

Matt Boschetto

While the issues at Parkmerced reflect the foundational problems the city faces, they also illustrate the calculated indifference by the developer. Although Parkmerced is entitled to break ground, the high costs of entitling the project and shifting market dynamics make it financially unfeasible. This situation is true for many of the 70,000 units in the pipeline, posing a significant obstacle to increasing the city's housing supply. Until we address the high soft costs imposed by our permitting process, housing development will continue at a snail's pace, and we risk losing planning control to state housing advocates. I sympathize with the owners of Parkmerced, but my heart goes out more to the current residents, many elderly, who face deteriorating conditions. Financial constraints have led to poor upkeep and management, resulting in a vacancy rate above 30%. Additionally, crime and squatting have increased significantly. However, news of a potential change in ownership offers hope. A new company with a feasible plan could break ground and kickstart much-needed development on the west side, alleviating pressure on our single-family home neighborhoods.