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29 October1997

Editor, San Francisco Chronicle
901 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

To the Editor:

It is curious for Mayor Brown to complain (October 29, page A17) that he was “left out of the loop” on Caltrans’ decision to retrofit the Transbay Terminal for seismic safety

After all, Brown failed to consult any other Bay Area agencies or governments before planning to tear down the Terminal, just as Brown failed to consult any of the Pensinsula county governments before unilaterally deciding to kill the Caltrain extension to the Terminal.

The Transbay Terminal is used by 25,000 Bay Area commuters, is state-owned, and is legally part of Caltrans’ Bay Bridge. It is right for Caltrans to proceed with the seismic safety work it has planned and budgeted for since 1989. It is arrogant for Mayor Brown to treat this facility as his personal fiefdom. He shows his contempt for regional planning and cooperation and again demonstrates his incomprehension of non-limousine transportation.

The Mayor's plans must be seen as a move to gain control of the blocks of prime real estate on which the Terminal stands, creating “Treasure Island downtown” to benefit himself and some well-connected land speculators. The personal and vehement role he played in killing the Caltrain extension and his continuing campaign to push the Transbay transit facility inconveniently far away from Market Street attest to this.

The interests of both San Franciscans and of all Bay Area residents are being sold out. Again.

Very truly yours,

Member of the
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