



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## General Plan Referral


*Date:* June 14, 2019  
*Case No.* 2016-012545GPR  
4840 Mission Street Mixed-Use Affordable Housing

*Block/Lot No.:* 6959/19, 6959/25, 6959/26, 6959/31  
*Project Sponsor:* Kearstin Dischinger  
Bridge Housing Corporation  
600 California Street, Suite 900  
San Francisco, CA 94108

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

*Recommended By:*   
John Rahaim, Director of Planning

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project is a mixed-use development in the Excelsior District at 4840 Mission Street. The development site is ±1.5 acres and includes up to 137 below market rate affordable rental units over a new ±10,000 square foot Clinic and a ±6,000 square commercial space. One hundred percent of the units are affordable. The development includes 39 residential parking stalls that are not visible from the street and are located partially below grade as well as a publicly accessible mid-block passage between Mission Street and Alemany Boulevard. The project site is currently occupied by the Valenti Marini Perata Funeral Home. The project provides a unique opportunity to establish a mixed-use, affordable housing development and create new commercial space as well as clinical space for the community-based Mission Neighborhood Health Clinic.

The submittal is for a General Plan Referral to recommend whether the Project is in conformity with the General Plan, pursuant to Section 4.105 of the Charter, and Section 2A.52 and 2A.53 of the Administrative Code.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project approved under California Senate Bill 35; considered a ministerial approval and is not subject to CEQA.

## GENERAL PLAN COMPLIANCE AND BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Project is Bridge Housing's proposed construction of a mixed-use development with up to 137 rental units of below market rate affordable housing. The Project is consistent with seven of the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 as described in the body of this letter and is, on balance, **in-conformity** with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

### HOUSING ELEMENT

#### POLICY 1.7

**Consider public health objectives when designating and promoting housing development sites.**

A healthy neighborhood has a balance of housing and the amenities needed by residents at a neighborhood level, such as neighborhood serving retail, particularly stores offering fresh produce, childcare and medical services.

*In addition to being located adjacent to a Safeway supermarket and other neighborhood-serving businesses, the proposed project includes a new community-based health clinic.*

#### POLICY 1.8

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

Mixed-use buildings in San Francisco allow residents to live above street-front commercial space, services or institutional uses. Housing should continue to be considered as a joint use with all compatible non-residential uses.

*The neighborhood-serving health clinic in the ground floor of the proposed affordable housing project will contribute positively to the Excelsior District's vibrant mixed-use environment on Mission Street.*

#### POLICY 1.10

**Support new housing projects, especially affordable housing, where households can easily**

**rely on public transportation, walking and bicycling for the majority of daily trips.**

Housing with easy access to transit facilitates the City's efforts to implement the City's Transit First policy. Additionally, housing near transit can provide site efficient and cost effective housing.

*The proposed affordable housing project will be well-served by high frequency Muni lines on Mission Street to Downtown San Francisco and is within a 0.7 mile (15 minute) walking distance from the Balboa Park BART Station.*

#### **POLICY 8.1**

**Support the production and management of permanently affordable housing.**

Non-profit housing development corporations develop most of San Francisco's subsidized affordable housing. The City should continue to provide technical and financial assistance to support continued operations and enhanced capacity of these entities.

*The City via MOHCD is seeking to support the development of the proposed affordable housing project by financing its acquisition and pre-development activities in coordination with the Project Sponsor.*

#### **POLICY 12.2**

**Consider the proximity of quality of life elements, such as open space, child care, and neighborhood services, when developing new housing units.**

San Francisco's neighborhoods support a variety of life choices through the quality of life elements they provide. Such elements include open space, child care facilities and other neighborhood services such as libraries, neighborhood-serving retail (including grocery stores), community centers, medical offices, personal services, locally owned businesses, and a pedestrian and bike-friendly environment. These elements enable residents to continue to live in their neighborhood as their needs change and encourage neighborhood relationships. Access to these amenities and services at a neighborhood level enables residents to make many trips on foot or public transportation.

*The proposed project is located directly adjacent to a Safeway supermarket and on a stretch of Mission Street that includes many neighborhood services and amenities. It is in a very pedestrian-friendly environment that will allow residents to meet their daily needs locally and conveniently without the need for a privately-owned vehicle. The proposed project is within a half mile of both Balboa Park and Crocker Amazon Playground and Athletic Fields.*

**PROPOSITION M FINDINGS – PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1**

Planning Code Section 101.1 establishes Eight Priority Policies and requires review of discretionary approvals and permits for consistency with said policies. The Project is found to be consistent with the Eight Priority Policies as set forth in Planning Code Section 101.1 for the following reasons:

**Eight Priority Policies Findings**

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

The proposed project is found to be consistent with the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 in that:

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

*The Project includes new ground floor space that is anticipated to be utilized for a health clinic and commercial uses; it therefore creates new opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of neighborhood-serving retail.*

2. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhood.

*The Project would have a positive effect on neighborhood character by activating a largely vacant site, creating new active ground floor uses, and providing a new mid-block pedestrian passage from Mission Street to Alamany Boulevard. Additionally, it will add up to 137 new below market rate affordable rental units to the city's housing stock. The existing housing character will be not be negatively affected.*

3. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced.

*The Project would enhance the city's supply of affordable housing by adding up to 137 new below market rate affordable rental units.*

4. That commuter traffic not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking.

*Due to the Project's low parking ratio of 1 space for every 3.5 residential units, it will largely cater to residents who do not own a private vehicle and therefore would not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI's transit service, overburdening the streets or altering current neighborhood parking.*

5. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for residential employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced.

*The Project would not negatively affect the existing economic base in this area.*

6. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

*The Project would not adversely affect achieving the greatest possible preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.*

7. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

*The existing building is not a designated landmark under Article 10, does not have a designation under Article 11, and is not contributory to a designated or potential historic district. However, it has been found to eligible for the California Register of Historic Resources and therefore is considered a "Category A Historic Resource" under "San Francisco Preservation Bulletin No. 16 – City and County of San Francisco Planning Department CEQA Review Procedures for Historic Resources." While the existing building is proposed to be demolished, it would be demolished to enable the production of much needed affordable housing in an area that is rich with supporting uses, transit and other modes of non-vehicular travel. The new mixed-use affordable project would contribute to the existing character of Mission Street and the Excelsior District.*

8. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development.

*The Project would have no adverse effect on parks and open space or their access to sunlight and vista.*

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>Finding the Project, on balance, in-conformity with the General Plan.</b>
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cc: Cindy Heavens, MOHCD

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