

1 [Planning Code, Zoning Map - Group Housing Special Use District]

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3 **Ordinance amending the Planning Code to create the Group Housing Special Use**  
 4 **District; affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California**  
 5 **Environmental Quality Act; and making findings of consistency with the General Plan,**  
 6 **and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and findings of public**  
 7 **necessity, convenience, and welfare under Planning Code, Section 302.**

8 NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
 9 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
 10 **Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
 11 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
 12 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
 13 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
 14 subsections or parts of tables.

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13 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

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15 Section 1. Environmental and Land Use Findings.

16 (a) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
 17 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
 18 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
 19 Supervisors in File No. 211300 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms  
 20 this determination.

21 (b) On February 10, 2022, the Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 21071,  
 22 adopted findings that the actions contemplated in this ordinance are consistent, on balance,  
 23 with the City's General Plan and eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1. The  
 24 Board adopts these findings as its own. A copy of said Resolution is on file with the Clerk of  
 25 the Board of Supervisors in File No. 211300, and is incorporated herein by reference.

1 (c) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 302, the Board of Supervisors finds that the  
2 Planning Code and Zoning Map amendments will serve the public necessity, convenience,  
3 and welfare for the reasons set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 21071, and the  
4 Board incorporates such reasons herein by reference.

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6 Section 2. Other Specific Findings.

7 (a) The Group Housing Special Use District is generally comprised of overlapping  
8 areas in whole or in part of the Chinatown Community Business District, the Chinatown Visitor  
9 Retail District, the Chinatown Residential Neighborhood Commercial District, the Chinatown  
10 Transit Station Special Use District, the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District, the  
11 North Beach Special Use District, the Nob Hill Special Use District and the North of Market  
12 Special Use District, which are described more fully in Planning Code sections 810, 811, 812,  
13 722, 780.3, 249.66, 238 and 249.5 respectively, and the Uptown Tenderloin Historic District,  
14 which is described more fully in the National Register of Historic Places as approved by the  
15 State Historical Resources Commission (together, "Greater Chinatown and Greater  
16 Tenderloin neighborhoods"). These districts all were designed with the intent of protecting and  
17 preserving, to various degrees, the established communities, including the high concentration  
18 of low-income residents of single-room occupancy (SRO) residential hotels, a type of group  
19 housing as defined in the Planning Code.

20 (b) The Greater Chinatown and Greater Tenderloin neighborhoods continue to have  
21 the highest concentration per census tract of low-income families in San Francisco, many of  
22 whom reside in overcrowded group housing projects. This concentration of existing group  
23 housing projects in the Group Housing Special Use District does not currently meet the  
24 housing needs of the population, which lacks access to and choice of housing options that  
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1 provide adequate cooking, food preparation, and storage facilities appropriately sized for  
2 families.

3 (c) The San Francisco Human Services Agency (HSA) has documented that both  
4 the Greater Chinatown and Greater Tenderloin neighborhood residents are the most at risk for  
5 food insecurity and the most reliant on government aid for food subsidies among San  
6 Francisco residents; and that without a complete kitchen facility with adequate space to  
7 prepare, store, and cook food, residents are more likely to rely on pre-prepared meals and  
8 unhealthy snacks, furthering the income inequality and public health concerns in these  
9 neighborhoods.

10 (d) Given the lack of adequate kitchens and adequate food storage areas within  
11 new group housing projects, as well as Greater Tenderloin and Greater Chinatown residents'  
12 limited access to affordable grocery stores, and an increase in documented assaults within  
13 both neighborhoods, the Board of Supervisors finds that residents of new group housing  
14 projects would need to purchase prepared food and would be unlikely to walk or take transit to  
15 food establishments. Thus, residents are likely to rely heavily on Transportation Network  
16 Company (TNC) food delivery vehicle services (e.g., DoorDash, GrubHub, and Uber Eats  
17 deliveries) to obtain food, leading to additional congestion. As documented by the San  
18 Francisco County Transportation Authority in its 2017 "TNC's Today" Congestion Study, an  
19 increase in TNC use in turn creates more pedestrian/vehicle collisions and increased  
20 pollution; the Greater Tenderloin and Greater Chinatown neighborhood already suffers high  
21 levels of both.

22 (e) Group housing projects tend to have higher turnover of tenants given that the  
23 typology specifically caters to transient and temporary residents, as interpreted by the Zoning  
24 Administrator. Unlike family-sized dwelling units with full kitchens and storage space designed  
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1 for permanent residents, the transient nature of group housing residents contributes to  
2 destabilization of the neighborhoods in which they are located.

3 (f) Existing group housing projects within the proposed Group Housing Special Use  
4 District have been found to have a high number of vacancies as documented by the  
5 Department of Building Inspection’s Annual Unit Usage Report (AUUR).

6 (g) The Board of Supervisors finds that because group housing is already  
7 overwhelmingly saturated within the geographic boundaries of the Group Housing Special  
8 Use District, and in the interest of promoting density and geographic equity, it is necessary  
9 and appropriate to prohibit new group housing uses within the Group Housing Special Use  
10 District to incentivize other needed housing typologies, namely affordable family-sized  
11 housing, while concurrently increasing density in other areas of the City.

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13 Section 3. Article 2 of the Planning Code is hereby amended by adding Section  
14 249.92, to read as follows:

15 **SEC. 249.92. GROUP HOUSING SPECIAL USE DISTRICT.**

16 (a) Purpose. To incentivize the development of affordable family-sized housing over housing  
17 without full kitchens or adequate space to prepare, store, and cook food, in areas of the City where  
18 Group Housing is already saturated, a special use district entitled the “Group Housing Special Use  
19 District” is hereby established.

20 (b) Boundaries. The boundaries of the Group Housing Special Use District are shown on  
21 Special Use District Maps SU 01 and 02, and consist of the following areas:

22 (1) The area within a perimeter established by Bush Street, Stockton Street, Market  
23 Street, and Polk Street.

24 (2) The area within a perimeter established by Union Street, Grant Avenue, Columbus  
25 Avenue, Montgomery Street, California Street, and Powell Street.

1            (c) Controls. Group Housing, as defined in Section 102, shall not be permitted in the Special  
2 Use District. All other provisions of the Planning Code shall apply.

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4            Section 4. The Planning Code is hereby amended by revising Special Use District Map  
5 SU01 and SU02 of the Zoning Map of the City and County of San Francisco, as follows:

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Description of Property	Special Use District Hereby Approved
The area within a perimeter established by Bush Street, Stockton Street, Market Street, and Polk Street.	Group Housing Special Use District
The area within a perimeter established by Union Street, Grant Avenue, Columbus Avenue, Montgomery Street, California Street, and Powell Street.	Group Housing Special Use District

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16            Section 5. Effective and Operative Dates.

17            (a) This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after enactment. Enactment  
18 occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the ordinance unsigned or  
19 does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board of Supervisors  
20 overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

21            (b) This ordinance shall become operative on the later of (1) its effective date stated  
22 in subsection (a), or (2) on the effective date of either the ordinance in Board of Supervisors  
23 File No. 210564 or the ordinance in Board of Supervisors File No. 210866. The ordinances in  
24 File Nos. 210564 and 210866 change the development standards, policies, and conditions  
25 applicable to RH-1 districts, increasing the development capacity in those districts. This

