

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2023 6:02 PM
To: Torres, Michael Angelo (DPH - Contractor) <michaelangelo.torres@sfdph.org>
Subject: FOR ALL COMMISSIONERS

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August 10, 2023

TO: SAN FRANCISCO ANIMAL WELFARE COMMISSION
FROM: ERIC [REDACTED]
RE: LIVE ANIMAL FOOD MARKETS - TODAY'S AGENDA

More than three dozen necropsies on the market turtles and frogs since the mid-1990's have documented that ALL these animals are diseased and/or parasitized, though it is ILLEGAL to import and/or sell such products (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 236.) Law enforcement has been nil. Market conditions are unacceptable: crowded, unsanitary and inhumane, with many animals being butchered while fully conscious.

The majority of those necropsies were ordered and paid for by the San Francisco SPCA, by then-director Richard Avanzino.

The California State Dept. of Fish & Wildlife annually issues import permits for some TWO MILLION American bullfrogs (commercially-raised) and an estimated 300,000 freshwater turtles (mostly red-eared sliders and various softshell species). NONE OF THESE ANIMALS ARE NATIVE TO CALIFORNIA (and outlawed in both Washington and Oregon). Santa Cruz County, CA has banned the import/sale of the bullfrogs. San Francisco and others should follow suit.

WORSE, THE MAJORITY OF THE BULLFROGS TEST POSITIVE FOR A DREADED CHYTRID FUNGUS--Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis, or Bd)--RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXTINCTIONS OF 100+ AMPHIBIAN SPECIES WORLDWIDE IN RECENT YEARS. Lest we forget, the CA live markets are nearly identical to those in Wuhan, China--likely source of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife and the State Fish & Game Commission have received more than 3,000 letters in support of stopping the import permits, letters from sporting and fishing organizations, environmental groups, veterinarians, university herpetologists, animal welfare organizations and the general public, all to no avail. Racial politics and financial profits continue to trump environmental protection and animal welfare. These permits need to end, esp. in a city named for the Patron Saint of Animals (currently whirling in his grave).

EASY FIX: Stop the importation of live, non-native frogs and turtles for human consumption, allowing FROZEN FROG/TURTLE PARTS ONLY.