* Name:Catherine Stefani
* District: District 2

Q2

Affordable Housing: How will you support infill development throughout the City along with affordability measures to keep residents in SF? How will you respond to pushback from your constituents regarding height and/or density? How will you support more compact walkable mixed-use neighborhoods as the City addresses its housing needs? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I supported HOME-SF which effectively upzoned much of the west side of the City. I think that legislation also took the right approach by focusing on areas with access to public transportation. We should focus on increasing density along our transit corridors while continuing to make sure that neighbors are involved in the process. A great example of this is the Lucky Penny site in my district. Its location on Geary Boulevard near a future Geary BRT stop made it an ideal site to build more, denser housing. We used a special use district to increase the density of the project from 21 units to 95 units. In this instance, everyone came to the table and we ended up with a project with dramatically increased density. During my time as a legislative aide, I built relationships with many of the key players in the neighborhood and in City Hall. I work collaboratively to build consensus and will leverage my relationships to ensure we can continue to build housing so that the people who work in San Francisco can live here instead of driving for hours to get to work. I am also looking into how we zone our merchant corridors to ensure that are meeting the needs of people in the neighborhoods so that you do not need to get into your car to buy the items you need.

Q3

Walkable and Bikeable Streets: How will you support safer streets? How will you help implement Vision Zero? How will you support walkable and bikeable streets in the City? Please include your thoughts about existing initiatives other than Vision Zero and what your response would be to opposition to better bike infrastructure in your neighborhood (such as traffic calming, bike lanes, bike and bike share docking stations?) (please limit your response to 250 words)

I am the Vice Chair of the Transportation Authority's Vision Zero Committee and feel strongly that we must continue Vision Zero's work to eliminate traffic fatalities by 2024. We can all agree that the mission of Vision Zero, as well as related initiatives to curb carbon emissions and ensure fast and safe commutes are important. Still, it is just as important to ensure that our neighbors and community groups are at the table when discussing community infrastructure changes. I am committed to working with the relevant stakeholders to advance proposals that would improve our neighborhoods' bike infrastructure.

Q4

Reliable, Fossil Free Public Transit: How will you close the MUNI funding gap identified in the Mayor’s Transportation 2030 Task Force? How will you help fund vital new BART cars and station improvements? How will you address opposition to transit lanes in your neighborhood? Will you recommit MUNI to its fossil free pledge and ensure our future procurements eliminate diesel from San Francisco's public transportation fleet? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Making our public transportation system faster, safer, and more reliable is imperative to the health of our City, both now and in the future. We can't reduce traffic and congestion on our streets if we don't address the issues facing public transportation, including the MUNI funding gap. As a member of the Board of Supervisors Budget and Finance Committee, it is important to me that we are investing our taxpayer dollars wisely, and that means making necessary investments in improving MUNI. My primary focus as a member of the Board of Supervisors is public safety. I have heard from countless women that they do not feel safe on MUNI at night, and I have called for a hearing to investigate this. Likewise, we know that it is not a wise public health decision to prioritize diesel over clean-energy vehicles. As long as public safety and health issues are addressed and community members are involved in the planning process, I will continue to advocate for public transportation in our budget process.

Q5

Energy Efficiency: What should the City do to encourage energy conservation by residents, businesses, and the City itself? Please include your thoughts on how the City can work, or continue to work, with homeowners and landlords to improve overall housing efficiency with efforts to upgrade windows, insulation, thermostats, fuse boxes, refrigerators, etc. (please limit your response to 250 words)

Just as I have championed the successful Park Smart! education program with our law enforcement leaders, I would be happy to support a similar program to encourage conservation among San Francisco residents and visitors from all walks of life - renters, landlords, and those commuting in our City. Before beginning any large projects such as infrastructure upgrades, it is important that our residents are informed about the potential benefits of conservation.

Q6

Renewable Energy: What specific changes would you make to CleanPowerSF to expand residents’ awareness of the program, affordability, and environmental impact? (please limit your response to 250 words)

City resources need to be prioritized to promote CleanPowerSF. In order for the program to be effective, we need to properly educate San Franciscans about the program and use our resources to sign more individuals up for the program. The best way for CleanPowerSF to have a positive impact is for more people to sign up for it.

Q7

Water Sustainability & Conservation: How will you ensure the City sustainably manages its water supply, wastewater, and stormwater runoff? How will you enhance the City's water resiliency and reduce its reliance on imported water through efficiency programs, recycling, distributed and green infrastructure, regional coordination, and/or stormwater management? (please limit your response to 250 words)

We must think creatively and proactively about legislation that will help us sustainably manage our water supply. During the peak of the drought that we are currently in, we saw a number of creative solutions to help conserve water, including asking restaurants to not serve water unless costumers ask for it. We also need to ensure that as we build new housing and office space, we are using the newest and best water conservation technologies.

Q8

Zero Waste: What specific actions would you take to ensure the City meets its Zero Waste by 2020 goal? Have San Francisco’s recent steps to meet its goal, including banning styrofoam containers, some bottled water sales, and plastic bags (and potentially soon plastic straws) been successful? What’s next? (please limit your response to 250 words)

I support much of the work that my colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, as well as Mayor London Breed have done around reducing waste in San Francisco - including Supervisor Katy Tang's proposal to restrict the sale of plastic straws and the ban on Styrofoam containers. This work has had the impact of keeping waste out of the Bay and off our streets, a priority that I am committed to supporting on a day-to-day basis. I applaud industry leaders, such as Starbucks, who have independently taken steps to reduce waste by phasing out plastic straws. San Francisco should continue to lead the nation when it comes to environmental issues.

Q9

Combating Climate Change: How would you update and implement San Francisco’s Climate Action Plan? How would you push City departments to meet their Climate Action Plan goals? Would you support divesting from fossil fuel investments? (please limit your response to 250 words)

Often, the environmentally conscious decision is also the cost-effective decision when it comes to conservation. In San Francisco, our sustainability goals have produced tangible reductions in greenhouse gas emissions for our City - and we're just getting started. The San Francisco Employees' Retirement System vote to begin divestment is a promising step in the right direction, as is the forthcoming bond to restore the Seawall. Divestment from fossil fuels is a smart choice, both environmentally and financially, and there's no telling how much the damage from a major earthquake would cost if the Seawall were to be left in its current state. With some City departments, however, we know that there is ample room for improvement as far as oversight and outreach are concerned. The SFMTA does important work around accessibility and sustainability, for example, but it is clear that additional community outreach and oversight is necessary, which is why I have pushed for these priorities during my time on the Board of Supervisors. It will be impossible to meet the Climate Action Plan without taking into account our neighbors' and community leaders' views.

Q10

Your Environmental Priorities: Why should the San Francisco League of Conservation Voters endorse you? What will your top environmental priorities be in office? If you are an officeholder, please highlight the environmental achievements you are proudest of. (please limit your response to 250 words)

Two of my biggest priorities are to ensure public safety and to make sure that our neighbors have a voice at the table. The work that we do in San Francisco is not only important to the health of our City, but in many cases serves as a model for environmental regulation nationwide. At the same time, it is critical that we do not forget the local, granular implications of our policy choices - that we continue to lead environmental issues while ensuring that our neighbors' and small businesses' ideas and concerns are incorporated into large-scale planning and legislation. As Supervisor and previously legislative aide to former Supervisors Mark Farrell and Michela Alioto-Pier, I have been supportive of HOME-SF to focus new housing along transit corridors and have encouraged neighborhood outreach for both housing and large infrastructural projects such as the Broadway Safety Improvement Project. I have also called for a hearing on MUNI safety, which is currently being scheduled, and supported the Seawall Bond. When it comes to environmental issues, I will continue to support plans that include strong public outreach and public safety components.