

May 2006

Volume 1, Issue 6, Series 2

PHA Newsletter

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Berkeley/Oakland, California

Announcements:

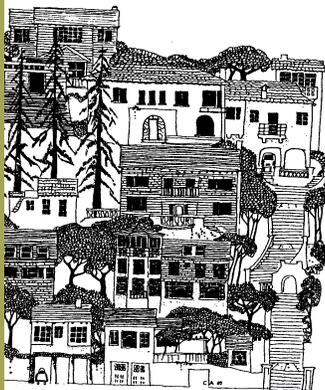
Oakland Rezoning Hearing
May 30th, 2006
7pm
Oakland City Hall

PHA ANNUAL MEETING
June 4th, 2006
4-6pm
567 Panoramic Way

SCIP Hearing
June 5th, 2006
7-9pm
Anderson Auditorium
Haas School of Business

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PHA ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday June 4th, from 4-6PM, at the home of Renee and Jerry Wachtel, 567 Panoramic Way.

Please bring a dish to share with your neighbors. PHA will supply beverages.

The Agenda for this meeting includes:

1. Nomination and election of officers for 2006-2007.
2. Summary of the issues facing Panoramic Hill from UC's Draft EIR about its "Southeast Campus Integrated Projects."
3. Discussion of a Secondary Access Road, and results of the survey.
4. Status report on Oakland rezoning – questions and answers.

Please note that a Public Hearing on the Draft EIR will be held the day after our meeting, Monday, June 5th, from 7:00-9:00 PM in the Anderson Auditorium in the Haas School of Business.

Panoramic Hill Faces the Ultimate Challenge

By Janice Thomas & Renee Wachtel

Do you know what the University of California, Berkeley (CAL) is planning for its massive redevelopment of Memorial Stadium and the surrounding fields, sports facilities and Schools of Law and Business? Do you know

what the potential impacts will be to all of us living on the Hill? How will CAL try to minimize the impact of construction of the "Southeast Campus Integrated Projects"? Never before has Panoramic Hill faced a development project so massive at its front door.

CAL has released the draft Environmental Impact Report, a two volume, more than 1000 page document, and has scheduled a public hearing for June 5, 2006, the day after the PHA Annual Meeting.

Continued on Page 3

Rambles from the President

By Jerry Wachtel

It's been an "interesting" year.

As we approach the PHA Annual Meeting and the end of this term of office, I thought it appropriate to sum up a few of the key issues that the Association has faced this year. Indeed, these issues do not recognize our calendar, and they will continue to face us in the immediate, and perhaps long term future.

First and foremost is the University's "Southeast Campus Integrated Projects," about which you can read more in this newsletter. CAL has just issued a massive, two-volume, Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on this project, and it makes for chilling reading for any Panoramic Hill resident. The impacts upon our special little community will be profound if the University goes forward with everything that it intends to build. A number of our neighbors, led, as is so often the case, by Janice Thomas, have worked tirelessly for many months to understand and react to these potential impacts. But our last, best opportunity to have our voices heard is now upon us. The University will hold a Public Meeting on the DEIR the day after our Annual Meeting, and you are urged to attend. In addition, written

comments to the DEIR are due not later than July 7, 2006. If we don't make our case now, we are unlikely to be given another opportunity to be heard before the bulldozers and jackhammers are at our doorstep. Janice and Renee Wachtel will summarize the key issues at the Annual Meeting. Please come to hear them and please make yourselves heard as well.

Second, the City of Oakland is moving forward, through a long and slow gestation period, to downzone Panoramic Hill. The proposed downzoning is the first step in a multi-stage effort to ultimately reduce the number and size of new homes that could be built on the hill in the future, and to enable the City to open a realistic dialog with Berkeley about building a real sewer system. This proposal has a few critics, although at several PHA meetings on the subject the sentiment of the community was strongly in favor of the downzoning. Each of the past three Presidents of PHA supports the rezoning effort, and the PHA Board voted unanimously in favor of it when Oakland staff presented it to city officials. The proposal has been approved unanimously by the Oakland Planning Commission and by the

City's Special Projects Committee. Recently it was unanimously approved by the City Council's Community and Economic Development Committee, chaired by our City Council Representative, Jane Brunner. It must still be voted upon by the full City Council. That process has been temporarily delayed by a procedural issue in which two city agencies miscommunicated about the required notification procedures. We will endeavor to address questions about the rezoning proposal at the Annual Meeting.

Third is a subject that has been "under discussion" by the PHA for more than 50 years, and may continue to be in our thoughts fifty years from now. That is the issue of a secondary, emergency access road for Panoramic Hill. You have seen the surveys that the Board has circulated on this issue since October, and many of you have completed and returned your survey forms. We would like the survey results to represent the largest possible sample of hill residents and property owners, so we are making a final push to solicit your participation.

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"Our last, best opportunity to have our voices heard is now upon us"



Jerry Wachtel
President

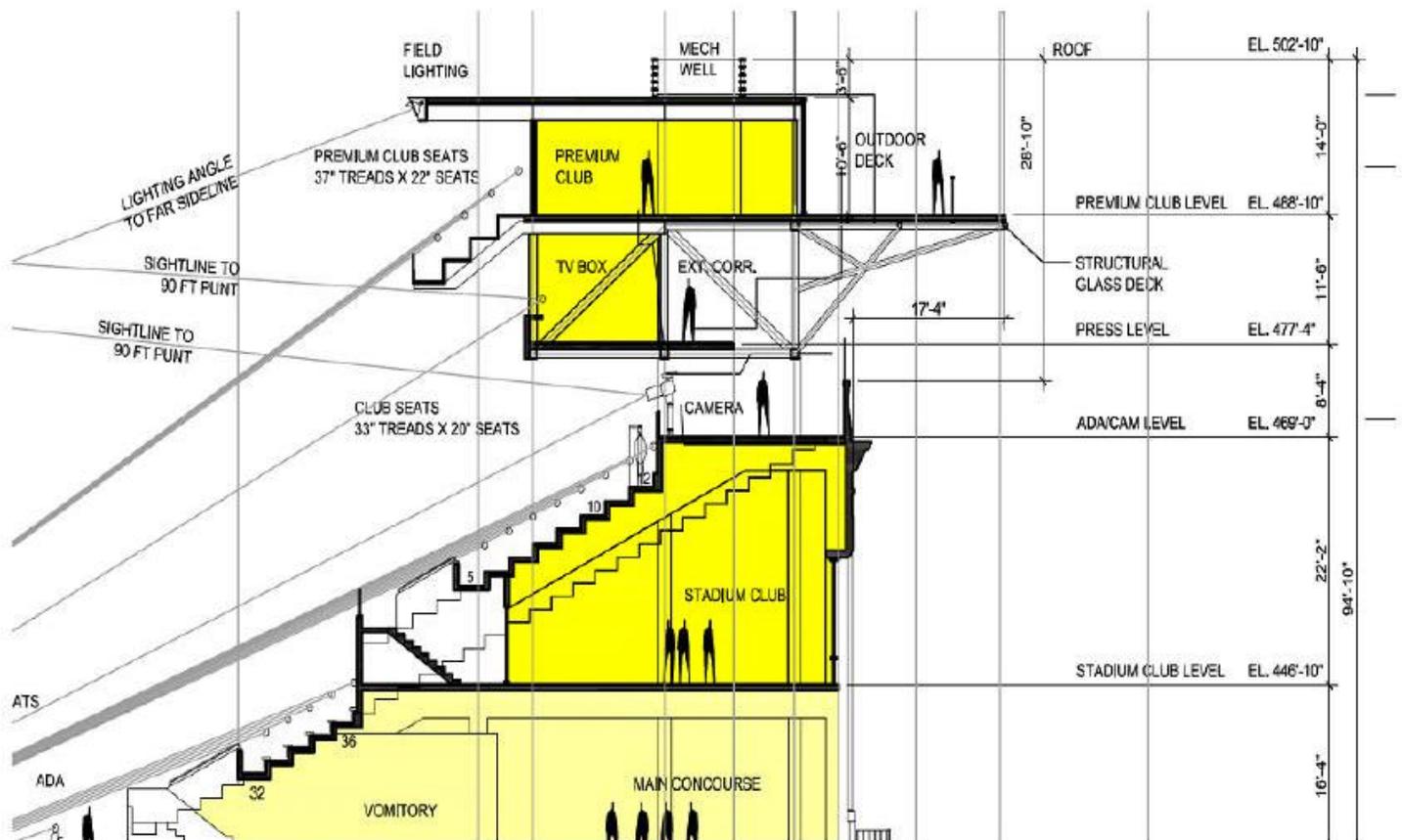
Ultimate Challenge (continued from cover)

Although printed copies of the Draft EIR cost more than \$200 to purchase, anyone can view it on line (www.cp.berkeley.edu) or at the main branch of the Berkeley Public Library. We urge you to obtain a copy, read those sections that are of most interest and concern to you, and then come to the PHA meeting Sunday June 4, where we will present a summary and draft critique of the plan for your comments. We want your

input to respond to this draft report, since it may be the only opportunity we will have to influence the factors that CAL considers for both the construction phase and the final shape of the project. Issues such as traffic, parking, emergency access and response, placement and displacement of athletic structures, increased stadium use (including nighttime use), etc are

open for discussion and comment. Written comments must be sent by July 7, 2006 to Jennifer McDougall, AICP, 300 A&E Building, University of California Berkeley CA 94720-1382 or by email to secampus@cp.berkeley.edu. , PLEASE COME AND EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS ON JUNE 4TH AND 5TH.

“Never before has Panoramic Hill faced a development project so massive at its front door.”



Graphic from the March 13, 2006, Community Open House detailing the 28' high structure above the Stadium's west rim.

Rambles from the President (continued from pg 2)

Board members are going door-to-door asking folks to complete their survey. Please treat them kindly when they come knocking. In addition, we are mailing survey forms to absentee owners in a further effort to

ensure full participation. We plan to discuss the results and analyses of the survey to date at the Annual Meeting.

I hope to see you all at our house on June 4th. All in all,

it's been an "interesting" year, and I thank you for your interest and your support of our work.

It's Vegetation Management Time Again!

By Eric Choate

With all the rain this year the plants and weeds are out of control! The Oakland Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau wants you to know that they expect your property to be in compliance by June 15th. If your property

is out of compliance on the 15th, you will be given a notice and a re-inspection. If your property is out of compliance upon re-inspection it will be cleared for you and a tax lean placed on your property.

More information can be found here:

<http://www.oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention/>

In addition a free chipping service is offered by calling 238-7388. Owners simply place debris less than 4" in diameter in piles 4'x4' and call the number above.

PHA needs your help! If you'd like to serve on any of our committees, please contact JerryWachtel@Panoramichill.org

Walking tour with Berkeley Planning Officials

By Jerry Wachtel

On April 19th, several members of the PHA Board, along with Past-President Fredrica Drotos, took a walking tour of the hill with four members of the Berkeley Planning Department, including Helen Burke, Chair of the Planning Commission, Mark Rhoades, Janet Homrighausen, and Carli Paine.

We showed them our recently designated National Historic District and several of our mid-century modern homes that may be eligible for

historic designation in the future. We pointed out our historic paths, the fire trail, and some of the potential routes for a secondary (emergency) road that have been discussed for decades. We highlighted our infrastructure problems (narrow, crumbling roads; inadequate and non-existent sewers) and our hazards, including the natural woodlands that border the hill and the dense eucalyptus grove at the base of the hill. We discussed issues of parking, illegal uses, our concerns about the proposed development

at 161 Panoramic Way, and the potential impacts on our community from UC's proposed massive Southeast Campus Integrated Projects, now in the form of a Draft Environmental Impact Report. We demonstrated to them how active we are as a community in emergency preparedness, with a specific discussion of our annual emergency preparedness event, equipment cache, emergency communications system, and neighborhood clusters.

Road Survey – Your Response is Needed

By Paul Abboud

In the Fall of 2005, the PHA announced the development of a survey regarding opinions among residents and property owners about a second road for Panoramic Hill. The PHA and our concerned neighbors have been very active for many years in our efforts to address both prevention and response to natural disasters. One issue that has been discussed by PHA as well as both Berkeley and Oakland for over 40 years has been the pros and cons of constructing a

secondary road for Panoramic Hill.

Although there were city-based proposals developed in the 1950s and 1970s for a secondary road, this issue has not been formally addressed by the PHA in many years. Given recent developments with the University of California's plan for intensified use of the southeast campus, as well as the Oakland City Council's consideration to change the zoning for Panoramic Hill, your voice in the matter of a secondary road is all the more crucial.

With over 50 surveys completed and tallied, the PHA Board has commenced analyzing the responses. If you have not already completed a survey, please consider doing so right away, as the survey will be closed after the General Meeting this June.

To access the survey via the web, please log on to <http://www.panoramichill.org/safety.htm> or contact myself if you need a paper copy (PaulAbboud@PanoramicHill.org).

Deer Abby

Q: Panoramic Hill is certainly one of the most beautifully "wild" neighborhoods in the Bay Area. Most of us enjoy walking along the streets here. However, it seems like this area of the neighborhood might seem much prettier and safer for pedestrians without the trash bins always lining the street—and in some cases strewn about yards as though some local tornado passed through.

What are these people thinking? Should the entire neighborhood suffer for their

convenience or oblivion? I wonder if residents on Panoramic Hill would consider storing their trash bins out of sight until the evening before pickup day as stipulated by the blight ordinance.

Signed,

Disgusted

A: I do understand that some neighbors are physically limited by the steep hills and lack of sidewalks in the area. However, many homes in the area do have carpports

and backyards that could be used to store bins in a neat and neighborly fashion until trash day. Some homeowners on steep lots have built roadside enclosures that allow them to keep their bins on the road edge in a more appropriate

For answers to frequently asked questions about using residential trash bins in Oakland, go to www.oaklandpw.com/Page40.aspx or call The Oakland Public Works Association at: (510) 615-5566



Send your Deer Abby questions to abby@PanoramicHill.org.

Emergency Preparedness Events (Mark your Calendars)

By Dick White & Penny Rink

For the emergency radio group and the emergency cache key-holders (you know who you are): On Saturday June 24 from 10-12 am there'll be a special drill run by Fred Toth to simulate a Panoramic Hill disaster in which the handheld radios will be used to transmit information from various

locations on the Hill to an incident command center near the cache and to a Ham radio net center.

Annual Emergency Preparedness Drill -- Sunday October 15 from 10 - 12 am:

We'll have our annual drill at which you can learn about preparations you

should make for emergencies and take part in a realistic simulated emergency that was designed and tested by CORE (Citizens of Oakland Respond to Emergencies). It should be both informative and challenging -- be sure to come!

Walking Tour (continued)

Helen and her colleagues were very interested in what we had to say, and eagerly climbed up and down the hill with us for several hours. They intend to use the knowledge that they gained from our walking tour as the Planning Commission holds a public hearing on UC's Draft EIR, and as it

prepares its comments to the City Council on the UC plan.

take several hours to meet with us.

All in all, it was a productive afternoon, and it was especially gratifying that these Berkeley officials were sufficiently interested in Panoramic Hill to

Volunteers wanted!
Please contact newsletter@PanoramicHill.org if you can help with the newsletter or website.

Nominating Committee Report

The Panoramic Hill Association Board will be losing two members this year, Jeanne Allen and Paul Abboud. Three highly motivated Hill residents have agreed to participate as Board members for the 2006-2007 season. At the

next general Hill meeting, members will be asked to vote for those candidates, who are: Robert Breuer, Michael Kelly and Regula Muller. According to the PHA bylaws, additional nominations may be taken from the floor at the

meeting. Please come to the meeting to show your support and vote.

The Nominating Committee

UC Releases EIR For New Stadium Complex

By Richard Brenneman
(Daily Planet 05-09-06)

The half-billion-dollar set of projects planned around California Memorial Stadium carry "unavoidable significant impacts" in at least 14 areas, according to a draft environmental impact report (EIR) released Monday.

The document outlines the impact of the demolition of existing landmarks, the construction of 451,000 square feet of new buildings, and such factors as the project's impacts on views, traffic aesthetics and noise.

Seismic impacts are also addressed—an essential, considering

that at least three of the principal structures sit atop or are immediately adjacent to the Hayward Fault, which federal geologists have identified as the most likely site of the Bay Area's next major earthquake.

Berkeley Planning Manager Mark Rhoades said the university gave the city "a couple of hard copies of the two-volume report" Monday, and said the planning department has begun working with the city manager's office on a city-wide review.

"It's a very large project in a very sensitive part of the city and we will be playing very close attention," Rhoades said.

The combined projects include:

- A seismic retrofit and refurbishing of California Memorial Stadium.
- A 158,000-square-foot Student Athlete High Performance Center along the stadium's western wall.
- A 911-space semi-underground parking lot just north of the stadium, and
- A "Law and Business Connection Building" just across Gayley Road from the stadium.

See the complete article at:

<http://www.berkeleydaily.org/article.cfm?archiveDate=05-09-06&storyID=24073>

"...unavoidable significant impacts..."

Classified Ads

Housing Wanted:

Swiss Family looking to rent a 2-bedroom house on Panoramic Hill: July 23 to August 10.

My sister & bother-in-law are coming to Berkeley for three weeks this summer, with their two well-mannered children. She is an architect, adult education teacher of immigrants & an immaculate

housekeeper. He is a high school teacher, who has been awarded a short-term sabbatical to study secondary education in the US (& will be interviewing many people at UC Berkeley).

They need a 2-bedroom house or apartment & would love to be on the hill or nearby. In addition to paying rent, they would take excellent care of your house, as well as

keeping your in-door & out-door plants watered.

Please call me @ 848-8711 (home) or 388-3810 (cell) if you know of a house or apartment that might be available.

Many thanks, Regula Muller

Panoramic Hill Association

P.O. Box 5428
Berkeley, CA 94705

E-MAIL:
info@PanoramicHill.org

About Our Organization...

The Panoramic Hill Association is a non-profit mutual benefit association dedicated to serving its members and community. The association strives to ensure the safety and preserve the character of the neighborhood by working with local officials throughout the year.

General meetings are held three times a year, with board members elected at the annual meeting in April.

Membership is a modest \$15 per household per year. Membership is not required to attend meetings.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.PanoramicHill.org

Boardmembers

Jerry Wachtel	President	JerryWachtel@PanoramicHill.org
Paul Abboud	Vice President (Oakland)	PaulAbboud@PanoramicHill.org
Jeanne Allen	Vice President (Berkeley)	JeanneAllen@PanoramicHill.org
Marcos Gandara	Vice President (UC)	MarcosGandara@PanoramicHill.org
Cathy Orozco	Secretary	CathyOrozco@PanoramiHill.org
Eric Choate	Co-Treasurer, Webmaster, Newsletter Editor	EricChoate@PanoramicHill.org
Paul Salz	Co-Treasurer	PaulSalz@PanoramicHill.org
Maarten Kalway	CNA Liaison	MaartenKalway@PanoramicHill.org
Dick White	Parliamentarian	DickWhite@PanoramicHill.org

PHA Membership Enrollment/Renewal Form Year 2006

Mail to: _____ or drop off at 650 Panoramic Way
 PHA Treasurer
 PO Box 5428
 Berkeley, CA 94705

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

New Member _____ Renewing Member _____

Dues for the PHA are a modest \$15 per household per year and cover the calendar year from January to December. Please renew today so that the PHA can continue to protect and improve your neighborhood and keep you informed with the newsletter, website, advocacy and our annual emergency preparedness event.

Calendar

Event	Date/Time	Location
General Meeting	Sunday June 4 th , 2006 4:00pm – 6:00pm	Home of Renee and Jerry Wachtel 567 Panoramic Way

Agenda:

1. Nomination and election of officers for 2006-2007.
2. Summary of the issues facing Panoramic Hill from UC's Draft EIR about its "Southeast Campus Integrated Projects."
3. Discussion of a Secondary Access Road, and results of the survey.
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