



GENERAL PLAN REFERRAL

March 3, 2022

Case No.: 2022-001549GPR
Block/Lot No.: 681-687 Ellis Street, 0335/016
Project Sponsor: City and County of San Francisco
Applicant: Dan Adams, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing
Dan.adams@sfgov.org
49 South Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco, CA, 94102

Staff Contact: Patrick Race – (628) 652-7461
patrick.race@sfgov.org

Recommended By: 
AnMarie Rodgers, Director of Citywide Policy
For Rich Hillis, Director of Planning

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

Project Description

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing proposes to purchase the property at 681-687 Ellis Street. The property includes a 74-room tourist hotel. The transaction does not entail any physical changes to the building itself, or adjacent streets and public infrastructure.

A General Plan Referral is generally required for any purchase of real property by the City.

Environmental Review

Real estate transaction only. Not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 and 15060(c)(2) because it would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

General Plan Compliance and Basis for Recommendation

As described below, the proposed purchase of 681-687 Ellis Street is consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 and is, on balance, in conformity with the Objectives and Policies of the General Plan.

Note: General Plan Objectives are shown in **BOLD UPPER CASE** font; Policies are in **Bold** font; staff comments are in *italic* font.

HOUSING ELEMENT

OBJECTIVE 1

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

POLICY 1.3

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

POLICY 7.5

Encourage the production of affordable housing through process and zoning accommodations and prioritize affordable housing in the review and approval processes.

OBJECTIVE 6

REDUCE HOMELESSNESS AND THE RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

POLICY 6.1

Prioritize permanent housing and service enriched solutions while pursuing both short- and long-term strategies to eliminate homelessness.

The City anticipates the subsequent use of the building as affordable and or supportive housing. This real estate transaction helps facilitate the production of permanently affordable housing, adding to the City's affordable housing stock.

OBJECTIVE 11

SUPPORT AND RESPECT THE DISTINCT CHARACTER OF SAN FRANCISCO'S NEIGHBORHOODS

POLICY 11.7

Respect San Francisco's historic fabric, by preserving landmark buildings and ensuring consistency with historic districts

The property and building to be purchased by the City of San Francisco will not undergo any alterations as part of the transaction, and its design and character will thus be preserved

Planning Code Section 101 Findings

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:

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

The proposed project will not have an impact on neighborhood serving retail uses.

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

The proposed project will help preserve existing neighborhood character, as the building will not undergo a change of use at this time. The proposed project will strengthen neighborhood character, as the proposed project is a property purchase that does not include any changes to the building itself. The City anticipates that the building will be subsequently occupied by affordable and or supportive housing.

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

The Project will not diminish the City's affordable housing supply; on the contrary the anticipated future use will enhance the City's supply of affordable housing.

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

The proposed project will not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or 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 proposed project does not include any changes to industrial and service space in San Francisco.

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

This project does not include any construction, and will not impact emergency preparedness

7. That the landmarks and historic buildings be preserved;

The property, which is identified as an historic resource, will be utilized in its current state; the project does

not include any structural or design changes.

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

The proposed project will not impact the access to sunlight or vistas for the parks and open space.

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