

November 4, 2008

City of San Francisco
Board of Supervisors, Rules Committee
Assistant Clerk, Room 244
San Francisco, CA

Dear Supervisors:

The objective of this letter is to notify the City and of my resignation from the Peak Oil Preparedness Task Force.

I have chosen to do this for a number of reasons, including the following:

1. Last month's decision to not appoint Alice Friedemann to our Task Force strongly illustrates a major shortcoming of this task force. It suggests that the City and key Task Force members have a lack of understanding as to the importance of scientifically trained representation. Since no presently seated Task Force member has training in the physical sciences, nominee Friedemann would have brought a valuable perspective to our efforts. Alice was trained in the sciences as a biologist and has deservedly received glowing letters of recommendation from prominent Peak Oil influencers such as Richard Heinberg and James Kunstler. In addition, scientist David Fridley and Dennis Brumm (Peak Oil Resolution mover and shaker) were among many who strongly supported Friedemann's appointment.
2. I committed to finishing out the initial one-year period of the Task Force and the extension of an additional six months is well beyond that original commitment.

The final report sorely needs to be a reality-based document. To be of value, it must be free from partisan perspectives, wishes and outright fantasies. Those realities should be **prominent** in the introduction as well as the main document and absolutely **not** be buried deep in the text or hidden in an appendix.

It will be a misguided and highly counterproductive effort if this Task Force pulls punches and soft-pedals a report of this importance. Only a document with ideological neutrality and bravery can be a service to the citizens of San Francisco.

I wish you good luck with your future endeavors.

Richard Katz