



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

General Plan Referral

Date: June 28, 2016
Case No. 2016-006482GPR
Geneva and San Jose Avenues Intersection Property Transfer

Block/Lot No: 6973/039

Project Sponsors: John Updike, Director
San Francisco Real Estate Department
25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94102

Kevin Kitchingham
Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development
1 South Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94103

Applicant: Same as Above

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Recommendation: Finding the project, on balance, is **in conformity** with the General Plan

Recommended By: 
John Rahaim, Director of Planning

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

On May 17, 2016, the Planning Department (herein "the Department") received a request from the City and County of San Francisco Real Estate Division on behalf of the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) to consider transferring the property at the intersection of Geneva and San Jose avenues (Assessor's Parcel Number Block 6973, Lot 039) from the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to MOHCD. This property is also known as the "Upper Yard." MOHCD is proposing to develop the property with 80-100 affordable rental housing units for families making up to 60% of the Area Median Income, with retail on the ground floor. The site is currently used as a surface parking lot.

This project does not propose any additional development, land use changes, or changes to the right-of-way that have not already been approved. This action is simply to transfer ownership of the property from SFMTA to MOHCD.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project cleared under Balboa Park Station Area Plan EIR, certified 12/4/81, Motion No. 17774, Case No. 2004.1059E.

GENERAL PLAN COMPLIANCE AND BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

As described below, the Project is consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 and is, on balance, **in-conformity** with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

Note: General Plan Objectives and Policies are in **bold font**; General Plan text is in regular font. Staff comments are in *italic font*.

Housing Element

OBJECTIVE 1

IDENTIFY AND MAKE AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT ADEQUATE SITES TO MEET THE CITY'S HOUSING NEEDS, ESPECIALLY PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

POLICY 1.3

Work proactively to identify and secure opportunity sites for permanently affordable housing.

The proposed property transfer will allow a surface parking lot to be replaced with 80-100 new affordable housing units.

POLICY 1.8

Promote mixed use development, and include housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, in new commercial, institutional or other single use development projects.

The proposed property transfer would allow for the construction of permanently affordable housing over ground floor retail space.

POLICY 1.10

Support new housing projects, especially affordable housing, where households can easily rely on public transportation, walking and bicycling for the majority of daily trips.

The proposed property is located in a transit-rich, walkable, and bike-friendly neighborhood, just across the street from the Balboa Park BART station and served by multiple Muni lines.

OBJECTIVE 4

FOSTER A HOUSING STOCK THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF ALL RESIDENTS ACROSS LIFECYCLES.

POLICY 4.4

Encourage sufficient and suitable rental housing opportunities, emphasizing permanently affordable rental units wherever possible.

The proposed property transfer will allow a surface parking lot to be replaced with 80-100 new affordable housing units.

OBJECTIVE 8

BUILD PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR CAPACITY TO SUPPORT, FACILITATE, PROVIDE AND MAINTAIN AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

POLICY 8.1

Support the production and management of permanently affordable housing.

The proposed property transfer will allow for the production of a permanently affordable housing project.

Balboa Park Station Area Plan

OBJECTIVE 1.1

INTEGRATE THE DIVERSE USES IN THE PLAN AREA AROUND THE COMMERCIAL SPINE AND TRANSIT NODE.

POLICY 1.1.1

Strengthen the link between transportation and land use.

OBJECTIVE 1.3

ESTABLISH AN ACTIVE, MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND THE TRANSIT STATION.

POLICY 1.3.1

Mixed-use housing and retail should be the principal land use in the Transit Station Neighborhood.

The proposed property transfer will allow for the construction of a mixed-use housing development in the Balboa Park Transit Station Neighborhood, directly across the street from the Balboa Park BART Station, thus strengthening the link between transportation and land use in the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 3.1

ESTABLISH PARKING STANDARDS AND CONTROLS THAT PROMOTE QUALITY OF PLACE, AFFORDABLE HOUSING, AND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT.

POLICY 3.1.1

Provide flexibility for new residential development by eliminating minimum off-street parking requirements and establishing reasonable parking caps.

POLICY 3.1.2

Provide flexibility for non-residential development by eliminating minimum off-street parking requirements and establishing parking caps generally equal to the previous minimum requirements.

The proposed property transfer will allow for the construction of a transit-oriented development with no off-street parking.

OBJECTIVE 4.1

MAXIMIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTIAL INFILL THROUGHOUT THE PLAN AREA.

POLICY 4.1.1

Housing, supported by a modest amount of neighborhood-oriented commercial establishments, should form the backbone of all new development in the plan area.

The proposed property transfer will allow for the construction of a new infill mixed-use housing development in the Balboa Park Station Plan Area.

OBJECTIVE 4.3

ESTABLISH AN ACTIVE, MIXED-USE NEIGHBORHOOD AROUND THE TRANSIT STATION THAT EMPHASIZES THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSING.

POLICY 4.3.1

Encourage mixed-use housing on the Upper Yard.

The proposed property transfer will allow for the construction of a new mixed-use housing development on the Upper Yard, across the street from the Balboa Park BART station.

OBJECTIVE 4.5

PROVIDE INCREASED HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDABLE TO A MIX OF HOUSEHOLDS AT VARYING INCOME LEVELS.

POLICY 4.5.1

Give first consideration to the development of affordable housing on publicly-owned sites.

The proposed property transfer will allow for the construction of a new 100% affordable housing development for families making up to 60% of Area Median Income.

Eight Priority Policies Findings

The subject project is found to be consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 in that:

1. That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses enhanced.

The proposed property transfer will not negatively affect existing neighborhood-serving retail uses or opportunities for employment in or ownership of such businesses. The new development will, however, provide new affordable housing for residents who may support such businesses in the surrounding area and will also create new space for ground floor commercial uses.

2. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods.
The proposed property transfer would not displace any existing housing and would provide an additional 80-100 affordable housing units and will help preserve the cultural and economic diversity of the neighborhood.
3. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced.
The proposed property transfer will increase the stock of permanent affordable housing in the City.
4. That commuter traffic not impede Muni transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking.
The proposed property transfer will not result in commuter traffic impeding Muni's transit service, overburdening the streets or altering current neighborhood parking. The proposed affordable housing project will be transit-oriented given its location near BART and Muni, and will include no on-site parking.
5. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for residential employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced.
The proposed property transfer would not affect the existing economic base in this area.
6. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.
The proposed property transfer would not affect the City's preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.
7. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.
The proposed property transfer will not affect landmarks or historic buildings.
8. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development.
The proposed property transfer will not affect City parks or open spaces, or their access to sunlight and vistas.

RECOMMENDATION:	Finding the Project, on balance, in-conformity with the General Plan
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cc: John Updike, Real Estate Division; Marta Bayol, Real Estate Division; Kevin Kitchingham MOHCD; Rafe Rabalais, SFMTA

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