

SIMONE THOMAS
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Simone Thomas, formerly known as Beryl Magilavy, pioneered sustainability planning in San Francisco, creating its Department of the Environment in 1996, of which she was commission president and later its first director. She was instrumental in San Francisco's adoption of the Sustainability Plan for the City and County of San Francisco, for which she had organized the community planning process via the nonprofit sector and written the Charter revision that established the agency.

As director of the San Francisco Department of the Environment, she led the interdepartmental effort that resulted in the city's green building ordinance and its municipal integrated pest management plan. She drafted much of both pieces of legislation, and worked with members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to create legislation on local contributions to climate change and other sustainability issues.

She is author of The Third Era- Sustainable Development and the Race Against Climate Change, a fictionalized discussion of sustainable development, accountable government, and climate change in the context of local authority action in seven European cities: Barcelona, Berlin, Hamburg, Paris, Sienna, Stockholm, and Vienna, and Mass Surveillance about Internet privacy law and policy, inspired by the Snowden revelations.

Thomas ran a nonprofit recycling company for several years and was among the leadership of successful political campaigns to reform the city's transportation system; replace a freeway with a landscaped, surface-level boulevard; and to stop chain store expansion into a neighborhood commercial area. She is past chair of the local group of the Sierra Club.

She has degrees in history and physics. Earlier in her career, she did research in optics and cryogenics at NASA, Ames Research center, publishing on the properties of thallium bromo-iodide fibers, and was personnel manager of Dolby Laboratories in its early years in San Francisco.

Since the turn of the century Thomas has remained involved in politics, restored a Victorian in San Francisco, developed Websites as a PHP and Javascript programmer, and done research and writing on culture, sustainability, and civil liberties in Europe and South America. She speaks French and some Italian, can read and understand Spanish, and has some facility in Catalán and German.