (California Natural Resources Agency)
Application deadline 2/28/2019
- Cultural, Community and Natural Resources Grant Program (Applications due 2/13/2019)
- Proposition 68 Grants (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection)
- ReLeaf Grant

What Next?

We have had this problem since 2013! Do we have to wait for a house to burn down before something ACTUALLY gets done?



This problem can be solved if we all work together!!

