



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission Motion No. 19530

CEQA FINDINGS

HEARING DATE: DECEMBER 10, 2015

Date: December 3, 2015
Case No.: **2010.0515ETZ/GPR**
Project: Potrero HOPE SF Master Plan Project
CEQA Findings
Location: 1095 Connecticut Street (the area generally bounded by Connecticut Street, 26th Street, Wisconsin Street, 23rd Street, Texas Street, and 25th Street)
Parcel(s): 4167/004, 004A, 4220A/001, 4223/001, 4285B/001, and 4287/001A
Project Sponsor Dan Adams
Bridge Housing
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Recommendation: Adopt the Findings

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ADOPTING ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS (AND A STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS) UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND STATE GUIDELINES IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE POTRERO HOPE SF MASTER PLAN PROJECT AND RELATED ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT SUCH PLANS.

Preamble

On March 6, 2014, Bridge Housing (hereinafter "Project Sponsor") filed Application No. 2010.0515TZ (hereinafter "Application") with the Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for Planning Code Text and Map amendments to rezone the Assessor's Block and Lots 4167/004, 004A, 4220A/001, 4223/001, 4285B/001, and 4287/001A to establish a Special Use District (hereinafter "SUD"), and change height limits specifically for Potrero HOPE SF Master Plan Project (hereinafter "Project").

On November 10, 2010, the Department issued a Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report ("NOP") for the Project. On November 5, 2014, the Department published the Draft Environmental Impact Report / Draft Environmental Impact Statement ("DEIR/DEIS") for the Project and provided public notice in a newspaper of general circulation of the availability of the DEIR/DEIS for public review and comment. The DEIR/DEIS was available for public comment from November 7, 2014 through January 7, 2015. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 11, 2014 on the DEIR/DEIS at a regularly scheduled meeting to solicit public comment regarding the DEIR/DEIS.

The Department prepared responses to comments on environmental issues received at the public hearing and in writing during the public review period for the DEIR/DEIS, prepared revisions to the text

of the DEIR/DEIS in response to comments received or based on additional information that became available during the public review period. This material was presented in a Response to Comments document, published on October 8, 2015, distributed to the Planning Commission and all parties who commented on the DEIR/DEIS, and made available to others upon request at the Department.

A Final Environmental Impact Report / Final Environmental Impact Statement ("FEIR/FEIS" or "Final EIR/EIS") was prepared by the Department, consisting of the Draft EIR/EIS and the Response to Comments document.

Project Environmental Impact Report files have been made available for review by this Commission and the public. These files are available for public review at the Planning Department at 1650 Mission Street, and are part of the record before this Commission.

On December 10, 2015, the Planning Commission reviewed and considered the Final EIR/EIS and found that the contents of the report and the procedures through which the Final EIR/EIS was prepared, publicized, and reviewed complied with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA"), 14 California Code of Regulations sections 15000 et seq. ("CEQA Guidelines"), and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code ("Chapter 31").

The Commission found the Final EIR/EIS was adequate, accurate and objective, reflected the independent analysis and judgment of the Department and the Commission, and that the summary of comments and responses contained no significant revisions to the Draft EIR/EIS, and approved the Final EIR/EIS for the Project in compliance with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31.

The Planning Department, Jonas P. Ionin, is the custodian of records, located in the File for Case No. 2008.0091E, at 1650 Mission Street, Fourth Floor, San Francisco, California.

Department staff prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program ("MMRP") for the Project and these materials were made available to the public and this Commission for this Commission's review, consideration and action.

Project Description

By this action, the Planning Commission adopts Environmental Findings (and a Statement of Overriding Considerations) under the California Environmental Quality Act and State Guidelines in connection with the adoption of the Potrero Hope SF Master Plan Project and related actions necessary to implement such plans. The Project is generally described below here.

The Potrero HOPE SF Master Plan Project is part of the City's Hope SF Program, which looks to transform several of the City's Housing Authority sites to revitalized mixed-use mixed-income well integrated neighborhoods.

The Potrero HOPE SF Master Plan Project includes demolishing all existing 620 units, and vacating portions of the right of way that currently cross the site diagonally and building new streets that would better continue the existing street grid. The Project would transform the four existing super blocks into about 19 new fine-grained blocks, add one major new park along with several smaller parks, plazas and pedestrian ways throughout. The site would feature a new "Main Street" along a newly established segment of 24th Street; this new segment of 24th Street would be aligned with commercial and community uses, and parks and open space.

At completion the Potrero HOPE SF would include up to 1,700 units, including Housing Authority replacement units, and a mix of additional affordable units (approximately 335 units at varying levels of affordability) and market rate units (approximately 661 units). New buildings would provide a consistent street wall with “eyes-on-the-street” active ground floor treatment. A variety of building types including individual townhomes, small apartment buildings and larger corridor apartment buildings would be constructed throughout. Approximately 1,150 parking spaces would be provided for the units largely below grade. Approximately 15,000 gsf of retail, and 30,000 gsf of community-serving uses is also proposed

In 2008, Bridge Housing was selected by the Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (hereinafter “MOHCD”) (then, the Mayor’s Office of Housing) and the San Francisco Housing Authority to work with the local Potrero Terrance and Annex and surrounding Potrero Hill community to create a Master Plan for the site that would not only include reconstructed Housing Authority units, but additional affordable units along with market rate units, neighborhood serving retail, community service, new parks and open space, and new streets and infrastructure. Bridge Housing is also the Master Developer for the site.

In addition to applying for zoning amendments, the Project Sponsor intends to enter into a Development Agreement (hereinafter “DA”) with the City and the Housing Authority to memorialize rights, responsibilities, and commitments to rebuilding the Potrero HOPE SF site. The Project Sponsor has begun working with MOHCD, the Office of Workforce and Economic Development (hereinafter “OEWD”), and the San Francisco Housing Authority, in negotiating terms of the DA. Associated with work on the DA, the Project Sponsor has been working with several City Agencies in devising a Master Infrastructure Plan. It is anticipated that the DA will not be ready for finalization until spring 2016. Because the rezoning and the DA are expected to work together, these entitlements will not be ready for Planning Commission approval until 2016.

A part of the Project includes an adjacent property at 1101 Connecticut Avenue owned by the San Francisco Unified School District along with a small Housing Authority parcel (commonly referred to as “Block X”) that will be the first construction phase. It is the intention of City to purchase the site. Because Block X has no current residential or commercial uses that would require relocation, beginning construction on Block X is critical for the overall phasing. This new construction project will to enable residents of the subsequent phases to move into the new units before beginning demolition of the existing units. Therefore, MOHCD and the Project Sponsor would like to move forward with the purchase of the property in advance of approval of the DA and rezoning.

Other than those actions described above, several actions will be required for the project over its multi-year buildout. These actions include but are not limited to approval of subdivisions, right-of-way dedications and vacations.

The Planning Commission wishes to facilitate the physical, environmental, social and economic revitalization of Project site, using the legal tools available through the Planning and Administrative Codes, while creating jobs, housing and open space in a safe, pleasant, attractive and livable mixed use neighborhood that is linked rationally to adjacent neighborhoods. The Commission wishes to enable implementing actions, such as the purchase of Block X, prior to approving the rezoning and DA, and therefore is adopting these findings now.

MOVED that the Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the Final EIR and the record associated herewith, including but not limited to the comments and submissions made to this Planning Commission and the Planning Department's responses to those comments and submissions, and based thereon, hereby adopts the Project Findings required by CEQA attached hereto as Attachment A including a statement of overriding considerations, and adopts the MMRP, that shall be included as a condition of approval for each and all of the approval actions set forth in the Motions described above.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the San Francisco Planning Commission on December 10, 2015.

Jonas Ionin
Commission Secretary

AYES: Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Moore, Richards

NOES:

ABSENT: Hillis