



49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400 San Francisco, CA 94103 628.652.7600 www.sfplanning.org

# **CEQA Exemption Determination**

# PROPERTY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

| Project Address           |  | Block/Lot(s)         |
|---------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1650-1680 Davidson Avenue |  | 5215022              |
| Case No.                  |  | Permit No.           |
| 2022-001339PRJ            |  |                      |
| Addition/<br>Alteration   | Demolition (requires HRE for<br>Category B Building) | New     Construction |

### Project description for Planning Department approval.

The subject property consists of approximately 1.15 acres of unimproved property that includes a portion of former Custer Avenue, commonly known as 1650 Davidson Avenue, and an adjoining 1.31 acre parcel commonly known as 1680 Davidson. The Property consists of a paved yard that is used for light industrial parking and storage use, including fleet parking for school buses. It is subject to an existing long-term lease for those uses. There are no planning applications on file affecting the Property, and it is not part of any foreseeable development project. The Property has been owned by the current owner (the "Owner") since the 1960's. The Owner claims clear title to former Custer Avenue, but in connection with title work conducted for a proposed sale, the Port and the State have asserted a public trust and ownership claim over former Custer Avenue. The settlement and property transaction (the "Settlement") are intended to settle these disputed claims regarding property ownership and will include the following elements:1. City, acting by and through the Port, will quitclaim any title interest it holds in approximately 2,364 square feet of former Custer Avenue to the Owner pursuant to existing legislative authority under SB 815. The Port will enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Owner that will govern the FULL PROJECT DESCRIPTION ATTACHED

## **STEP 1: EXEMPTION TYPE**

| The project has been determined to be exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). |   |  |
|---|---|--|
|   | Class 1 - Existing Facilities. Interior and exterior alterations; additions under 10,000 sq. ft.  |  |
|   | <b>Class 3 - New Construction.</b> Up to three new single-family residences or six dwelling units in one building; commercial/office structures; utility extensions; change of use under 10,000 sq. ft. if principally permitted or with a CU.  |  |
|   | <ul> <li>Class 32 - In-Fill Development. New Construction of seven or more units or additions greater than 10,000 sq. ft. and meets the conditions described below:</li> <li>(a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations.</li> <li>(b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than 5 acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.</li> <li>(c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered rare or threatened species.</li> <li>(d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.</li> <li>(e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.</li> </ul> |  |
|   | Other<br>Public Resources Code §21080.11  |  |
|   | <b>Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)).</b> It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.   |  |

# STEP 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

|     | <b>Air Quality:</b> Would the project add new sensitive receptors (specifically, schools, day care facilities, hospitals, residential dwellings, and senior-care facilities within an Air Pollution Exposure Zone? Does the project have the potential to emit substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g. use of diesel construction equipment, backup diesel generators, heavy industry, diesel trucks, etc.)? ( <i>refer to the Environmental</i>   |  |
|-----|---|--|
|     | Hazardous Materials:       Maher or       Cortese         Is the project site located within the Maher area or on a site containing potential subsurface soil or       groundwater contamination and would it involve ground disturbance of at least 50 cubic yards or a change of         use from an industrial use to a residential or institutional use? Is the project site located on a Cortese site or         would the project involve work on a site with an existing or former gas station, parking lot, auto repair, dry         cleaners, or heavy manufacturing use, or a site with current or former underground storage tanks? <i>if Maher box is checked, note below whether the applicant has enrolled in or received a waiver from the San</i> Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) Maher program, or <i>if Environmental Planning staff has</i> determined that hazardous material effects would be less than significant.         Note that a categorical exemption shall not be issued for a project located on the Cortese List |  |
|     | <b>Transportation:</b> Does the project involve a child care facility or school with 30 or more students, or a location 1,500 sq. ft. or greater? Does the project have the potential to adversely affect transit, pedestrian and/or bicycle safety (hazards) or the adequacy of nearby transit, pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities? Would the project involve the intensification of or a substantial increase in vehicle trips at the project site or elsewhere in the region due to autonomous vehicle or for-hire vehicle fleet maintenance, operations or  |  |
|     | <b>Archeological Resources:</b> Would the project result in soil disturbance/modification greater than two (2) feet below grade in an archeological sensitive area or eight (8) feet in a non-archeological sensitive area? If yes, archeology review is required.  |  |
|     | <b>Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment:</b> Does the project site involve a subdivision or lot line adjustment<br>on a lot with a slope average of 20% or more? ( <i>refer to the Environmental Information tab on</i><br><i>https://sfplanninggis.org/PIM/</i> ) <b>If box is checked. Environmental Planning must issue the exemption.</b>  |  |
|     | Average Slope of Parcel = or > 25%, or site is in Edgehill Slope Protection Area or Northwest Mt.<br>Sutro Slope Protection Area: Does the project involve any of the following: (1) New building construction,<br>except one-story storage or utility occupancy, (2) horizontal additions, if the footprint area increases more<br>than 50%, or (3) horizontal and vertical additions increase more than 500 square feet of new projected roof<br>area? ( <i>refer to the Environmental Information tab on https://sfplanninggis.org/PIM/</i> ) If box is checked, a<br>geotechnical report is likely required and Environmental Planning must issue the exemption.  |  |
|     | Seismic Hazard: Landslide or Liquefaction Hazard Zone:<br>Does the project involve any of the following: (1) New building construction, except one-story storage or<br>utility occupancy, (2) horizontal additions, if the footprint area increases more than 50%, (3) horizontal and<br>vertical additions increase more than 500 square feet of new projected roof area, or (4) grading performed at<br>a site in the landslide hazard zone? (refer to the Environmental Information tab on https://sfplanninggis.org/PIM/)<br>If box is checked, a geotechnical report is required and Environmental Planning must issue the exemption.  |  |
| Com | ments and Planner Signature (optional): Don Lewis   |  |
|     |   |  |

## STEP 3: PROPERTY STATUS - HISTORIC RESOURCE TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

| PROPERTY IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: (refer to Property Information Map) |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | Category A: Known Historical Resource. GO TO STEP 5.   |  |
|   | Category B: Potential Historical Resource (over 45 years of age). GO TO STEP 4.                  |  |
|   | Category C: Not a Historical Resource or Not Age Eligible (under 45 years of age). GO TO STEP 6. |  |

## **STEP 4: PROPOSED WORK CHECKLIST**

## TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

| Check all that apply to the project.                          |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | 1. Change of use and new construction. Tenant improvements not included.   |  |
|   | 2. Regular maintenance or repair to correct or repair deterioration, decay, or damage to building.   |  |
|   | <ol> <li>Window replacement that meets the Department's Window Replacement Standards. Does not include<br/>storefront window alterations.</li> </ol>   |  |
|   | 4. Garage work. A new opening that meets the <i>Guidelines for Adding Garages and Curb Cuts</i> , and/or replacement of a garage door in an existing opening that meets the Residential Design Guidelines.   |  |
|   | 5. Deck, terrace construction, or fences not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way.  |  |
|   | <ol> <li>Mechanical equipment installation that is not visible from any immediately adjacent public<br/>right-of-way.</li> </ol>   |  |
|   | 7. <b>Dormer installation</b> that meets the requirements for exemption from public notification under <i>Zoning</i> Administrator Bulletin No. 3: Dormer Windows.   |  |
|   | 8. <b>Addition(s)</b> that are not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way for 150 feet in each direction; does not extend vertically beyond the floor level of the top story of the structure or is only a single story in height; does not have a footprint that is more than 50% larger than that of the original building: and does not cause the removal of architectural significant roofing features. |  |
| Note: Project Planner must check box below before proceeding. |  |  |
|   | Project is not listed. GO TO STEP 5.   |  |
|   | Project does not conform to the scopes of work. GO TO STEP 5.  |  |
|   | Project involves four or more work descriptions. GO TO STEP 5.   |  |
|   | Project involves less than four work descriptions. GO TO STEP 6.   |  |

## **STEP 5: ADVANCED HISTORICAL REVIEW**

#### TO BE COMPLETED BY PRESERVATION PLANNER

| Check all that apply to the project. |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                      | 1. Reclassification of property status. (Attach HRER Part I)  |  |
|                                      | Reclassify to Category A       Reclassify to Category C         a. Per HRER       (No further historic review)         b. Other (specify):       (No further historic review) |  |
|                                      |   |  |
|                                      | 2. Project involves a <b>known historical resource (CEQA Category A)</b> as determined by Step 3 and conforms entirely to proposed work checklist in Step 4.                  |  |
|                                      | <ol> <li>Interior alterations to publicly accessible spaces that do not remove, alter, or obscure character<br/>defining features.</li> </ol>                                 |  |
|                                      | 4. Window replacement of original/historic windows that are not "in-kind" but are consistent with existing historic character.  |  |
|                                      | 5. Façade/storefront alterations that do not remove, alter, or obscure character-defining features.   |  |

|   | 6. <b>Raising the building</b> in a manner that does not remove, alter, or obscure character-defining features.  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | 7. <b>Restoration</b> based upon documented evidence of a building's historic condition, such as historic photographs, plans, physical evidence, or similar buildings.   |  |
|   | 8. Work consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (Analysis required):  |  |
|   | 9. Work compatible with a historic district (Analysis required):   |  |
|   | 10. Work that would not materially impair a historic resource (Attach HRER Part II).   |  |
|   | Note: If ANY box in STEP 5 above is checked, a Preservation Planner MUST sign below.   |  |
|   | <b>Project can proceed with exemption review</b> . The project has been reviewed by the Preservation Planner and can proceed with exemption review. <b>GO TO STEP 6.</b> |  |
| Comments ( <i>optional</i> ):   |  |  |
| Preservation Planner Signature: Don Lewis                             |  |  |
| STEP 6: EXEMPTION DETERMINATION<br>TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER |  |  |

| Project Approval Action:  | Signature: |
|---|------------|
| Port Commission   | Don Lewis  |
|   | 02/16/2022 |
| Supporting documents are available for review on the San Francisco Property Information Map, which can be accessed at https://sfplanninggis.org/PIM/. Individual files can be viewed by clicking on the Planning Applications link, clicking the "More Details" link under the project's environmental record number (ENV) and then clicking on the "Related Documents" link. Once signed or stamped and dated, this document constitutes an exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code. |            |

# **Full Project Description**

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The Property has been owned by the current owner (the "Owner") since the 1960's. The Owner claims clear title to former Custer Avenue, but in connection with title work conducted for a proposed sale, the Port and the State have asserted a public trust and ownership claim over former Custer Avenue. The settlement and property transaction (the "Settlement") are intended to settle these disputed claims regarding property ownership and will include the following elements:

1. City, acting by and through the Port, will quitclaim any title interest it holds in approximately 2,364 square feet of former Custer Avenue to the Owner pursuant to existing legislative authority under SB 815. The Port will enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Owner that will govern the conveyance of the Custer Avenue parcel from City to Owner for its appraised value.

2. City, acting by and through the Port, the State Lands Commission and the Owner will enter into a Title Settlement and Trust Exchange Agreement (the "Trust Agreement") that will provide title to the Property free of the public trust except for an 18' wide strip of land within the northern area of the Property along the water that will be subjected to a public trust easement in favor of the State or granted to the City, acting by and through the Port. Owner will also make a payment into a State fund to account for any deficit in the square footage of land exchanged.

Approvals necessary to implement the Settlement include (1) approval by the Port Commission of the Purchase and Sale Agreement and Trust Agreement, pursuant to its authority under Charter Appendix B, (2) approval by the Board of Supervisors of the sale of City property under Charter Section 9.118(c) and to authorize the City's acceptance of the public trust easement, if applicable, and (3) approval by the State Lands Commission of the Trust Agreement and adoption of findings related to the sale of a portion of Custer Avenue under SB 815.

# STEP 7: MODIFICATION OF A CEQA EXEMPT PROJECT

## TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

In accordance with Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, when a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exempt project changes after the Approval Action and requires a subsequent approval, the Environmental Review Officer (or his or her designee) must determine whether the proposed change constitutes a substantial modification of that project. This checklist shall be used to determine whether the proposed changes to the approved project would constitute a "substantial modification" and, therefore, be subject to additional

### MODIFIED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Modified Project Description:

# DETERMINATION IF PROJECT CONSTITUTES SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION

| Compared to the approved project, would the modified project:                           |  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | Result in expansion of the building envelope, as defined in the Planning Code;   |  |
|   | Result in the change of use that would require public notice under Planning Code Sections 311 or 312;  |  |
|   | Result in demolition as defined under Planning Code Section 317 or 19005(f)?   |  |
|   | Is any information being presented that was not known and could not have been known<br>at the time of the original determination, that shows the originally approved project may<br>no longer qualify for the exemption? |  |
| If at least one of the above boxes is checked, further environmental review is required |  |  |

#### DETERMINATION OF NO SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION

| Plan   | ner Name:   | Date: |
|--|---|-------|
| If this box is checked, the proposed modifications are exempt under CEQA, in accordance with prior project approval and no additional environmental review is required. This determination shall be posted on the Planning Department website and office and mailed to the applicant, City approving entities, and anyone requesting written notice. In accordance with Chapter 31, Sec 31.08j of the San Francisco Administrative Code, an appeal of this determination can |   |       |
|  | The proposed modification would not result in any of the above changes. |       |