



CEQA Exemption Determination

PROPERTY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Project Address | | Block/Lot(s) |
| 429-431 Castro Street | | 3582085 |
| Case No. | | Permit No. |
| 2022-006075ENV | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addition/ Alteration | <input type="checkbox"/> Demolition (requires HRE for Category B Building) | <input type="checkbox"/> New Construction |
| Project description for Planning Department approval. Amend the Article 10 landmark designation of 429-431 Castro Street, known as the Castro Theatre, to include both exterior and interior character defining features, and update the statement of significance to include LGBTQ historical associations, pursuant to Section 1004.2 of the Planning Code. | | |

STEP 1: EXEMPTION TYPE

| | |
|--|--|
| The project has been determined to be exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 1 - Existing Facilities. Interior and exterior alterations; additions under 10,000 sq. ft. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Class 3 - New Construction. 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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: (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. (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than 5 acres substantially surrounded by urban uses. (c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered rare or threatened species. (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality. (e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING USE ONLY |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ Class 8 - Actions by regulatory agencies for the protection of the environment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)). It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING USE ONLY |

STEP 2: ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT

TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Air Quality: 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.)? (refer to <i>The Environmental Information tab on the San Francisco Property Information Map</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Hazardous Materials: If the project site is located on the Maher map or is suspected of containing hazardous materials (based on a previous use such as gas station, auto repair, dry cleaners, or heavy manufacturing, or a site with underground storage tanks): Would the project involve 50 cubic yards or more of soil disturbance - or a change of use from industrial to residential? Note that a categorical exemption shall not be issued for a project located on the Cortese List if box is checked, note below whether the applicant has enrolled in or received a waiver from the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) Maher program, or if Environmental Planning staff has determined that hazardous material effects would be less than significant. (refer to <i>The Environmental Information tab on the San Francisco Property Information Map</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation: 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? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Archeological Resources: 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment: Does the project site involve a subdivision or lot line adjustment on a lot with a slope average of 20% or more? (refer to <i>The Environmental Information tab on the San Francisco Property Information Map</i>) If box is checked, Environmental Planning must issue the exemption. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Average Slope of Parcel = or > 25%, or site is in Edgehill Slope Protection Area or Northwest Mt. Sutro Slope Protection Area: Does the project involve any of the following: (1) New building construction, except one-story storage or utility occupancy, (2) horizontal additions, if the footprint area increases more than 50%, or (3) horizontal and vertical additions increase more than 500 square feet of new projected roof area? (refer to <i>The Environmental Planning tab on the San Francisco Property Information Map</i>) If box is checked, a geotechnical report is likely required and Environmental Planning must issue the exemption. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Seismic Hazard: <input type="checkbox"/> Landslide or <input type="checkbox"/> Liquefaction Hazard Zone: Does the project involve any of the following: (1) New building construction, except one-story storage or utility occupancy, (2) horizontal additions, if the footprint area increases more than 50%, (3) horizontal and vertical additions increase more than 500 square feet of new projected roof area, or (4) grading performed at a site in the landslide hazard zone? (refer to <i>The Environmental tab on the San Francisco Property Information Map</i>) If box is checked, a geotechnical report is required and Environmental Planning must issue the exemption. |
| Comments and Planner Signature (optional): William Hughen | |

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

PROPERTY IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: (refer to *Property Information Map*)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Category A: Known Historical Resource. GO TO STEP 5. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Category B: Potential Historical Resource (over 45 years of age). GO TO STEP 4. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Change of use and new construction. Tenant improvements not included. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Regular maintenance or repair to correct or repair deterioration, decay, or damage to building. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Window replacement that meets the Department's <i>Window Replacement Standards</i> . Does not include storefront window alterations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Deck, terrace construction, or fences not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Mechanical equipment installation that is not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Dormer installation that meets the requirements for exemption from public notification under <i>Zoning Administrator Bulletin No. 3: Dormer Windows</i> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Addition(s) 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.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Project is not listed. GO TO STEP 5. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Project does not conform to the scopes of work. GO TO STEP 5. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Project involves four or more work descriptions. GO TO STEP 5. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Reclassification of property status. (Attach <i>HRER Part I</i>) <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 10px;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reclassify to Category A a. Per HRER b. Other (specify): </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Reclassify to Category C (No further historic review) </div> </div> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Project involves a known historical resource (CEQA Category A) as determined by Step 3 and conforms entirely to proposed work checklist in Step 4. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Interior alterations to publicly accessible spaces that do not remove, alter, or obscure character defining features. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Window replacement of original/historic windows that are not "in-kind" but are consistent with existing historic character. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. Façade/storefront alterations that do not remove, alter, or obscure character-defining features. |

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Raising the building in a manner that does not remove, alter, or obscure character-defining features. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. Restoration based upon documented evidence of a building's historic condition, such as historic photographs, plans, physical evidence, or similar buildings. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Work consistent with the <i>Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> (Analysis required): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Work compatible with a historic district (Analysis required): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 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. | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Project can proceed with exemption review. The project has been reviewed by the Preservation Planner and can proceed with exemption review. GO TO STEP 6. |
| Comments (optional): PLEASE SEE ATTACHED | |
| Preservation Planner Signature: Alex Westhoff | |

STEP 6: EXEMPTION DETERMINATION
TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

| | | |
|---|---|-------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No further environmental review is required. The project is exempt under CEQA. There are no unusual circumstances that would result in a reasonable possibility of a significant effect. | |
| | Project Approval Action: | Signature: |
| | Board of Supervisor approval of landmark designation amendment | Alex Westhoff |
| | | 01/23/2023 |
| Once signed or stamped and dated, this document constitutes an exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code. In accordance with Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, an appeal of an exemption determination to the Board of Supervisors can only be filed within 30 days of the project receiving the approval action. | | |

Step 5: Advanced Historical Review Comments

Amend the Article 10 landmark designation of 429-431 Castro Street, known as the Castro Theatre, to include both exterior and interior character defining features, and update the statement of significance to include LGBTQ historical associations, pursuant to Section 1004.2 of the Planning Code.

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 environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

MODIFIED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Modified Project Description:

DETERMINATION IF PROJECT CONSTITUTES SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION

Compared to the approved project, would the modified project:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Result in expansion of the building envelope, as defined in the Planning Code; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Result in the change of use that would require public notice under Planning Code Sections 311 or 312; |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Result in demolition as defined under Planning Code Section 317 or 19005(f)? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Is any information being presented that was not known and could not have been known at the time of the original determination, that shows the originally approved project may 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

| | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The proposed modification would not result in any of the above changes. |
| 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 be filed to the Environmental Review Officer within 10 days of posting of this determination. | |
| Planner Name: | Date: |
| | |