File No.	180838	Committee Item No.		
		Board Item No	29	

COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Prepared by: Brent Prepared by:	: Jalipa	Date: Date:	October 25, 2018			

24 25 [Conditionally Reversing the Categorical Exemption Determination - Washington Square Water Conservation Project]

Motion conditionally reversing the determination by the Planning Department that the Washington Square Water Conservation Project is categorically exempt from further environmental review, subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of this determination.

WHEREAS, On May 17, 2018, the Planning Department issued a CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination for the proposed project ("Project") under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), the CEQA Guidelines, and San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 31; and

WHEREAS, The proposed Project is intended to reduce the existing irrigation water use at Washington Square Park, and would include removal and replacement of the park's existing irrigation system (mainlines, branch lines, sprinkler heads, controllers), the removal and replacement of the existing sub-lawn drain infrastructure, and the replanting of the grass/sod on the existing main lawn; removal and replacement of seven (7) trees recommended for removal per the Recreation and Park Department tree assessment; and planting of four (4) new trees that were previously removed due to disease/hazard (collectively, the "Base Scope items"); and

WHEREAS, The Project may also include ADA upgrades to pathways; removal of all existing asphalt pathways and replacement with stained concrete; installation of perimeter cobble pavers at the lawn and planting bed edges; installation of perimeter low fencing on outer planter bed edges; removal and replacement of existing wood benches in-kind with new benches as needed (collectively, the "Optional Scope items); and

WHEREAS, The Optional Scope items were included and analyzed in the scope of work as part of the Certificate of Appropriateness and the exemption from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in the event additional project funding would be secured; and

WHEREAS, The park plan, layout of pathways, and layout of planting bed perimeters would remain unchanged for both Base Scope and Optional Scope items; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Department, pursuant to Title 14 of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15300-15333), issued a categorical exemption for the Project on May 17, 2018, finding that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a Class 1 categorical exemption, which applies to operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails and similar facilities; and

WHEREAS, On May 16, 2018, the Historic Preservation Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed project, Case No. 2018-003700COA; at that hearing, the Historic Preservation Commission granted the Certificate of Appropriateness, in conformance with plans dated March 31, 2018; and

WHEREAS, On May 17, 2018, the Planning Department determined that the Project was categorically exempt under CEQA Class 1- Existing Facilities, and that no further environmental review was required; and

WHEREAS, On June 15, 2018, an appeal of the Categorical Exemption Determination was filed by Marc Bruno and North Beach Business Association; and

WHEREAS, On June 26, 2018, the Department determined that the June 15, 2018, appeal of the CEQA Determination filed by Appellants was not timely; and

WHEREAS, On August 16, 2018, the Recreation and Park Commission approved the concept plan for the Washington Square Water Conservation Project; and

WHEREAS, On August 16, 2018, a second appeal of the Categorical Exemption

Determination ("Second Appeal") was filed by Marc Bruno and Save North Beach Association

(collectively, "Appellants"); and

WHEREAS, By memorandum to the Clerk of the Board dated August 27, 2018, the Planning Department's Environmental Review Officer determined that the Second Appeal was timely filed; and

WHEREAS, On October 30, 2018, this Board held a duly noticed public hearing to consider the appeal of the exemption determination filed by Appellants and, following the public hearing, affirmed the exemption determination; and

WHEREAS, In reviewing the appeal of the exemption determination, this Board reviewed and considered the exemption determination, the appeal letter, the responses to the appeal documents that the Planning Department prepared, the other written records before the Board of Supervisors and all of the public testimony made in support of and opposed to the exemption determination appeal; and

WHEREAS, Following the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors conditionally reversed the exemption determination for the Project subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of such determination based on the written record before the Board of Supervisors as well as all of the testimony at the public hearing in support of and opposed to the appeal; and

WHEREAS, The written record and oral testimony in support of and opposed to the appeal and deliberation of the oral and written testimony at the public hearing before the Board of Supervisors by all parties and the public in support of and opposed to the appeal of

the exemption determination is in the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors File No. 180836, and is incorporated in this motion as though set forth in its entirety; now, therefore, be it

MOVED, That this Board of Supervisors conditionally reverses the determination by the Planning Department that the Project is exempt from environmental review, subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of this determination.

For Clerk's Use Only

Introduction Form

By a Member of the Board of Supervisors or Mayor

or meeting date I hereby submit the following item for introduction (select only one): 1. For reference to Committee. (An Ordinance, Resolution, Motion or Charter Amendment). 2. Request for next printed agenda Without Reference to Committee. 3. Request for hearing on a subject matter at Committee. 4. Request for letter beginning: "Supervisor inquiries" 5. City Attorney Request. 6. Call File No. from Committee. 7. Budget Analyst request (attached written motion). 8. Substitute Legislation File No. 9. Reactivate File No. 10. Question(s) submitted for Mayoral Appearance before the BOS on Please check the appropriate boxes. The proposed legislation should be forwarded to the following: Small Business Commission ☐ Youth Commission Ethics Commission Building Inspection Commission Planning Commission Note: For the Imperative Agenda (a resolution not on the printed agenda), use the Imperative Form. Sponsor(s): Clerk of the Board Subject: Conditionally Reversing the Categorical Exemption Determination - Washington Square Water Conservation Project The text is listed: Motion conditionally reversing the determination by the Planning Department that the proposed Washington Square Water Conservation Project is categorically exempt from further environmental review, subject to the adoption of written findings of the Board in support of this determination. Signature of Sponsoring Supervisor:

File No. 180838

Time stamp