

## Bagot-Lopez, Barbara

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**From:** Bagot-Lopez, Barbara  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 25, 2010 4:48 PM  
**To:** 'sutrocommunity@listserv.ucsf.edu'  
**Subject:** UCSF Community Meeting On Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve

Dear Neighbors,

Please join us at our next community meeting to plan for a 2-acre demonstration project in the Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve:

Wednesday, March 24, 2010  
6:30 p.m.  
UCSF Millberry Union\*  
500 Parnassus Avenue

I also wanted to let you know that due to significant changes in the initial timeline for review and implementation, I am recommending to campus leadership that UCSF withdraw grant applications previously submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for two proposed fire mitigation projects. The FEMA timeline would have inhibited UCSF's ability to implement small demonstration areas in advance of the fire mitigation projects.

I want to be clear that UCSF remains fully committed to reducing the risk of wildfire and improving the health and safety of the remaining trees while maintaining scenic quality, and will continue to seek alternate funding. I believe that small demonstration areas, which are a part of the 2001 Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve Management Plan, are a critical piece of our planning work with the community, and are a vital part of project planning.

### Next steps:

In keeping with the 2001 Plan, UCSF will work closely with neighbors to plan, implement, and evaluate a small (approximately 2 acres) demonstration area that would embrace best practices to ensure public safety (through fire mitigation) and improve the health of the forest while maintaining scenic quality. This demonstration project will be subject to environmental review according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

### Background:

The Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve is a largely undeveloped area of approximately 61 acres of land that is owned by the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and located in the middle of San Francisco, adjacent to UCSF's Parnassus Heights campus.

During the 1990's, while working with the campus on the UCSF Long Range Development Plan (LRDP), the UCSF Community Advisory Group advised that the LRDP include recommendations for a maintenance and restoration program for the Reserve's vegetation and hiking trails. This became the impetus for the 2001 Mount Sutro Open Space Reserve Management Plan (2001 Plan), which was developed with substantial involvement from members of the community. The plan strikes a balance between neighborhood interests and UCSF concerns, focusing on key planning principles that include: ensuring public safety and property protection; improving the health of the forest; protecting and expanding native plants; enhancing wildlife habitat values; maintaining scenic quality; and improving public access.

Faced with cuts in state funding, UCSF has been seeking alternative funding for the 2001 Plan. In 2007 and 2009, UCSF submitted grant applications to FEMA to fund two proposed fire mitigation projects in the Reserve totaling 14 acres. The projects were to involve selective removal of shrubs and mostly young trees to reduce the amount of highly combustible fuels.

A community meeting and two walking tours were conducted on these applications in fall 2009, with more than 100 neighbors participating. A summary of these meetings can be found at:

<http://community.ucsf.edu/pdf/CommunityProcessSummary%20Fall%202009.pdf> .

Sincerely,

Barbara J. French  
Associate Vice Chancellor, University Relations  
University of California, San Francisco

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\* Millberry Union is on MUNI lines 6, 43, 66, N-Judah. \$1.50 validated parking in UCSF public parking garage. For more information, please visit [our website](#). To be kept informed about this or other UCSF projects, please contact [Barbara Bagot-López](#) or call 476-3206.

*UCSF fully ascribes to the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you have a need for accommodation, please call (415) 476-3206 with your suggested accommodation.*