

SECTION 2 OF THE INDEPENDENT

# THE NEIGHBORHOOD

TUESDAY, MARCH 26, 1996

## Group battles to save lake's waters

### LAKE SHORE

### Says golf club should tap recycling sources

BY JEANETTE GOOD

Neighborhood correspondent

Angered and alarmed that the Olympic Club's proposed nine-hole golf-course extension, west of Skyline Boulevard, might be watered from an already depleted Lake Merced, concerned citizens plan to fight the private club's request for a project permit from the California Coastal Commission on April 10.

The Committee to Save Lake Merced, formed in 1994, cites a San Francisco Public Utilities Commission report that recommends a lake level of 27 feet. The lake's current level is at 18 feet, 9 feet below optimum. Although written in the 1950s, the SFPUC report remains the standard.

Jerry Cadagan, one of the grassroots organization's leaders, said his group, with backing from the SFPUC, had been trying to convince the Olympic Club, as well as other local golf courses, clubs, and cemeteries, to irrigate their lawns with recycled water from Daly City instead of tapping into the lake's potable, or drinking quality, water.

Cadagan thinks the group may now have "found some leverage" in its struggle to protect Lake Merced.

"That water belongs to the public. It doesn't belong to the Olympic Club," said Cadagan, who will represent the citizens committee at the coastal commission hearing in Carmel.

### Recycled water

In a letter to the coastal commission about the upcoming hearing, PUC president Marion Otsea urged that "the permit be denied until the Olympic Club has signed a recycled water purchase agreement with Daly City."

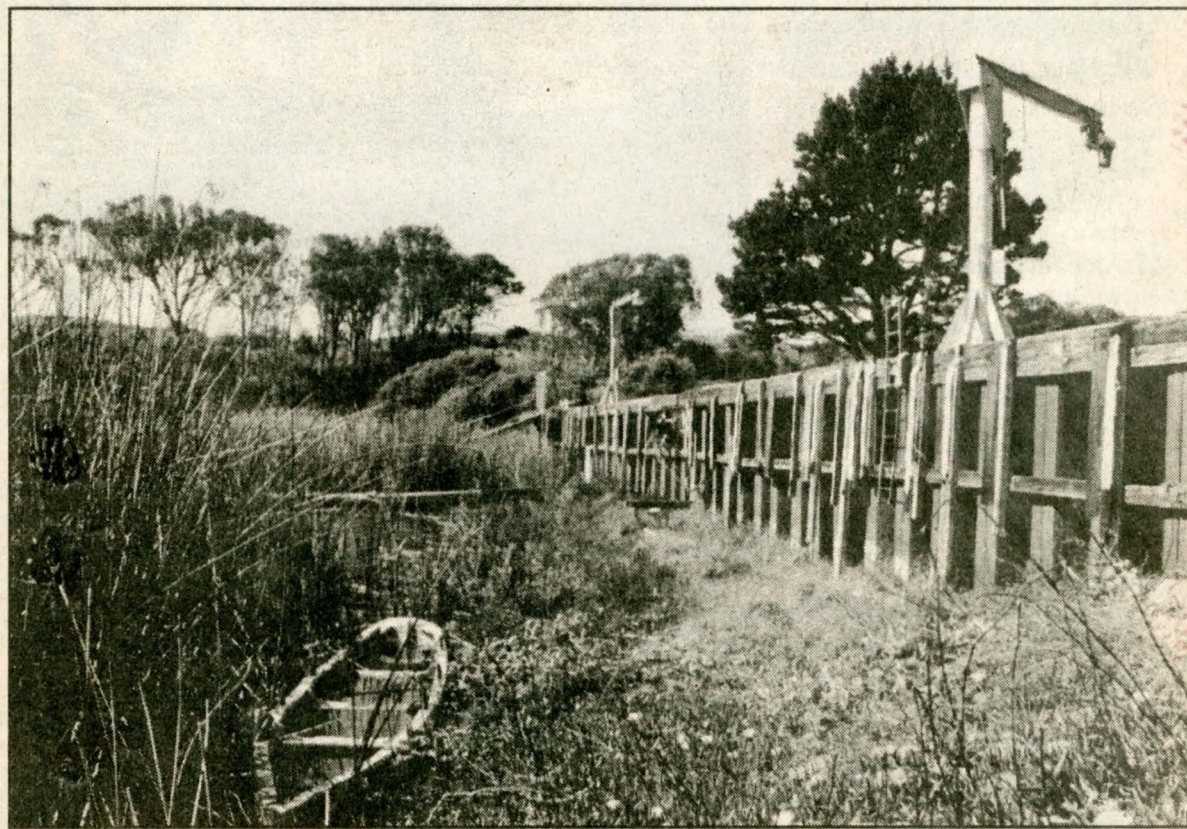
But Dennis Moriarty, president of the Olympic Club, said his organization's intent is "to move forward" in terms of reclaimed water usage.

The club has indicated its willingness to use recycled water from Daly City's upgraded treatment facility, expected to be fully functioning in 1997, for certain irrigation purposes if the treated water could be provided at a consistent quality and quantity, and at a reasonable cost.

### County conflict

Of the proposed nine holes, less than two lie in San Francisco County, with the remaining holes falling within San Mateo County.

See LAKE, page 18



**TOO LOW:** A landlocked boat sits abandoned beneath the boat hoists that are out of action at Lake Merced because of the reduced water levels.

PHOTO: JUDI PARKS

## Handicap access conflicts with parking

### PARKSIDE/SUNSET

### City contends platform will create net loss of only 3 spaces

BY JEANETTE GOOD

Neighborhood Correspondent

Merchants on Taraval Street have mixed feelings about a Muni program destined to displace parking in their neighborhood.

As part of a plan to bring the city's transit system into compliance with standards set by the Americans With Disabilities Act, Muni is enacting a Key Stop program, which entails installing handicap-accessible streetcar boarding platforms.

Two platforms on Taraval Street — one eastbound, located between 21st and 22nd avenues; and one westbound, between 23rd and 24th avenues — are scheduled to be completed by the end of this year.

Plans for the proposal include removing 20 metered parking spaces

from Taraval Street and 23 parallel parking spots on 22nd Avenue to make room for the platforms, an action that makes some merchants nervous.

### Merchants hindered

"That would probably totally hinder me," said Katie Morales, owner of Jeanne Claire's Cafe on Taraval Street at the corner of 24th Avenue. Thirteen of the metered spaces slated for removal are within a block of her business.

Morales said, "I do understand the need for disabled people to use streetcars with dignity, but they [the city] need to assess the need for this service in this area." The businesswoman pointed out that the elimination of parking near her cafe could prevent patronage of local shops by disabled elderly residents who currently drive their cars to the area.

A plan by the Department of Parking and Traffic to install 40

See PARKING, page 12A



# LAKE: Depletion

continued from page 11

While San Francisco County must go through the coastal commission for such projects, San Mateo is exempt and has already issued proper permits for the holes in its domain.

The 29-acre project was started after San Mateo issued its permits and a grading permit was obtained from San Francisco, then stopped abruptly when it was realized that a permit from the coastal commission was needed.

Only 4.1 acres of the project will be discussed at the coastal commission hearing. The approximately 25 acres in San Mateo County are not being disputed.

**'That water belongs to the public. It doesn't belong to the Olympic Club.'**

—Jerry Cadagan,  
Committee to Save  
Lake Merced

## Conflicting studies

In a letter to the coastal commission, Otsea noted discrepancies in two studies, one authorized by the Olympic Club, the other authorized by the PUC, with regard to the expected impact of the proposed project on Lake Merced.

The PUC study submitted to the coastal commission claims that more than three times as much water from the lake's aquifer, its natural underground water source, would be required to irrigate the land than is estimated by the Olympic Club's study. The difference between the conflicting estimates equals nearly 11 million gallons of water per year.

the project before a coastal commission permit was secured, could work to his committee's advantage.

"They played easy with the facts and we exposed that," he said. "The fact that they had to stop work looks bad."

Cadagan said that if he loses his case before the commission in April, "We will take the litigation route if we have to." But he said he had faith in the coastal commission to "make the right decision."

"It's their duty to protect the coastal zone," Cadagan said. "It's their duty to not issue that permit."

Cadagan said he felt he would be approaching the coastal com-

mission with a reasonable request.

"This is not the end of the world for the Olympic Club," he said. "We can't make them use recycled water, but we can make them stop pumping from the aquifer."

# A necessary inconvenience

WE'RE BREEDING like rabbits, my sisters and I. I'm expecting my third in a few weeks; my middle sister, Joni, is pregnant with her fourth; my baby sister, Claire, is hoping to conceive this year.

Nobody's more thrilled than my mother. From the way she carries on, you'd think she was the father of all these children, not the grandmother. She loves to brag that she's the

## CITY MOM BY DONNA LEVIN

only woman her age (62) she knows who has this many grandchildren. (While we do seem to be reproducing fairly rapidly here, that can't possibly be true. My mother may simply be screening her friends more carefully now, eliminating any applicants who can compete with her in the grandchildren department.)

Before I had kids, I couldn't imagine why anyone would want them, so I couldn't imagine why anyone would want grandchildren, either. This in spite of the fact I was very close to my own grandparents, especially on my mother's side.

My maternal grandmother, a mere 50 when I was born, took me shopping and traveling, taught me to make blintzes (not that I do, but I could), and showed me how to fold hospital corners on a bed.

My father likes to tease me about how children are a necessary inconvenience one

must endure in order to get grandchildren. He, too, certainly seems to be enjoying his: He writes weekly letters to my niece who lives in Israel and helps my nephew with his homework, whenever my nephew will let him.

I don't suppose you can count on having that kind of close relationship with your grandchildren. Sometimes they live very far away. Sometimes temperament will separate you. Certainly the worst possible reason I can think of to have children is so that they can take care of you in old age, and you should expect even less of a sense of obligation from your grandchildren. Not that I'm not hoping that William and Sonia will come to see me in the old folks' home occasionally.

But now I understand the longing for grandchildren. I want to extend myself into the future, even though I'd be the first to tell you there's as much crazy as commendable in my genes. I want to relive the pleasure of watching a child grow without being stuck yet again in the diaper-and-colic trenches.

Or maybe I just want William and Sonia to see what it's like to be a parent.

Being a parent has made me far more forgiving toward my own parents' lapses. Now I understand why my mother didn't jump out of bed at 5 a.m. and why she didn't experiment with new recipes every night. Now I understand my father's anxiety about money and how that led to his

late, late nights at the office. I even understand a little better why he and my mother couldn't stay married, and that their divorce wasn't because of us.

Now I also anticipate that I'll be sad to reach the later stages of my life without seeing grandchildren. I'm already making promises to myself not to pressure my children to provide me with that pleasure. At the very least they need the freedom that I insisted on for myself, the freedom to wait until I was darn good and ready. Unfortunately for me, if you double that freedom, you get a first-time grandma in her mid-70s.

Pressure obviously wouldn't work — they already pick out their own clothes and ignore half my advice, and they're only 6 and 4. Not to mention that they should have children for themselves, not for me.

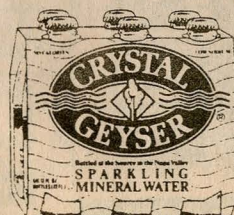
So I'll just have to hope for the best. Although Sonia has told me a couple of times that she doesn't want babies (the sight of my expanding belly has probably scared her, but then it's starting to scare the neighbors, too), I don't take her decision as final.

Meanwhile, I guess I can indulge my mother in what sometimes seems to me the vanity of her pride in being a grandmother. And I guess I can put up with the stupid joke of my father's, about how I was a necessary inconvenience. I have a feeling that he's planning to say it a few more times.

Donna Levin is a San Francisco novelist.

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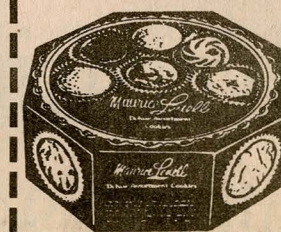
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Additionally, the two entities are not in agreement about the current state of the aquifer. While the Olympic Club study concludes that the water supply replenishment of the aquifer exceeds depletion by millions of gallons, the PUC argues that the opposite is true.

Cadagen, who believes the Olympic Club made a deliberate attempt to misrepresent its case to the commission, said, "They should have realized they would get caught."

But Moriarty, denying allegations of wrongdoing, said the club had done "nothing but attempt to do everything correctly" by obtaining the proper permits from San Mateo and the grading permit from San Francisco.

"You can see how you're going to get different numbers," said Moriarty, who guessed that the PUC was including the entire proposed project in its study. "The issue before the coastal commission is only relative to the land in San Francisco. The amount of water needed for that hole and a half is so minuscule."

But, Cadagan said, considering the current depletion of the lake, "Any percent, even a bucket, is too much when you see what's happening to the lake now."

### Opponents confident

Cadagan said what he views as the Olympic Club's misrepresentation of the facts, combined with the fact that work was started on

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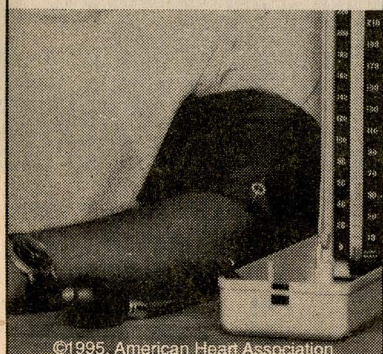
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