



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## General Plan Referral

*Date:* October 28, 2013  
*Case No.* Case No. 2013.1304R  
**100 Channel Street: Tentative and Final Map, public improvements acceptance, and street vacation**  
*Block/Lot No.:* 8715/004  
*Project Sponsor:* Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure,  
Successor Agency to the Redevelopment Agency  
*Applicant:* Block 1 Associations, LLC  
*Staff Contact:* Susan Exline– (415) 558-6332  
susan.exline@sfgov.org  
*Recommendation:* Finding the project, on balance, is in conformity  
with the General Plan  
*Recommended By:*   
John Rahaim, Director of Planning

1650 Mission St.  
Suite 400  
San Francisco,  
CA 94103-2479

Reception:  
415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

We are in receipt of your request that the Planning Department consider a General Plan Referral application concerning Block 1 of the Mission Bay Redevelopment Plan. The General Plan Referral application was submitted to the Department on September 13, 2013, pursuant to Section 4.105 of the Charter, and Section 2A.53 of the Administrative Code.

In the subject case, the Mission Bay Force (MBTF) proposes a number of actions to implement the Mission Bay Redevelopment Area South of Channel Street, **Exhibit A**. The Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan was approved as part of Planning Case 1996.771EMTZR and recently amended under case 2013.0625R. The Planning Commission found the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan amendments, on balance, in conformity with the General Plan by Motion No. 18905 on June 13, 2013. The specific actions considered as part of the current Project require a General Plan Referral consistency determination and consideration and approval by the Board of Supervisors for City approval of the actions referenced below, including a Tentative and Final Map, vacation of street, and acceptance of horizontal infrastructure improvements. The proposed project is described in further detail below.

**PROPOSED ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**1. Tentative Map**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will conditionally approve the Tentative Map, as shown in **Exhibit B** of your submittal, and provide conditional approval of the project. This action will provide conditional approval of the lot pattern, and confirm that access and utilities can be provided to each lot.

**2. Final Subdivision Map**

After DPW recommends the approval of the Final Subdivision Map, the Board of Supervisors may act to approve the Final Subdivision Map. Board approval of the Final Subdivision Map will allow the sale, finance or lease of the property or properties.

**3. Street Vacation**

After DPW recommends the approval of City vacation, the Board of Supervisors may act to approve the documents necessary in order to execute the Vacation of a portion of Fourth Street between Channel Street and the Channel as described in the Mission Bay South Owner Participation Agreement, provided as **Exhibit H**.

**4. Acceptance of Dedication of Horizontal Public Infrastructure:**

After DPW determines that the facilities have been constructed in accordance with the Plans and Specifications and are ready for their intended use, the Developer is obligated to dedicate the Horizontal Infrastructure facilities to the City. The dedication will be for improvements located on Third Street, Fourth Street and Channel Street adjacent to the subdivision, including the Park P3 and Storm Water Treatment Facilities and the Storm Water Pump Station No 3 Public Improvements. The Board of Supervisors must act to accept the dedication of the Public Infrastructure Facilities. The Horizontal Infrastructure will be constructed per the approved Improvement Plans together with curb, gutter, sidewalks, landscaping, street lights, sewer, low pressure water, reclaimed water, joint utility trench, storm drain, pump station and stormwater treatment facilities traffic striping and signs as shown on excerpts of the Improvement Plans included as follows:

1. **Exhibit C.** Excerpts of Block 1 Improvement Plans
2. **Exhibit D:** Excerpts of Storm Water Pump Station No. 3 Improvement Plans
3. **Exhibit E:** Park P3 Conceptual Plans

The Public Horizontal Infrastructure facilities to be dedicated will be for Block 1, Park P3 and Storm Water Pump Station No. 3 as follows:

1. Fourth Street: approximately 50 feet of sidewalk along the east side of Fourth Street to intersection of Channel Street.

100 Channel street

2. Channel Street: approximately 500 feet of sidewalk on the north side of Channel Street.
3. Third Street near Channel Street: approximately 100 feet of sidewalk along the west side of Third Street
4. Third Street: approximately 300 feet in length of repaving along the west side of Third Street, two (2) southbound lanes with sidewalk and no parking
5. Park P3: approximately 1.68 acres of landscaping and storm water treatment improvements
6. Storm Water Pump Station No. 3 improvements

**PREVIOUS ACTIONS RELATED TO THIS PROJECT**

In previous undertakings related to the project, the Planning Commission found the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Project, dated September 4, 1998, in conformity with the San Francisco General Plan, in Planning Commission Resolution No. 14699, adopted September 17, 1998. The Planning Commission also found the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Project Amendments consistent with the General Plan in Planning Commission Motion 18905, adopted June 13, 2013.

In addition to the actions above, an Owner Participation Agreement (OPA) South Infrastructure Plan-Fifth Amendment was executed between the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco and the project sponsor, on February 21, 2013. The OPA required the owner to implement the Infrastructure Plan and construct the horizontal infrastructure and improvements that are incorporated into the subject project.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

The Environmental Planning Division of the Planning Department determined that the project is Categorical Exempt from Environmental Review. The project is cleared under the 1998 Mission Bay Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SEIR), SF Redevelopment Agency Case No. 919-97 & SF Planning Case No. 96.771E; and SEIR Addendum No.8, dated 05/15/13 that was issued by the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure, Successor Agency to the SF Redevelopment Agency Case No. 919-97.

**GENERAL PLAN COMPLIANCE AND BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

The Project is to approve a tentative and final map, street vacation, and accept the dedication of horizontal public infrastructure. The Project is consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 as described in the body of this letter. The Project is, on balance, **in-conformity** with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

**2004 HOUSING ELEMENT**

**OBJECTIVE 1**

**TO PROVIDE NEW HOUSING, ESPECIALLY PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING, IN APPROPRIATE LOCATIONS WHICH MEETS IDENTIFIED HOUSING NEEDS AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE DEMAND FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING CREATED BY EMPLOYMENT DEMAND.**

**POLICY 1.1**

**Encourage higher residential density in areas adjacent to downtown, in underutilized commercial and industrial areas proposed for conversion to housing, and in neighborhood commercial districts where higher density will not have harmful effects, especially if the higher density provides a significant number of units that are affordable to lower income households. Set allowable densities in established residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood scale and character where there is neighborhoods support.**

**OBJECTIVE 4**

**SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRODUCTION BY INCREASING SITE AVAILABILITY AND CAPACITY**

**OBJECTIVE 11**

**IN INCREASING THE SUPPLY OF HOUSING, PURSUE PLACE MAKING AND NEIGHBORHOOD BUILDING PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES TO MAINTAIN SAN FRANCISCO'S DESIRABLE URBAN FABRIC AND ENHANCE LIVABILITY IN ALL NEIGHBORHOODS.**

**POLICY 11.2**

**Ensure housing is provided with adequate public improvements, services, and amenities.**

*The Mission Bay project will provide a significant amount of new housing, including affordable housing units, consistent with these policies. The subject project is limited to review of a Tentative Subdivision Map, approval of a Final Map, and City-acceptance of property and public improvements, including a storm water treatment facilities and the storm water pump station No. 3, streets, sidewalks and related infrastructure, and improvements to publicly accessible open space in Assessor's Blocks 8715 004. The proposed project is consistent with the plans considered in earlier official actions by the Planning Commission, including Res. No. 18905, finding the Mission South Redevelopment Plan Amendments in conformity with the General Plan. The proposed project as described above, would be required in order to implement the Mission Bay project, including construction of public infrastructure that will support*

*development of a significant number of new housing units, including market rate and affordable units.*

## **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY ELEMENT**

### **Policy 6.7**

**Promote high quality urban design on commercial streets.**

*Streets and other public infrastructure improvements will be constructed consistent with the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan, which calls for high quality design features in public rights-of-way and adjacent development. Implementation of the Project would permit development of neighborhood commercial uses and new residential development*

## **URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT**

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

**EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.**

#### **Conservation, Street Space**

### **POLICY 2.8**

**Maintain a strong presumption against the giving up of street areas for private ownership or use, or for construction of public buildings.**

Street areas have a variety of public values in addition to the carrying of traffic. They are important, among other things, in the perception of the city pattern, in regulating the scale and organization of building development, in creating views, in affording neighborhood open space and landscaping, and in providing light and air and access to properties.

**Policy 2.9 Review proposals for the giving up of street areas in terms of all the public values that streets afford.**

Every proposal for the giving up of public rights in street areas, through vacation, sale or lease of air rights, revocable permit or other means, shall be judged with the following criteria as the minimum basis for review:

a. No release of a street area shall be recommended which would result in:

(2) Interference with the rights of access to any private property;

(3) Inhibiting of access for fire protection or any other emergency purpose, or interference with utility lines or service without adequate reimbursement;

(12) Release of a street area in any situation in which the future development or use of such street area and any property of which it would become a part is unknown.

b. Release of a street area may be considered favorably when it would not violate any of the above criteria and when it would be:

(5) In furtherance of the public values and purposes of streets as expressed in The Urban Design Element and elsewhere in the General Plan.

**Policy 2.10**

**Permit release of street areas, where such release is warranted, only in the least extensive and least permanent manner appropriate to each case.**

*The right-of-way proposed to be vacated meet the guidelines contained in Urban Design Element Policies. 2.8, 2.9, and 2.10. The proposed vacation of 4<sup>th</sup> Street is necessary for the proposed park, and would not: be detrimental to vehicular or pedestrian circulation; interfere with the access to private property; inhibit access for fire protection or other emergency service, interfere with utility lines; obstruct a significant view, or eliminate open space which might be used for public recreation and are necessary for implementation of the Redevelopment Plan.*

**RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT**

**POLICY 2.1**

**Provide an adequate total quantity and equitable distribution of public open spaces throughout the City.**

**POLICY 2.7**

**Acquire additional open space for public use.**

**POLICY 3.5**

**Provide new public open spaces along the shoreline.**

**Mission Bay**

The area known as Mission Bay is governed primarily by the Mission Bay North and Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plans. The two Redevelopment Plans and their companion Design for Development Documents provide for a balanced program of

active and passive recreational opportunities within strategically located open space sites throughout Mission Bay. They also provide that the open spaces within Mission Bay will seek to utilize and enhance the existing natural amenities of Mission Bay, such as the shoreline, China Basin Channel and public vistas.

The concept for the open space system for Mission Bay is to provide opportunities for local, citywide and regional recreational usage. The intent is to develop: (1) flexible/multiple use spaces that can accommodate heavy, active recreational uses as well as a balance of active and passive uses; and (2) spaces that will accommodate the immediate as well as the long-term/changing needs of the local community and the City

*The Recreation and Open Space Element calls for the City to provide adequate open space to serve the needs of all San Francisco residents. Development of Block 1 will result in provision for a significant amount of new housing as well as retail development that will create a demand for publicly accessible open space to supplement existing open space. As part of the Mission Bay redevelopment project, the project sponsor is responsible for establishing and maintaining new publicly accessible parks and open spaces for the area's residents, workers and visitors. By approving this action, the City will accept Park P3, which will add to the city's supply of open space.*

**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, demolition and replacement of the Chinese Recreation Center, 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 would have no adverse effect on neighborhood serving retail uses or opportunities for employment in or ownership of such businesses. The Project actions considered in this case would implement policies and plans contained in the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan, which was found consistent with the General Plan. The project would not negatively affect the level 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 neighborhoods.

*The Project considered would have no adverse effect on existing housing and neighborhood character. City acceptance of real property, acceptance of dedication of horizontal public infrastructure improvements (streets and related improvements), and vacation of a portion of a public Rights-of-Way is necessary for Block 1 to be developed. The Project is necessary in order to establish new residential and mixed-use development on the site.*

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

*The Project in itself would have no adverse effect on the City's supply of affordable housing. However, overall, the implementation of the Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan, as adopted, would add to the City's supply of affordable housing.*

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

*The Project would not adversely impede MUNI transit service or overburden city streets and 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 resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced.

*The Project would not adversely affect a diverse economic base*

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

*The Project, limited to vacation of portions of public rights-of-way and easements, acquisition of real property and acceptance of public infrastructure improvements (once constructed consistent with approved plans) would not adversely affect City preparedness against injury or loss of life in an earthquake.*

- (7) That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

*The Project would not adversely affect landmarks or historic buildings.*

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



*The Project would not adversely affect parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas. The project sponsor would install publicly accessible open spaces consistent with the approved Mission Bay South Redevelopment Plan.*

<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>                      <b>Finding the Project, on balance, in-conformity with the General Plan</b></p>
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**Attachments:**

Note: The following Exhibits are contained in Planning Department File No. 2013.1304R and are available for review at the Planning Department offices.

- Exhibit A      Location Map
- Exhibit B      Tentative Map
- Exhibit C      Excerpts of Block 1 Improvement Plans
- Exhibit D      Excerpts of Storm Water Pump Station No. 3 Improvement Plans
- Exhibit E      Concept Plan for Park P3 and Storm Water Treatment Improvements
- Exhibit F      DCP General Consistency for Land Transfers
- Exhibit G      Mission Bay South Owner Participation Agreement, Attachment D  
(Infrastructure Plan), Text description and cross section improvements
- Exhibit H      Certificate of Compliance adjusting lot lines between Assessor's  
Blocks/Lots 8714/001 and 8715/001
- Exhibit I      Certificate of Compliance adjusting Lot lines between Assessor's  
Blocks/Lots 8715/002, 003 and 8713/003
- Exhibit J      Planning Commission Motion No. 18905

cc: Grace Kwak, Project Manager, ITF  
Catherine Reilly, CCSF/OCII  
Mohammad Nuru, Director DPW

