

From: [Lorraine Buckner](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Proposed project next to library
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:44:15 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

To the SF board of supervisors,

We have just been informed that a developer is proposing to put a third floor and terrace on the building next to the Golden gate Valley library on Green Street in San Francisco. We oppose this construction.

Surely it's illegal to build anything in the city without an environmental review, yet this project received a CEQACATEX certificate?

We would like to know why.

Please respond and acknowledge this email to:

John and Lorraine Buckner @
lorrainebuckner@aol.com

Thank you

From: [Elizabeth McCarty](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Elizabeth McCarty](#)
Subject: The Golden Gate Valley Library (Octavia /Green)
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 5:44:54 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. 6. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. 7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and

experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration. Elizabeth McCarty 1960 Vallejo Street #1
San Francisco CA 94123

From: [Arnold Cohn](#)
To: [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Stop a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the Golden Gate Valley Library
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:33:53 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

Please consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

Overturn the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and request that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Sincerely,

Arnold Cohn
1550 Bay

From: [Beth Silvestri \(via Google Docs\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#)
Cc: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Zushi, Kei \(CPC\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter of Support to the BOS Re: 2651-53 Octavia
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:49:15 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

casasilvestri@gmail.com has attached the following document:

 Letter of Support to the BOS Re: 2651-53 Octavia

Snapshot of the item below:

San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlet Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My husband and I were homeowners in 94123 (District 7) since we purchased our first home on Bay Street in 1992, and our second home on Baker Street in 1998. As owners of houses built in the 1920s, we took on the big task to structurally upgrade and remodel the properties; construction projects I greatly enjoyed. I found it reasonable to work with the SF Planning Department. We loved remodeling(!), living, working, and raising our three children in The City.

We then moved to Marin County with the intention of moving back to The City after the pandemic. It is my plan to find another home in need of TLC and spend the next 30+ years back in my hometown. However, when I hear of the difficulty the owners of 2651-53 Octavia Street have experienced for the past 2 ½ years with their proposed project, I think twice about returning to San Francisco.

The remodel plans for 2651-53 Octavia meet all California and San Francisco laws, codes, and design guidelines. The proposed remodel project was designed to protect the character of the adjacent building, the historic Golden Gate Valley Library. The owners undertook an extensive shade study performed by Symphysis for various dates of the year, times of day and conditions of sky. After examining the illumination and shade reports, it does not appear that the library lighting will be adversely impacted by the remodel. The beautiful library can continue to benefit from its use of daylight and electrical lights, plus the window shades are easily adjusted to patron needs.

I urge you to **deny the appeal** and validate the Categorical CEQA Exemption that the SF Environmental Planning Department granted to 2651-53 Octavia. I **support** the owner and project sponsor of 2651-53 Octavia in the Appeal hearing on April 20, 2021. (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)

The property will be improved by the remodel and the patrons of San Francisco will enjoy the Golden Gate Valley Library in the same capacity as they do today. Thank you for your reasonable consideration of this proposed reasonable project at 2651-53 Octavia.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Silvestri
PO Box 543
Stinson Beach, CA 94970

Google Docs: Create and edit documents online.

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA

You have received this email because casasilvestri@gmail.com shared a document with you from Google Docs.



From: [Nancy Radzik](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:07:23 PM

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Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides"

The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

6. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally

recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Radzik
2330 Larkin Street #45
San Francisco CA 94109

From: [Cynthia Singerman](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 8:23:23 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. 6. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. 7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion

of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accept this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Singerman

2955 Octavia Street

San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [Kathleen Hynes](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\); angela.cavillo@sfgov.org](#)
Subject: Golden Gate Valley Library
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:41:40 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

April 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As a 51 year resident of San Francisco and a homeowner I am absolutely appalled at your support of the building permit that would block light in the reading room of the Golden Gate Valley Library and render the solar panels useless. Since independent internationally recognized architects have concluded that the proposed new structure would block light in the reading room of the library and make the expensive solar, energy saving panels useless, I can only conclude that you don't care about our city. Your support of the new building permit, strongly suggests that someone's pockets are being lined.

You give yourselves raises while our city is being devastated. Thousands of people are moving out and away from our dangerous streets and what do you do? Issue a permit to destroy a historic building.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Hynes, MSN

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Bridget Maley](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:51:01 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space

should not be impacted by an over-sized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated

Thank you,

--

Bridget Maley

bridget.maley@gmail.com

From: knice@earthlink.net
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org; [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:09:52 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Letter in support of Appeal overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 16, 2021

Dear President Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group. As a long time resident of San Francisco and a passionate supporter of San Francisco Public Libraries, I feel that the proposed private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and light reaching the solar panels.

1. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides". This stipulation is posted on the San Francisco Planning Commission's website.
2. The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.
3. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to ensure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.
4. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.
5. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.
6. In addition, significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.
7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. The Appellant group has had 5 internationally recognized and professional experts independently analyze the reports. Experts have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have a negative impact on the library.

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading

the character and experience of the interior space.

•Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

The City should think very carefully before allowing a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all these professional experts which refute the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturn the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and request the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you.

Kelly Nice
1793 Green Street

From: [Rebecca Hogenhuis](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:06:24 AM

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Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

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Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Hogenhuis
2235 Laguna St., #304
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 798-7177

From: [DEBORAH KAREL](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Protect Golden Gate Valley Public Library!
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:14:55 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents **seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.** The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides".

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As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-

facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library. • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration. Deborah A. Karel
2230 Pacific Avenue #104
SF, CA 94115

From: [Phil Faroudja](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street Appeal
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:03:50 PM
Attachments: [GGVNA Letter About 26512653 Octavia Street Appeal.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

P.O. Box 29086
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

April 16, 2021

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 2102752651

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association supports the appeal of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant Group, in regards to proposed construction of a fourth floor and roof deck to the building at 2651 and 2653 Octavia Street.

This addition would be directly next door to the Golden Gate Valley Library and, according to a recent city-ordered light study, would cast varying amounts of shadow on the library's newly installed, multi-million dollar solar panels at different times of the year.

This shadowing would affect the proper functioning of the library, will lead to higher electricity bills and cost, and diminish the amount of natural light reaching the library's interior.

Perhaps these problems could be mitigated by adjusting the plans for the fourth floor addition. For example, the entire fourth floor could be set back ten feet along its north-facing side, which might reduce any effect on the solar panels.

The Golden Gate Valley Library is in the process of becoming an historical landmark, and has been a valuable resource serving residents of all ages for many years. We hope it will continue to do so and remain unaffected. Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association urges the city to reject this construction request.

Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Faroudja
President, GGVNA



P.O. Box 29086
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

April 16, 2021

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405;
Board of Supervisors File # 2102752651

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association supports the appeal of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant Group, in regards to proposed construction of a fourth floor and roof deck to the building at 2651 and 2653 Octavia Street.

This addition would be directly next door to the Golden Gate Valley Library and, according to a recent city-ordered light study, would cast varying amounts of shadow on the library's newly installed, multi-million dollar solar panels at different times of the year.

This shadowing would affect the proper functioning of the library, will lead to higher electricity bills and cost, and diminish the amount of natural light reaching the library's interior.

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The Golden Gate Valley Library is in the process of becoming an historical landmark, and has been a valuable resource serving residents of all ages for many years. We hope it will continue to do so and remain unaffected. Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association urges the city to reject this construction request.

Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Faroudja

President, GGVNA

From: xiaomu@aol.com
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:41:14 PM

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Connie Chan, District 1 Supervisor, ChanStaff@sfgov.org
Catherine Stefani, District 2 Supervisor, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org
Aaron Peskin, District 3 Supervisor, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org
Gordon Mar, District 4 Supervisor, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org
Dean Preston, District 5 Supervisor, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Matt Haney, District 6 Supervisor, Matt.Haney@sfgov.org
Myrna Melgar, District 7 Supervisor, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org
Rafael Mandelman, District 8 Supervisor, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org
Hillary Ronen, District 9 Supervisor, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org
Shamann Walton, District 10 Supervisor, Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org
Ahsha Safai, District 11 Supervisor, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org
BOS.Legislation@sfgov.org
Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org

Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-

family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an over-sized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated

Thank you,

Philip Kaufman
2421 Green Street

From: [Sean Sharp](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, JBOS](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Golden Gate Library Branch
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 2:42:48 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon

footprint.

Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

—

Sean Sharp
2040 Jefferson St Apt 106
San Francisco CA 94123-1045

From: [William Reilly](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\); chandtaff@sfgov.org](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [hilary.ronen@sfgov.org](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re:2651-2653 Octavia St, Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit No 301808036405 Board Of Supervisors File 210275 Reilly
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:35:09 AM
Attachments: [Re2651-2653 Octavia St, Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit No 301808036405 Board Of Supervisors File 210275 Reilly.vcf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I write to you as a neighbor resident looking out on the Library from the SE corner of Octavia and Green St, 1791 Green Street. I am also someone who has spent many hours reading and writing in the Library. I once was involved in the NY City consideration of planning rules to require consideration of bounce light when ruling on new building plans. My background includes a Columbia U Scholl of Architecture MS in Urban Planning.

Lighting, when possible natural lighting, is a blessing in civilized life. Often taken for granted or dismissed, it is often the very contributor to a building's effective design. For a library the printed page and the literal illumination are Marie's!

Please protect them! Do not accept arguments that try to justify partial shading, when full lighting protection is what the library's design contemplated.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wm K Reilly
US EPA Administrator 1989-93

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Patricia Houden](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\); angela.cavillo@sfgo](#)
Subject: Golden Gate Valley Library (Octavia/Green)
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 1:10:14 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

I am opposed to any adjacent construction that blocks light and air for this neighborhood treasure - the Golden Gate Library at Octavia and Green.

Please do not rush approvals for the developer's construction proposal. Take the time to allow neighborhood associations to review the impact and become well informed.

Patricia Houden
homeowner
2780 Filbert St.
Cow Hollow

Sent from my iPhone

From: sdmansoir@gmail.com
To: [ChauStaff \(BOG\)](#); [Sofari, Catherine \(BOG\)](#); [Puskas, Aaron \(BOG\)](#); [Mr. Gordon \(BOG\)](#); [Evelton, Dean \(BOG\)](#); [Hansy, Matt \(BOG\)](#); [MolnarStaff \(BOG\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOG\)](#); [Boren, Hilary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sf.gov.org](#); [Safai, Ahsan \(BOG\)](#); [BOG Legislation \(BOG\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOG\)](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:43:31 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an oversized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Salem Mansoir

From: [Stephanie Peek](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org; [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 4:50:50 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).

President Shamann Walton, President

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

City Hall, Room 244

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I am writing in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).

I ask you to uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to this historic Carnegie Library are mitigated.

I have lived in San Francisco more than 50 years and have many happy memories of visits to this beloved public library with my young son for the weekly children's story hour. Sitting in that glorious light-filled room was so peaceful and uplifting for us and as it has been for thousands of visitors for years.

The proposed design of the neighboring house 2651 and 2653 Octavia would create a hugely out-of-scale residential addition that would block light into the Library's reading room, and also impact its new solar panels.

Why should a private project that does not contribute any new housing units to our city impact a treasured public building? Private projects should not be allowed at the detriment of public places funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

And, the Planning Department has no business issuing Categorical Exemptions in cases where there is a clear possibility of impacts to historic resources such as this one.

I ask that you please uphold this appeal.

In appreciation of your consideration,

Stephanie Peek

From: [Elisa Skarveland](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: RE Golden Gate Valley Library
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 7:29:23 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

Elisa Skarveland
2834 Gough
San Francisco 94123

To Whom it may concern

RE The Golden Gate Valley Library

As a longtime San Francisco resident of Cow Hollow and a serious and frequent user of the GGVL (except during Covid)
I am writing in support of the Golden Gate Valley Friends Appellant Group.

I am concerned and want to add my voice to protect the Golden Gate Valley Library from the private development project next door.

Losing daylight and increasing shadow ought to be avoided. Diminishing and blocking light into the reading room is detrimental, particularly since that was a conscious part of the rebuild in 2012. Shading from the proposed next door project effects the new (2012) solar panels which will increase energy costs and the Library's carbon footprint. This seems to defeat the purpose of the 2012 rebuild financed by public and private funds. It would also compromise the Library's LEED Golden status.

It seems appropriate to accept reviews from International experts (on behalf of the GGVL Friends) not only those provided by the private interested party.

Why is the SF Board of Supervisors giving preferential treatment to a private party over a public Historic building like the GGV Library which is used very much by people, young and old, in the neighborhood?

I ask you, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, to accept this appeal.

It is your responsibility to protect the public from private interests when they are negative and detrimental in their result.

Respectfully,

Elisa Skarveland

From: [carol.holcomb](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 12:14:35 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides."

The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. There have been 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library:

Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space.

- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

I urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

I respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Carol Holcomb

1430 Francisco St #11
San Francisco, CA

From: [Ming-Ji Chang](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:33:30 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 18, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing **IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group**, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

1. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that *"The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides"*

2. The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

3. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

4. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

5. The proposed additions to 2651-

2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

6. significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maggie Chang
2634 Octavia St., #3 San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [Rakinder Grover](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:00:32 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 18, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and

experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration.

Rakinder Grover
1877 Broadway
San Francisco, CA 94109

From: cannonpk@aol.com
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Golden Gate Valley Library - Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 6:14:55 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides"

The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of

methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia K. Cannon
2634 Octavia St.
SF, CA 94123

Postscript:

Almost a decade ago, I heard trees being pruned. When the sound continued for several hours I looked out the window and saw two men with a power saw butchering a GGV Library tree on Octavia St. I politely asked them if they were from DPW (which they obviously were not). One man said the owner had contacted 'someone' in the City government who told the owner a tree on his property could be pruned. The tree they were pruning was a GGV Library tree on the boundry line. I rang the owner's doorbell for more information and finally he admitted he was the owner. He declared the tree was on his property and told me to mind my own business.

I said it was my business since it was a library tree.

I asked the librarians inside the library for advice. They said they could not help with the library grounds.

The owner told me to call a policeman. He arrived and ultimately agreed with the men.

When I asked who else could determine what property the tree was on, the owner (who was reciting his biography to the policeman (a native and life long resident/businessman of SF who owned many properties, etc.)), told me to call the

Mayor or Supervisors. As I left, he said "Call them all. Good luck".

So I called Supervisor Peskin's office (whom I had met at THD while living on Telegraph Hill for 11 years). His Administrative Assistant Rose advised me to contact the agency that overlooked landscaping on City Library property at that time.

That agency said they could not visit the site and directed me to send photos.

All I sought was to have the proper City agency contact the owner (who wanted a view which the tree blocked) so the tree could be properly trimmed. As a result the owner was fined, which I did not know would happen. I tried to contact the owner to apologize. But the owner and his wife confronted me and he vowed to get even. He said he was working on plans to build an additional story. (I believe years earlier he had built something that impacted the yellow Victorian on the south side of his building. Someone from our building visited to offer assistance. I cannot recall the details.)

When the 2651-53 went on the market in 2018 (?), I visited the open house. I noted the windows the owner had recently cut along the north side, some of which faced the library wall. In fact there were newly cut windows everywhere.

Alternative Plan: The back yard is huge. There should be room for an garden addition on the SW side that would not impact sunlight or impinge on the GGV landmark library, and not require an elevator shaft. Back yards are increasingly necessary, precious and irreplaceable, as is sunlight. 2651-53 Octavia is neither Victorian nor Edwardian, but the scale of the building and Mansard roof is charming. And they have a backyard which is a quickly vanishing asset in San Francisco. Why can't they enjoy the backyard?

The current corporate owner (janddproperties.net) is enormous. (I can't even pull it up because I don't have Java.)

But the previous owner who bought and flipped the property for profit created problems for his neighbors on both sides of his property and took advantage of wonderful historical landmark library. The real estate firm also illegally trimmed the library tree to create an eastern view from the kitchen while the building was on the market.

Ironically, the tree now looks better than the 'matching library trees'. It got a professional trimming after the incident.

Corporate real estate/property management companies (such as janddproperties) are creating density in this neighborhood that is overwhelming and threatening our backyard pockets of green.

And don't these elevator shafts defy the 40 foot limit? They are popping up everywhere in residential neighborhoods.

From: [Sharen Der](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:29:03 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 18, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space

belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration.
Sharen T. Der 1968 Jefferson St
SF, CA 94123

From: [Jody Williams Garcia](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:59:25 PM

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President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an over-sized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the

cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Jody Garcia

From: sbardell@aol.com
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Golden Gate Valley Library
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 6:20:43 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Honorable San Francisco Supervisors:

As residents of Golden Gate Valley and former president (Robert) and current vice president (Serena) of Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association, we thoroughly support the effort to protect the solar panels and not place the desires of one residence owner over the comfort of many current and future library patrons.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Robert and Serena Bardell

From: [Ozzie Rohm](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Safal, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Sfluc Info](#); [Bruce Bowen](#); [Gary Weiss](#); [Jerry Dratler](#); [Junona Jonas](#); [Stephanie Peek](#); [Tes Welborn](#); [Matt McCabe](#); [George Wooding](#); [Karen Wood](#); [Marlayne Morgan](#); [Karen Breslin](#); kcourtney@rhcasf.com; [Chris Bigelow](#); [Katherine Petrin](#); brucew@hanc-sf.org; [Maurice Franco](#)
Subject: Support of Appeal of 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:12:38 AM
Attachments: [Letter in Support of 2nd Appeal of 2651-2653 Octavia Street.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Walton and fellow Supervisors,

Please see the attached letter on behalf of San Francisco Land Use Coalition in support of the 2nd appeal of the proposed project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street, Case No. Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ.

Sincerely,

Ozzie Rohm
For San Francisco Land Use Coalition



SAN FRANCISCO LAND USE COALITION

April 19, 2021

Dear President Walton and fellow Supervisors,

On behalf of San Francisco Land Use Coalition, I am writing to express our support for the 2nd **Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the proposed project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street.**

The proposed vertical and horizontal addition on this site will deprive Golden Gate Valley Branch Library, a Historic Resource and a public space from natural light and therefore, it is highly inappropriate. At 4,151 square feet and a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1.3, the subject property is already well over-developed and doesn't need further expansions.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a community amenity funded and maintained by the tax dollars of San Francisco residents. Why should we the people suffer the consequences of this massive expansion to benefit the coffers of a developer? Why should the library staff and users lose the natural light emanating from all corners of this building to allow a massive private property to get even more massive?

That is why we urge you to uphold this appeal and force the project back to the drawing board to come up with a design that won't impact the public and a public space.

Sincerely,

Ozzie Rohm
For San Francisco Land Use Coalition

From: [Youjeong Kim](#)
To: [ChaeStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Breston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Bosen, Hillary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgov.org](#); [Safai, Ansha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:38:09 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

My family and I live at the corner of Green Street and Octavia, a stone's throw from the beloved Golden Gate Valley Branch Library.

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

We strongly object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an oversized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Youjeong Kim
1773 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [Jen Valdivia](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: My Beloved Golden Gate Library
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:59:23 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the seven Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides".

The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had five, internationally -recognized, professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-

facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space

- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jen Valdivia

2111 Franklin St., Apt. 2, 94109

From: [Anne Mackenzie](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: maureen@ddmhw.com; [City Librarian, City Librarian \(LIB\)](#); [Delneo, Catherine \(LIB\)](#); [COB, SFPL \(LIB\)](#); [Marie Ciepiela](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-5 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:39:33 PM

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President Shamann Walton
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last reviewed this project in July 2020 and voted 11 to 0 in favor of our Appeal, NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library.

I object to the size of the proposed project which is adjacent to, uphill and south of the Ernest Coxhead Beaux-Arts Library, designed in 1914, a City of San Francisco asset and, a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This residential expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled addition, but not an additional living unit, that would block natural light into the Library's main reading room and the staff office areas.

The expansion of 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a forth floor vertical level and a horizontal addition to the existing three story, 4,151 gross square foot two family residence. The final project would be 45.5 feet tall including a new roof deck and an elevator penthouse in a 6,512 square foot, two family residence, greatly increasing the height, bulk and, square footage on this parcel. Also, there are no restrictions for the height of trees, tents, umbrellas or portable partitions installed on the roof deck that could add more height to the project.

This project has no public benefit but, if constructed, would impact our community asset, renovated in 2012 at residents' expense to improve the facility for use by neighborhood residents, local toddlers and school children. Underwritten by public donations to The Friends of the Library plus designated donations by individuals, the renovation included south facing high performance windows, a new photovoltaic system on the roof absorbing the sun light from the south, energy efficient lighting and mechanical equipment, all significant components that resulted in a 25% reduction in the annual operating cost. The proposed height and horizontal addition to 2651-53 Octavia Street will block sunlight to the solar panels during the late fall, winter and early spring

months, greatly reducing daylight to the building all year long and requiring supplemental electric lighting thus resulting in higher electric/ heating costs.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, built in 1914. The grand scale of the Library stack and reading room is one of our great neighborhood and City gems. This public space should not be negatively impacted by an oversized private expansion benefitting a few but permanently negatively altering the experience of many Library users, the staff workspace environments and negate the effectiveness of the new mechanical additions that currently offset the cost of this Library's operations. Private projects should not be approved or built to the detriment of public resources, funded by San Francisco residents.

Please uphold this Appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modifications that mitigate impacts to our Library.

Thank you,
Candace A. Mackenzie
1713 Green Street

From: [Jim Connelly](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-5 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 6:44:23 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

From: Jim Connelly <jim-connelly@comcast.net>
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 at 6:42 PM
To: <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-5 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)

President Shamann Walton
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last reviewed this project in July 2020 and voted 11 to 0 in favor of our Appeal, NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library.

I object to the size of the proposed project which is adjacent to, uphill and south of the Ernest Coxhead Beaux-Arts Library, designed in 1914, a City of San Francisco asset and, a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This residential expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled addition, but not an additional living unit, that would block natural light into the Library's main reading room and the staff office areas.

The expansion of 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth floor vertical level and a horizontal addition to the existing three story, 4,151 gross square foot two family residence. The final project would be 45.5 feet tall including a new roof deck and an elevator penthouse in a 6,512 square foot, two family residence, greatly increasing the height, bulk and, square footage on this parcel. Also, there are no restrictions for the height of trees, tents, umbrellas or portable partitions installed on the roof deck that could add more height to the project. The roof deck also provides a full Bay view, a significant value for resale of the property.

This project has no public benefit but, if constructed, would impact our community asset, renovated in 2012 at residents' expense to improve the facility for use by neighborhood residents, local toddlers and school children. Underwritten by public donations to The Friends of the Library plus designated donations by individuals, the renovation included south facing high performance windows, a new photovoltaic system on the roof absorbing the sun light from the south, energy efficient lighting and mechanical equipment, all significant components that resulted in a 25% reduction in the annual operating cost. The proposed height and horizontal addition to 2651-53 Octavia Street will block sunlight to the solar panels during the late fall, winter and early spring months, greatly reducing daylight to the building all year long and requiring supplemental electric lighting thus resulting in higher electric/ heating costs.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, built in 1914. The grand scale of the Library stack and reading room is one of our great neighborhood and City gems. This public space should not be negatively impacted by an oversized private expansion benefitting a few but permanently negatively altering the experience of many Library users, the staff workspace environments and negate the effectiveness of the new mechanical additions that currently offset the cost of this Library's operations. Private projects should not be approved or built to the detriment of public resources, funded by San Francisco residents.

Please uphold this Appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modifications that mitigate impacts to our Library.

Thank you,

Jim Connelly
Green Street

From: [Jane Ibrahim Gaito](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:52:06 PM

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President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in SUPPORT of the second Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

The parcel is adjacent to the Golden Gate Valley branch, a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project increases the height and bulk of the building, yet it does not add housing to the neighborhood. The proposed expansion of the neighboring property would result in an oversized addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room and staff areas, and also reduce the efficiency of the solar panels installed recently.

As a taxpayer and a personal donor to the recent restoration of the Golden Gate Valley branch, I urge you to uphold the appeal and ask the Planning Department to work with the project sponsor to revise the design and reduce the impact on the library.

Thank you,

Jane Gaito

From: [Library Users Association](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Do Not Diminish Golden Gate Valley Library--A Project the Library Concealed from the Public. TODAY's 4-20-21 Board Agenda, re 2651-2653 Octavia Street
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:04:16 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

*** Please distribute to each Supervisor ***

Dear Supervisors:

Please protect a City treasure today, the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library -- and postpone today's hearing about, or deny the request regarding, a building project next door that would diminish the quality and amount of light for one of the most beautiful and historic library buildings in the City.

The building is a treasure and a pleasure, with massive windows on all four sides, letting daylight stream in on both the sunniest and the darkest, rainiest days. The architect, Coxhead, also gives the building, now still giving use and enjoyment to the public more than 100 years after it was built, a distinguished pedigree and historic significance. I personally have enjoyed many visits in this place with both a soaring ceiling and cozy areas to read or otherwise work. It has always been well attended on the afternoons I have been present.

It is astonishing that the news of this construction project next door, has been COMPLETELY CONCEALED BY LIBRARY MANAGEMENT FROM THE PUBLIC. There has been not a single word mentioned about it at the Library Commission, and certainly not on any agenda item for discussion or action or recommendation. It is stunning that the City Librarian, Michael Lambert, has weighed in with a brief letter saying he has no "concerns" about the project impact, a wholly political statement apparently intended to keep in someone's good graces. Mr. Lambert says nothing about what he thinks the impacts might be on the public -- good or bad. Neither does he even suggest that his position is in the public interest. Whether you believe the proposed project will seriously affect the building qualities, or only do so less than significantly is a discussion that the Library administration has not enabled the public to have -- either at the Library Commission or anywhere else, as I have not seen any mention of the project anywhere in Library newsletters, website, or other publicity.

To express an opinion about a project that will negatively affect thousands of members of the public who use and enjoy and value the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library -- for possibly another 100 plus years -- but not even let that impacted public know what is planned so that they may have a chance to research and express their opinion -- is a real suppression of knowledge that can only tilt the balance of today's discussion in favor of the project proponents and their supporters, while leaving the affected public inactive due to the Library's concealment until the result is too late to change.

Please give the public its chance to continue its tradition and undiminished enjoyment of the Golden Gate Valley Branch library by rejecting this project, or at least postponing a decision until the public may also have a fair chance to be aware and have the same opportunity to express its opinion as Mr. Lambert and the proponents have had.

Thank you.

Peter Warfield
Executive Director
Library Users Association
415/753-2180
libraryusers2004@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 170544, San Francisco, CA. 94117-0544

From: [Library Users Association](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Please Do Not Diminish Golden Gate Valley Library--A Project the Library Concealed from the Public. TODAY's 4-20-21 Board Agenda, re 2651-2653 Octavia Street
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 2:04:16 AM

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*** Please distribute to each Supervisor ***

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Please give the public its chance to continue its tradition and undiminished enjoyment of the Golden Gate Valley Branch library by rejecting this project, or at least postponing a decision until the public may also have a fair chance to be aware and have the same opportunity to express its opinion as Mr. Lambert and the proponents have had.

Thank you.

Peter Warfield
Executive Director
Library Users Association
415/753-2180
libraryusers2004@yahoo.com
P.O. Box 170544, San Francisco, CA. 94117-0544

From: [Jane Ibrahim Gaito](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 11:52:05 PM

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President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in SUPPORT of the second Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

The parcel is adjacent to the Golden Gate Valley branch, a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project increases the height and bulk of the building, yet it does not add housing to the neighborhood. The proposed expansion of the neighboring property would result in an oversized addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room and staff areas, and also reduce the efficiency of the solar panels installed recently.

As a taxpayer and a personal donor to the recent restoration of the Golden Gate Valley branch, I urge you to uphold the appeal and ask the Planning Department to work with the project sponsor to revise the design and reduce the impact on the library.

Thank you,

Jane Gaito

From: [L.D. Kirshenbaum](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Proposed project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street - Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 9:37:16 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President Walton and Supervisors -

San Francisco is a crowded, historic city. We must take care of our public spaces; we will not get them back.

Nobody wants to deny private homeowners the pleasure of improving their property, but we must ensure that ordinary San Franciscans can continue to enjoy the free natural sunlight now available to all at the Golden Gate Valley branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Many thanks,

– Daniela Kirshenbaum
Neighbor

From: [Anne Mackenzie](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: maureen@ddmhw.com; [City Librarian, City Librarian \(LIB\)](#); [Delneo, Catherine \(LIB\)](#); [COB, SFPL \(LIB\)](#); [Marie Ciepiela](#)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-5 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 12:39:40 PM

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President Shamann Walton
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last reviewed this project in July 2020 and voted 11 to 0 in favor of our Appeal, NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library.

I object to the size of the proposed project which is adjacent to, uphill and south of the Ernest Coxhead Beaux-Arts Library, designed in 1914, a City of San Francisco asset and, a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This residential expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled addition, but not an additional living unit, that would block natural light into the Library's main reading room and the staff office areas.

The expansion of 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a forth floor vertical level and a horizontal addition to the existing three story, 4,151 gross square foot two family residence. The final project would be 45.5 feet tall including a new roof deck and an elevator penthouse in a 6,512 square foot, two family residence, greatly increasing the height, bulk and, square footage on this parcel. Also, there are no restrictions for the height of trees, tents, umbrellas or portable partitions installed on the roof deck that could add more height to the project.

This project has no public benefit but, if constructed, would impact our community asset, renovated in 2012 at residents' expense to improve the facility for use by neighborhood residents, local toddlers and school children. Underwritten by public donations to The Friends of the Library plus designated donations by individuals, the renovation included south facing high performance windows, a new photovoltaic system on the roof absorbing the sun light from the south, energy efficient lighting and mechanical equipment, all significant components that resulted in a 25% reduction in the annual operating cost. The proposed height and horizontal addition to 2651-53 Octavia Street will block sunlight to the solar panels during the late fall, winter and early spring

months, greatly reducing daylight to the building all year long and requiring supplemental electric lighting thus resulting in higher electric/ heating costs.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, built in 1914. The grand scale of the Library stack and reading room is one of our great neighborhood and City gems. This public space should not be negatively impacted by an oversized private expansion benefitting a few but permanently negatively altering the experience of many Library users, the staff workspace environments and negate the effectiveness of the new mechanical additions that currently offset the cost of this Library's operations. Private projects should not be approved or built to the detriment of public resources, funded by San Francisco residents.

Please uphold this Appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modifications that mitigate impacts to our Library.

Thank you,
Candace A. Mackenzie
1713 Green Street

From: Youjeong Kim <ykimellis@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:38 AM
To: ChanStaff (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Haney, Matt (BOS); MelgarStaff (BOS); MandelmanStaff, [BOS]; Ronen, Hillary; Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org; Safai, Ahsha (BOS); BOS Legislation, (BOS); Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Categories: 210275

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President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

My family and I live at the corner of Green Street and Octavia, a stone's throw from the beloved Golden Gate Valley Branch Library.

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

We strongly object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-foot tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an oversized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Youjeong Kim
1773 Green Street
San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [Ozzie Rohm](#)
To: [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Mandelman, Rafael \(BOS\)](#); [Safal, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Sfluc Info](#); [Bruce Bowen](#); [Gary Weiss](#); [Jerry Dratler](#); [Junona Jonas](#); [Stephanie Peek](#); [Tes Welborn](#); [Matt McCabe](#); [George Wooding](#); [Karen Wood](#); [Marlayne Morgan](#); [Karen Breslin](#); [kcourtney@rhcasf.com](#); [Chris Bigelow](#); [Katherine Petrin](#); [brucew@hanc-sf.org](#); [Maurice Franco](#)
Subject: Support of Appeal of 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Monday, April 19, 2021 10:15:38 AM
Attachments: [Letter in Support of 2nd Appeal of 2651-2653 Octavia Street.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Walton and fellow Supervisors,

Please see the attached letter on behalf of San Francisco Land Use Coalition in support of the 2nd appeal of the proposed project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street, Case No. Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ.

Sincerely,

Ozzie Rohm
For San Francisco Land Use Coalition



SAN FRANCISCO LAND USE COALITION

April 19, 2021

Dear President Walton and fellow Supervisors,

On behalf of San Francisco Land Use Coalition, I am writing to express our support for the 2nd **Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the proposed project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street.**

The proposed vertical and horizontal addition on this site will deprive Golden Gate Valley Branch Library, a Historic Resource and a public space from natural light and therefore, it is highly inappropriate. At 4,151 square feet and a Floor Area Ratio (FAR) of 1.3, the subject property is already well over-developed and doesn't need further expansions.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a community amenity funded and maintained by the tax dollars of San Francisco residents. Why should we the people suffer the consequences of this massive expansion to benefit the coffers of a developer? Why should the library staff and users lose the natural light emanating from all corners of this building to allow a massive private property to get even more massive?

That is why we urge you to uphold this appeal and force the project back to the drawing board to come up with a design that won't impact the public and a public space.

Sincerely,

Ozzie Rohm
For San Francisco Land Use Coalition

From: [Sharen Der](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:29:02 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 18, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space

belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration.

Sharen T. Der 1968 Jefferson St
SF, CA 94123

From: [Rakinder Grover](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 4:00:31 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 18, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and

experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration.

Rakinder Grover
1877 Broadway
San Francisco, CA 94109

From: [Ming-Ji Chang](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 11:32:41 AM

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Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 18, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing **IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group**, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that *"The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides"*

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3. <!--[endif]-->New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4. <!--[endif]-->As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->5. <!--[endif]--> The proposed additions to 2651-

2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

6. significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maggie Chang
2634 Octavia St., #3 San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [William Reilly](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\); chandtaff@sfgov.org; Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\); Haney, Matt \(BOS\); Mar, Gordon \(BOS\); MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\); Preston, Dean \(BOS\); hilary.ronen@sfgov.org](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\); Lew, Lisa \(BOS\); Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re:2651-2653 Octavia St, Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit No 301808036405 Board Of Supervisors File 210275 Reilly
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 10:35:09 AM
Attachments: [Re2651-2653 Octavia St, Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit No 301808036405 Board Of Supervisors File 210275 Reilly.vcf](#)

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I write to you as a neighbor resident looking out on the Library from the SE corner of Octavia and Green St, 1791 Green Street. I am also someone who has spent many hours reading and writing in the Library. I once was involved in the NY City consideration of planning rules to require consideration of bounce light when ruling on new building plans. My background includes a Columbia U Scholl of Architecture MS in Urban Planning.

Lighting, when possible natural lighting, is a blessing in civilized life. Often taken for granted or dismissed, it is often the very contributor to a building's effective design. For a library the printed page and the literal illumination are Marie's!

Please protect them! Do not accept arguments that try to justify partial shading, when full lighting protection is what the library's design contemplated.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wm K Reilly
US EPA Administrator 1989-93

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jody Williams Garcia](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 10:59:25 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an over-sized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the

cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Jody Garcia

From: [Letitia Yang](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: SUPPORT of Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:10:52 PM

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President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Honorable Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard about this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

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Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Letitia Yang
1769 Green Street
SF, CA 94123

From: [Lowrie MacLean](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Zushi, Kei \(CPC\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#); [BOS-Supervisors](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support for 2651-2653 Octavia Street project
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 2:42:09 PM
Attachments: [Revised 2.pdf](#)

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Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Letter of Support for Project Sponsor in Appeal of San Francisco Planning Department's
CEQA Exemption for 2651-2653 Octavia Street, (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)

Please forward to the Board of Supervisors and Environmental Planning this letter of SUPPORT for the owner and project sponsor of 2651-53 Octavia in the Appeal hearing on April 20, 2021.

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing today in support of the owners and their proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street. I am a San Francisco resident and have lived here for 40 years.

After examining the Symphysis illumination and shade studies, I believe that the Golden Gate Valley Library will not significantly or substantially be harmed by the proposed remodel on the adjacent building.

Specifically, I want to make the following points:

- 1) I understand that a CEQA protects historically significant buildings from substantial adverse effects on its character defining features. With the proposed project, I find the illumination and shade differences do not qualify as significant or substantial. The patrons of San Francisco will enjoy the library in the same capacity as it does today.
- 2) The normal light condition in the library is daylight and electric lights, used in combination during open hours. The difference in illumination between the existing light and the light with the proposed addition is **minimal** at -2% clear sky, -4.2 partly cloudy sky, -1.0% overcast sky.
- 3) The library has 14 windows that encircle the building, and the only windows that are potentially affected are 3, and those windows are consistently 50% covered by dark grey shades that filter 90% of the natural light.
- 4) The sun shades on the south facing windows have a greater impact on light than the proposed project would have. These shades can be easily adjusted to suit library patron needs.
- 5) The solar radiation generation is decreased minimally by the proposed project, -5.8% annually. As well, there are no codes or laws protecting solar panels from development of adjacent properties.

I urge you to deny the appeal and validate the Categorical CEQA Exemption that the San Francisco Environmental Planning Department granted to 2651-53 Octavia. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lowrie MacLean

From: [Stephanie Peek](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org; [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Saturday, April 17, 2021 4:50:50 PM

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Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).

President Shamann Walton, President

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

City Hall, Room 244

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I am writing in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).

I ask you to uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to this historic Carnegie Library are mitigated.

I have lived in San Francisco more than 50 years and have many happy memories of visits to this beloved public library with my young son for the weekly children's story hour. Sitting in that glorious light-filled room was so peaceful and uplifting for us and as it has been for thousands of visitors for years.

The proposed design of the neighboring house 2651 and 2653 Octavia would create a hugely out-of-scale residential addition that would block light into the Library's reading room, and also impact its new solar panels.

Why should a private project that does not contribute any new housing units to our city impact a treasured public building? Private projects should not be allowed at the detriment of public places funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

And, the Planning Department has no business issuing Categorical Exemptions in cases where there is a clear possibility of impacts to historic resources such as this one.

I ask that you please uphold this appeal.

In appreciation of your consideration,

Stephanie Peek

Wong, Jocelyn (BOS)

From: sdmansoir@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, April 17, 2021 2:43 PM
To: ChanStaff (BOS); Stefani, Catherine (BOS); Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Mar, Gordon (BOS); Preston, Dean (BOS); Haney, Matt (BOS); MelgarStaff (BOS); MandelmanStaff, [BOS]; Ronen, Hillary; Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org; Safai, Ahsha (BOS); BOS Legislation, (BOS); Board of Supervisors, (BOS)
Subject: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ)
Categories: 210275

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President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an oversized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated.

Thank you,

Salem Mansoir

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS-Supervisors](#); [BOS-Legislative Aides](#); [BOS-Administrative Aides](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#); [Ng, Wilson \(BOS\)](#); [Laxamana, Junko \(BOS\)](#); [Nagasundaram, Sekhar \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: 2651-2653 Octavia Street Appeal
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 6:14:30 PM
Attachments: [GGVNA Letter About 26512653 Octavia Street Appeal.pdf](#)

From: Phil Faroudja <phil@faroudja-inc.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Lew, Lisa (BOS) <lisa.lew@sfgov.org>
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street Appeal

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

P.O. Box 29086
[SE] Presidio Station
[SE] San Francisco, CA 94129

April 16, 2021

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 2102752651

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association supports the appeal of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant Group, in regards to proposed construction of a fourth floor and roof deck to the building at 2651 and 2653 Octavia Street.

This addition would be directly next door to the Golden Gate Valley Library and, according to a recent city-ordered light study, would cast varying amounts of shadow on the library's newly installed, multi-million dollar solar panels at different times of the year.

This shadowing would affect the proper functioning of the library, will lead to higher electricity bills and cost, and diminish the amount of natural light reaching the library's interior.

Perhaps these problems could be mitigated by adjusting the plans for the fourth floor addition. For example, the entire fourth floor could be set back ten feet along its north-facing side, which might reduce any effect on the solar panels.

The Golden Gate Valley Library is in the process of becoming an historical landmark, and has been a valuable resource serving residents of all ages for many years. We hope it will continue to do so and remain unaffected. Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association urges the city to reject this construction request.

Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Faroudja
President, GGVNA

From: maureen@ddmhww.com
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org; [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:30:20 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Letter in support of Appeal overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 12, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

1. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that *"The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides"*
2. The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.
3. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.
4. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

5. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

6. In addition, significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. The Appellant group has had 5 internationally recognized and professional experts independently analyze the reports. Experts have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have a negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space

- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all these professional experts which refute the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturn the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and request the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Holt
1793 Green Street

From: [Sean Sharp](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [RonenStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Golden Gate Library Branch
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 2:42:48 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon

footprint.

Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

—

Sean Sharp
2040 Jefferson St Apt 106
San Francisco CA 94123-1045

From: xiaomu@aol.com
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 1:41:29 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Connie Chan, District 1 Supervisor, ChanStaff@sfgov.org
Catherine Stefani, District 2 Supervisor, Catherine.Stefani@sfgov.org
Aaron Peskin, District 3 Supervisor, Aaron.Peskin@sfgov.org
Gordon Mar, District 4 Supervisor, Gordon.Mar@sfgov.org
Dean Preston, District 5 Supervisor, Dean.Preston@sfgov.org
Matt Haney, District 6 Supervisor, Matt.Haney@sfgov.org
Myrna Melgar, District 7 Supervisor, MelgarStaff@sfgov.org
Rafael Mandelman, District 8 Supervisor, MandelmanStaff@sfgov.org
Hillary Ronen, District 9 Supervisor, Hillary.Ronen@sfgov.org
Shamann Walton, District 10 Supervisor, Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org
Ahsha Safai, District 11 Supervisor, Ahsha.Safai@sfgov.org
BOS.Legislation@sfgov.org
Board.of.Supervisors@sfgov.org

Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-

family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space should not be impacted by an over-sized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated

Thank you,

Philip Kaufman
2421 Green Street

From: [Phil Faroudja](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street Appeal
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:03:50 PM
Attachments: [GGVNA Letter About 26512653 Octavia Street Appeal.pdf](#)

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

P.O. Box 29086
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

April 16, 2021

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 2102752651

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association supports the appeal of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant Group, in regards to proposed construction of a fourth floor and roof deck to the building at 2651 and 2653 Octavia Street.

This addition would be directly next door to the Golden Gate Valley Library and, according to a recent city-ordered light study, would cast varying amounts of shadow on the library's newly installed, multi-million dollar solar panels at different times of the year.

This shadowing would affect the proper functioning of the library, will lead to higher electricity bills and cost, and diminish the amount of natural light reaching the library's interior.

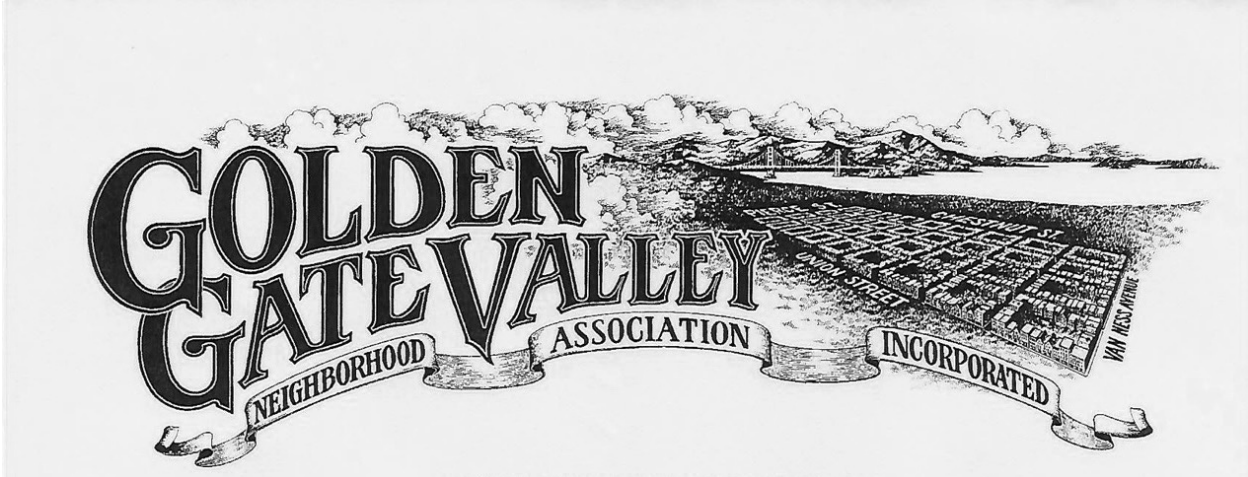
Perhaps these problems could be mitigated by adjusting the plans for the fourth floor addition. For example, the entire fourth floor could be set back ten feet along its north-facing side, which might reduce any effect on the solar panels.

The Golden Gate Valley Library is in the process of becoming an historical landmark, and has been a valuable resource serving residents of all ages for many years. We hope it will continue to do so and remain unaffected. Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association urges the city to reject this construction request.

Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Faroudja
President, GGVNA



P.O. Box 29086
Presidio Station
San Francisco, CA 94129

April 16, 2021

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405;
Board of Supervisors File # 2102752651

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This shadowing would affect the proper functioning of the library, will lead to higher electricity bills and cost, and diminish the amount of natural light reaching the library's interior.

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The Golden Gate Valley Library is in the process of becoming an historical landmark, and has been a valuable resource serving residents of all ages for many years. We hope it will continue to do so and remain unaffected. Golden Gate Valley Neighborhood Association urges the city to reject this construction request.

Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Phil Faroudja

President, GGVNA

From: [DEBORAH KAREL](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Protect Golden Gate Valley Public Library!
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:15:02 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents **seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.** The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides".

The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-

facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library. • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration. Deborah A. Karel
2230 Pacific Avenue #104
SF, CA 94115

From: [Rebecca Hogenhuis](#)
To: [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:06:54 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a passionate SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

1. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides."
2. The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.
3. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.
4. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.
5. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.
6. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.
7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have

been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebecca Hogenhuis
2235 Laguna St., #304
San Francisco, CA 94115
(415) 798-7177

From: [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:23:10 AM

-----Original Message-----

From: knice@earthlink.net <knice@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 10:10 AM
To: Stefani, Catherine (BOS) <catherine.stefani@sfgov.org>; ChanStaff (BOS) <chanstaff@sfgov.org>; Peskin, Aaron (BOS) <aaron.peskin@sfgov.org>; Haney, Matt (BOS) <matt.haney@sfgov.org>; Mar, Gordon (BOS) <gordon.mar@sfgov.org>; MandelmanStaff, [BOS] <mandelmanstaff@sfgov.org>; MelgarStaff (BOS) <melgarstaff@sfgov.org>; Preston, Dean (BOS) <dean.preston@sfgov.org>; Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org; Walton, Shamann (BOS) <shamann.walton@sfgov.org>; Safai, Ahsha (BOS) <ahsha.safai@sfgov.org>
Cc: Calvillo, Angela (BOS) <angela.calvillo@sfgov.org>; Lew, Lisa (BOS) <lisa.lew@sfgov.org>; Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

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Letter in support of Appeal overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 16, 2021

Dear President Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group. As a long time resident of San Francisco and a passionate supporter of San Francisco Public Libraries, I feel that the proposed private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and light reaching the solar panels.

1. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides". This stipulation is posted on the San Francisco Planning Commission's website.
2. The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.
3. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to ensure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.
4. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.
5. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the

main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

6. In addition, significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. The Appellant group has had 5 internationally recognized and professional experts independently analyze the reports. Experts have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have a negative impact on the library.

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space.

- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

The City should think very carefully before allowing a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all these professional experts which refute the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturn the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and request the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you.

Kelly Nice
1793 Green Street

From: [Donna Morrison](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org; [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:03:00 PM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

Dear President Walton and Supervisors,

As a 45 year resident of the neighborhood, and a veteran of a good many hearings and efforts of its behalf, I am appalled that the property owners at 2651-53 Octavia are still pursuing their attempt to expand their house at the obvious expense of the Library immediately next door to them...AND for no benefit but their own. This expansion will not address any of the housing and density problems of the City, and is out of scale for the neighborhood...but sadly will block the southern sunlight in the reading room, one of the finest features of that landmark library and one that many of our neighbors personally invested in with restoration funds a scant few years ago.

The owners have made NO CHANGES since you heard this case last July, and we ask you to uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library, and are mitigated.

What good is landmark status when it can be compromised by anyone with such selfish disregard for it.

Sincerely,

Donna Morrison
2523 Gough Street
San Francisco, Ca. 94123

From: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: FW: Golden Gate Valley Library
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:51:49 AM

Do you guys know what file no. this would be?

John Bullock
Board of Supervisors - Clerk's Office
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-7706

***Disclosures:** Personal information that is provided in communications to the Board of Supervisors is subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act and the San Francisco Sunshine Ordinance. Personal information provided will not be redacted. Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Board of Supervisors and its committees. All written or oral communications that members of the public submit to the Clerk's Office regarding pending legislation or hearings will be made available to all members of the public for inspection and copying. The Clerk's Office does not redact any information from these submissions. This means that personal information—including names, phone numbers, addresses and similar information that a member of the public elects to submit to the Board and its committees—may appear on the Board of Supervisors website or in other public documents that members of the public may inspect or copy.*

From: Kathleen Hynes <khynes@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:41 AM
To: Board of Supervisors, (BOS) <board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org>; angela.cavillo@sfgov.org
Subject: Golden Gate Valley Library

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

April 16, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

As a 51 year resident of San Francisco and a homeowner I am absolutely appalled at your support of the building permit that would block light in the reading room of the Golden Gate Valley Library and render the solar panels useless. Since independent internationally recognized architects have concluded that the proposed new structure would block light in the reading room of the library and make the expensive solar, energy saving panels useless, I can only conclude that you don't care about our city. Your support of the new building permit, strongly suggests that someone's pockets are being lined. You give yourselves raises while our city is being devastated. Thousands of people are moving out and away from our dangerous streets and what do you do? Issue a permit to

destroy a historic building.

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Hynes, MSN

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Bridget Maley](#)
To: [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Shamann.Walton@sfgiv.org](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#); [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ).
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:51:01 AM

This message is from outside the City email system. Do not open links or attachments from untrusted sources.

President Shamann Walton, President
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear President Walton and Supervisors:

I write in support of the SECOND Appeal of Determination of Exemption from Environmental Review for the Proposed Project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street (Case No. 2018-011022 PRJ). Since you last heard this project in July 2020 NO CHANGES have been made to the design of the project to mitigate impacts to the Golden Gate Valley Branch Library (Library).

I object to the size of the proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street which is adjacent to the historic Library, a City of San Francisco asset, and a known historic resource under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The expansion, as proposed, would result in an over-scaled, residential addition that would block light into the Library's main reading room as well as the staff office areas.

The proposed project at 2651-53 Octavia Street would add a fourth-floor level vertical and horizontal addition to the existing 37-foot-tall, three-story, 4,151-gross-square-foot two-family residence. The final project would be 40-feet tall, plus a 3.5-foot-tall parapet and guardrail on the roof deck, with a penthouse elevator structure in a four-story, 6,512 square-foot two family residence. The project would greatly increase the height, bulk and square-footage on this parcel immediately adjacent to the Library, to the south.

The proposed project would not add any density or housing units to our neighborhood, but instead would retain the existing two units while greatly increasing the square footage of each existing unit. This project would have no public benefit, but if constructed would impact a public asset that was recently renovated at taxpayer expense, the Library.

The Golden Gate Valley Branch Library is a San Francisco architectural treasure, designed by renowned architect, Ernest Coxhead. The grand scale of the Library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems. This public space

should not be impacted by an over-sized expansion that benefits so few, but will permanently alter the experience of many Library users, the work spaces of the Library staff, and the solar panels that offset the cost of Library operations. Private projects should not come to fruition at the detriment of public places and spaces funded by the citizens of San Francisco.

Please uphold this appeal and send the project back to the Planning Department for modification so that the impacts to the Library are mitigated

Thank you,

--

Bridget Maley

bridget.maley@gmail.com

From: [Cynthia Singerman](#)
To: [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [ChanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Haney, Matt \(BOS\)](#); [Mar, Gordon \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, J \(BOS\)](#); [MelgarStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#); [Hilary.Ronen@sfgov.org](#); [Walton, Shamann \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Friday, April 16, 2021 8:23:23 AM

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Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275 Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination April 15, 2021 Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors: As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels. The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides" The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents. New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come. As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old. The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users. 6. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint. 7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library • Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space • Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved. We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion

of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain. We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library. We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accept this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thank you for your consideration.

Cynthia Singerman

2955 Octavia Street

San Francisco, CA 94123

From: [Nancy Radzik](#)
To: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:07:23 PM

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Letter in Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

April 15, 2021

Dear Chairman Walton and the SF Board of Supervisors:

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The GGV branch of SFPL is the crown jewel of the 7 Carnegie libraries in SF and a historic architectural gem of the community. The grand scale of the library's reading room was designed in 1918 with windows on all sides, clearly intending to maximize light into the main reading room. The Carnegie foundation specifically stipulated that sites for its libraries be chosen such that "The site chosen should be such as to admit lite (sic) on all sides"

The library underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of \$8.5 million as well as significant private contributions by SF City residents.

New south-facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south-facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs were key components of that renovation. The 2012 renovations sought to insure that light was an integral part of the library experience for generations to come.

As it stands, the residential building at 2651-2653 Octavia already blocks natural light into the Library's south-facing windows. This problem cannot be compounded, as it cannot be overstated how critical the quality of natural light is to any library, especially one over a century old.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

6. Significant shading cast onto the arrays of the solar panels directly above the south-facing windows will render them ineffective, cutting off the renewable energy supply and increasing the library's carbon footprint.

7. Daylight Impact and Shading Impact reports commissioned by the Planning Department reveal a number of methodological and interpretation inconsistencies. We have had 5 internationally

recognized professional experts independently analyze the reports. They have been consistent in their interpretations and concerns that the project as proposed will have negative impact on the library

- Daylight Impact Study (December 2020) reveals decreased natural light into the south-facing windows, degrading the character and experience of the interior space
- Shading Impact Study (December 2019) reveals significantly reduced functionality of solar panels, to the point of ineffectiveness. These panels were specifically installed, at great taxpayer expense, to meet SF Clean Energy goals, which will no longer be achieved.

We should think very carefully before we allow a size and volume expansion of a private residence to have a negative impact on a treasured, historic PUBLIC space belonging to all San Franciscans. Private developers should not be allowed to negatively impact historic public resources for personal gain.

We urge the Board of Supervisors to seriously consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

We respectfully ask that the Board of Supervisors accepts this Appeal, overturns the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and requests that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Radzik
2330 Larkin Street #45
San Francisco CA 94109

From: [Arnold Cohn](#)
To: [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [Calvillo, Angela \(BOS\)](#); [Lew, Lisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Stop a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the Golden Gate Valley Library
Date: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:33:53 PM

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Support of Appeal Overturning the CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

Re: 2651-2653 Octavia Street; Block 0553 Lot 002; Permit Number 201808036405; Board of Supervisors File # 210275

As a longtime SF resident and supporter of the SFPL, I am writing IN SUPPORT of the Golden Gate Valley Library Friends Appellant group, - a group of concerned SF residents seeking to protect the Golden Gate Valley branch of SFPL from a private development project which will cause irreparable harm to the library's character defining main reading room by reducing light entering the windows and reaching the solar panels.

The proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia will further block light from the South, undermining light into the main reading room, and altering the character and experience of the interior space, permanently and to the detriment of users.

Please consider the evidence from all the professional experts that refutes the Planning Department's assertion of "minimal" impact of the proposed project on the GGV Library.

Overturn the second CEQA Categorical Exemption issued in February 2021 and request that the project sponsor explore an alternative plan, one that doesn't negatively impact the Golden Gate Valley Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.

Sincerely,

Arnold Cohn
1550 Bay