



Top Reasons to Tell Cargill: Don't Pave My Bay!

From rising sea levels to protecting the Redwood City Port and saving the Bay, here are the top reasons why building a new city of 30,000 people on Cargill's salt ponds doesn't make sense.

- **Destroys Restorable Wetland Habitat.** Scientists insist that San Francisco Bay needs 100,000 acres of healthy wetlands for the entire ecosystem to thrive. These salt ponds are one of the few remaining threatened places that can be restored, providing much-needed habitat for endangered species and nursery grounds for young fish and birds.
- **Sea Level Rise.** Sea levels are expected to rise more than four feet by 2050. In preparation, the State of California recommends not building in places like these salt ponds that would require new levees to avoid being under water. Instead, healthy wetlands provide natural flood control. The Nature Conservancy calls this debate “a wake-up call, highlighting the importance of nature in protecting people from the hazards of a changing climate.”
- **A Traffic Nightmare.** A new city of 30,000 people at Woodside Road and Highway 101, with no ready access to public transit in an already congested traffic area, equals up to 80,000 new daily car trips in the area. This has San Mateo County transportation experts worried.
- **It is Not Smart Growth.** Building a sprawling new city on restorable salt ponds out in the Bay is not smart growth. Redwood City has been working hard to fill vacant storefronts and encourage a “downtown renaissance.” Meanwhile, there is no infrastructure on the salt ponds; 15 percent of the Cargill site would be devoted to new streets alone! Redwood City should meet local housing needs with downtown redevelopment.
- **The Era of Filling the Bay is Over.** The San Francisco Chronicle, San Jose Mercury News, over 130 Bay Area elected officials, business leaders, and many neighboring towns have formally opposed Cargill's irresponsible development, stating that Bay fill would be a major step back to the 1960s when developers were filling in San Francisco Bay at an alarming rate. Over the past 50 years, the Bay Area has turned a corner. Now's not the time to turn back.
- **Housing Behind a New Levee? It's Not Safe.** This new sea-level community would be behind a massive levee that can't be guaranteed to survive the next earthquake. Public safety experts assert that Bay fill is one of the least safe places to build housing and unstable soil is prone to liquefaction during a major earthquake.
- **It Threatens Jobs at Redwood City's Port.** Encroaching residential development is the biggest threat to the future of the Port of Redwood City, the only deep-water port in the South Bay. The port is an economic engine for the city, a crucial bulk cargo point of entry for Northern California, and it provides hundreds of jobs. Industry officials assert that building homes and schools next to a 24-hour industrial site doesn't make sense.
- **There's No Water.** Redwood City does not have any available water to serve this development. Where's the water going to come from for 30,000 new residents? Kern County, say the developers. Their convoluted scheme is controversial and unlikely ever to be approved. One state water expert calls the concept “fanciful,” irresponsible and unrealistic.