

File No. 160347

Committee Item No. 5

Board Item No. 8

### COMMITTEE/BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

#### AGENDA PACKET CONTENTS LIST

Committee: Land Use and Transportation

Date June 13, 2016

Board of Supervisors Meeting

Date 6/21/16

#### Cmte Board

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| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Budget and Legislative Analyst Report        |
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OTHER (Use back side if additional space is needed)

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Completed by: Andrea Ausberry Date June 9, 2016

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1 [General Plan Amendment - Affordable Housing Bonus Programs]

2  
3 **Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with**  
4 **legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing**  
5 **Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan,**  
6 **Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings,**  
7 **including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies**  
8 **of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's**  
9 **determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

10 **NOTE:** **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
11 **Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
12 **Deletions to Codes** are in ~~*italics Times New Roman font*~~.  
13 **Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
14 **Board amendment deletions** are in ~~Arial font~~.  
15 **Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code  
16 subsections or parts of tables.

17 Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

18 Section 1. Findings.

19 (a) Charter Section 4.105 and Planning Code Section 340 provide that the Planning  
20 Commission shall periodically recommend to the Board of Supervisors, for approval or  
21 rejection, proposed amendments to the San Francisco General Plan.

22 (b) Planning Code Section 340 provides that an amendment to the General Plan  
23 may be initiated by a resolution of intention by the Planning Commission, which refers to, and  
24 incorporates by reference, the proposed General Plan amendment. Section 340 further  
25 provides that the Planning Commission shall adopt the proposed General Plan amendment  
after a public hearing if it finds from the facts presented that the public necessity, convenience

1 and general welfare require the proposed amendment or any part thereof. If adopted by the  
2 Commission in whole or in part, the proposed amendment shall be presented to the Board of  
3 Supervisors, which may approve or reject the amendment by a majority vote.

4 (c) The Affordable Housing Bonus Program implements Housing Element Program  
5 39b. The Affordable Housing Bonus Program provides incentives for developers to include  
6 more affordable housing for very low, low, moderate, and middle-income households.  
7 Development bonuses, such as increased density, would be offered on a graduated scale  
8 based on the percentage of affordable units provided. This proposed Program is one of the  
9 tools put forward by the City to address its affordable housing goals. The proposed Affordable  
10 Housing Bonus Program goals are to: (1) increase the numbers of on-site affordable units; (2)  
11 improve feasibility of underutilized sites; (3) increase availability of middle-income housing;  
12 and (4) expedite entitlement of 100 percent affordable housing units.

13 (d) Pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, the Planning Commission initiated this  
14 amendment on October 15, 2015, in Resolution No. 19494. Pursuant to Planning Code  
15 Section 340 and Charter Section 4.105, the Planning Commission adopted this amendment to  
16 the various elements of the General Plan on February 25, 2016 in Resolution No.19577,  
17 finding that this amendment serves the public necessity, convenience and general welfare,  
18 and is in conformity with the General Plan and the eight Priority Policies in Planning Code  
19 Section 101.1.

20 (e) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
21 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
22 Code Sections 21000 et seq.). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
23 Supervisors in File No. 160347 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms  
24 this determination.  
25

1 (f) The April 8, 2016, letter from the Planning Department transmitting the proposed  
2 General Plan amendment to various elements of the General Plan associated with the  
3 Affordable Housing Bonus Program, and the resolutions adopted by the Planning Commission  
4 with respect to the approval of this amendment General Plan, are on file with the Clerk of the  
5 Board of Supervisors in File No. 160347.

6 (g) The Board of Supervisors finds, pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, that  
7 this General Plan amendment, set forth in the documents on file with the Clerk of the Board in  
8 File No.160347, will serve the public necessity, convenience and general welfare for the  
9 reasons set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 19577 and incorporates those  
10 reasons herein by reference.

11 (h) The Board of Supervisors finds that this General Plan amendment, as set forth  
12 in the documents on file with the Clerk of the Board in Board File No.160347, is in conformity  
13 with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 for the  
14 reasons set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 19577. The Board hereby adopts  
15 the findings set forth in Planning Commission Resolution No. 19577 and incorporates those  
16 findings herein by reference.

17  
18 Section 2. The San Francisco General Plan is hereby amended by revising the text,  
19 tables, and maps in the specified sections of the Housing Element, Urban Design Element,  
20 Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern  
21 Waterfront Area Plan, as follows:

22 **Housing Element**

23 Map 6 – Generalized Permitted Housing Densities by Zoning Districts

24 Add this language under the legend:  
25



1            *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
2 *policies to permit general densities that are higher than shown here.*

3  
4            Table I-58 - Generalized Permitted Housing Densities by Zoning Districts

5            Add this language to the bottom of table:

6            *\* To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
7 *policies to permit general densities that are higher than shown here.*

8  
9            POLICY 7.7 Support housing for middle income households, especially through  
10 programs that do not require a direct public subsidy *such as providing development incentives for*  
11 *higher levels of affordability, including for middle income households.*

12  
13            POLICY 11.3 Ensure growth is accommodated without substantially and adversely  
14 impacting existing residential neighborhood character.

15            Accommodation of growth should be achieved without damaging existing residential  
16 neighborhood character. In community plan areas, this means development projects should  
17 adhere to adopted policies, design guidelines and community review procedures. In existing  
18 residential neighborhoods, this means development projects should defer to the prevailing  
19 height and bulk of the area, *while recognizing that the City may maintain neighborhood character*  
20 *while permitting larger overall building mass for projects including more affordable units on-site.*

21            To ensure character is not impacted, the City should continue to use community  
22 planning processes to direct growth and change according to a community-based vision. The  
23 Planning Department should utilize residential design guidelines, neighborhood specific  
24 design guidelines, and other documents describing a specific neighborhoods character as  
25

1 guideposts to determine compatibility of proposed projects with existing neighborhood  
2 character.

3 The Department should support the adoption of neighborhood-specific design  
4 standards in order to enhance or conserve neighborhood character, provided those guidelines  
5 are consistent with overall good-planning principles and help foster a more predictable, more  
6 timely, and less costly pre-development process. To this end, the Department should develop  
7 official procedures for submittal of neighborhood-initiated design guidelines, for review by  
8 Department staff, and for adoption or endorsement.

9  
10 POLICY 11.5 Ensure densities in established residential areas promote compatibility  
11 with prevailing neighborhood character.

12 Residential density controls should reflect prevailing building types in established  
13 residential neighborhoods. Particularly in RH-1 and RH-2 areas, prevailing height and  
14 bulk patterns should be maintained to protect neighborhood character. Other strategies to  
15 maintain and protect neighborhood character should also be explored, including  
16 "neighborhood livability initiatives" that could examine guidelines and principles to preserve  
17 what is beloved about the area. Such an initiative could result in strategies to  
18 improve the appearance and accessibility of neighborhood commercial districts, or  
19 neighborhood specific design guidelines for specific RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods. Outside of  
20 RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods, the City may maintain neighborhood character while permitting larger  
21 overall building mass for projects including more affordable units on-site.

### 22 23 **Urban Design Element**

24 Objective 3: Moderation of Major New Development To Complement The City Pattern,  
25 The Resources To Be Conserved, And The Neighborhood Environment.

1 As San Francisco grows and changes, new development can and must be fitted in with  
2 established city and neighborhood patterns in a complementary fashion. Harmony with  
3 existing development requires careful consideration of the character of the surroundings at  
4 each construction site. The scale of each new building must be related to the prevailing height  
5 and bulk in the area, and to the wider effects upon the skyline, views and topographic form.  
6 Designs for buildings on large sites have the most widespread effects and require the greatest  
7 attention.\*

8 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
9 *policies to permit projects heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than*  
10 *described here.*

11  
12 **Map 4 - Urban Design Guidelines for Height and Bulk Districts**

13 Add additional bullet point in box at bottom of page:

14 *→To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
15 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.*

16 *Refer to the Affordable Housing Bonus Program Design Guidelines.*

17  
18 **Map 5 - Urban Design Guidelines for Bulk of Buildings**

19 Add additional bullet point in box at bottom of page:

20 *→To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
21 *policies to permit heights and bulk restrictions that are several stories taller than described here.*

22 *Refer to the Affordable Housing Bonus Program Design Guidelines.*

23  
24 **Van Ness Avenue Area Plan**

1 Objective 1: Continue existing Commercial Use of the avenue and add a significant  
2 increment of new housing. Redwood to Broadway

3 Although there are 18 buildings containing 980 dwelling units in this subarea most of  
4 the buildings are in non-residential use.

5 This section of Van Ness Avenue is one of the few areas in the city where new housing  
6 can be accommodated with minimal impacts on existing residential neighborhoods and public  
7 services.

8 Some of the features that make the area attractive for medium density mixed use  
9 development with high density housing are as follows:

10 This 16 block strip along Van Ness Avenue maintains a "central place" location and  
11 identity. The area is close to the city's major employment center, is well-served by transit, has  
12 well developed infrastructure (roadway, water, sewer and other public services), wide  
13 roadway (93+ feet) and sidewalks (16+ feet), has continuous commercial frontage and  
14 numerous attractive, architecturally outstanding buildings.

15 There are a number of large parcels which are substantially under-developed.

16 A height limitation of between 80 and 130 ft.\* would allow sufficient development to  
17 make feasible over time the construction of housing on under used parcels.

18 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
19 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.*

20  
21 POLICY 5.1 Establish height controls to emphasize topography and adequately frame  
22 the great width of the Avenue.

23 Existing height limits on the Avenue range from 40 feet at the northern end to 130 feet  
24 in the central portion. This height differentiation responds to topographic conditions as well as  
25 land use patterns, maintaining distinctions between areas of different character. For example,

1 height districts are gradually tapered from 130 feet around the hilltop at Washington Street to  
2 80 feet at Pacific Avenue and further to 65 and 40 feet towards the Bay shoreline. Although  
3 the majority of existing height controls are adequate to define both the overall topography as  
4 well as the great width of the Avenue, the height limit between California and Pacific Streets  
5 should be lowered from the existing 130/105-ft. level to 80 ft. in order to facilitate the transition  
6 between the greater building heights along the southern part of the Avenue and the mostly  
7 low-rise residential development north of Broadway. Development to maximum height should  
8 be closely monitored to avoid blocking views between the high slopes on both sides of the  
9 Avenue. Good proportion between the size of a street and that of its buildings is important for  
10 streets to be interesting and pleasant places. The proposed height limits, combined with the  
11 Van Ness Plan's proposed bulk controls, encourage definition of the 93-foot wide Avenue.\*

12 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
13 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.*

14  
15 Policy 5.3 Continue the street wall heights as defined by existing significant buildings  
16 and promote an adequate enclosure of the Avenue.

17 New construction on Van Ness Avenue can occur in two basic situations. In some  
18 cases, the development will take place between or adjacent to architecturally significant  
19 buildings. In this instance, continuity of design and scale between the old and the new is of  
20 major importance. In other cases, new development will take place in a more isolated design  
21 context; for example, between two existing two-story, non-descript commercial structures. In  
22 this instance, the overall continuity of scale along the Avenue is of greater importance than  
23 the design character of adjacent buildings. Setbacks of up to 20 feet in depth should be  
24 considered for all new development above 40 feet in height and should be required whenever  
25 necessary to continue existing significant street wall heights and to define an adequate

1 enclosure of the Avenue\*. Setbacks can also serve to buffer the upper-level residential units  
2 from street-level noise.

3 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
4 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
5 *here.*

6  
7 Map 1 - Van Ness Avenue Area Plan and Generalized Land Use and Density Plan

8 Add following asterisk to bottom of page:

9 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
10 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
11 *here.*

12  
13 Map 2 - Van Ness Avenues Area Plan Height and Bulk Districts Map

14 Add following asterisk to bottom of page:

15 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
16 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
17 *here.*

18  
19 **Chinatown Area Plan**

20 POLICY 1.1 Maintain the low-rise scale of Chinatown's buildings.

21 Although adjacent to Downtown, Chinatown is not the appropriate setting for tall  
22 buildings. Seventy five percent of the structures in Chinatown are three stories or less in  
23 height. Height districts in the Planning Code should be based on the generalized height plan  
24 below.\* Requiring setbacks for new buildings above three stories will help achieve a  
25 complementary scale.

1            *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
2 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
3 *here.*

4  
5            Map 1 - Chinatown Area Plan Generalized Height Plan

6            Add following asterisk to bottom of map:

7            *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
8 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
9 *here.*

10  
11           Map 3 - Chinatown Area Plan Land Use and Density Plan

12           Add following asterisk to bottom of map:

13           *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
14 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
15 *here.*

16  
17           **Downtown Area Plan**

18           Map 1 – Downtown Land Use and Density Plan

19           Add additional bullet in 'Map to be edited' box:

20           *-To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
21 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described*  
22 *here.*

23  
24           Map 5 - Downtown Area Plan Downtown Height and Bulk Districts

25           Add additional bullet in 'Map to be edited' box:

1 -To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing  
2 policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described  
3 here.

4  
5 **Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan**

6 Objective 10: To develop the full potential of the northeastern waterfront in accord with  
7 the unusual opportunities presented by its relation to the bay, to the operating port, fishing  
8 industry, and downtown; and to enhance its unique aesthetic qualities offered by water,  
9 topography, views of the city and bay, and its historic maritime character

10 Policy 10.26: Restrict development south of Broadway to the Height and Bulk Districts  
11 shown on Map 2.\*

12 \*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing  
13 policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.

14  
15 Map 2 Northeast Waterfront Area Plan Height and Bulk Plan (Map 2)

16 Add following asterisk under legend:

17 \*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing  
18 policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.

19  
20 Policy 26.27 Change the Height and Bulk District on Block 3743 from 84-E to 40-X.  
21 Change the Height and Bulk District on the rest of the Rincon Park Site to open space.\*

22 \*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing  
23 policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.



1 Policy 30.18: Develop housing in small clusters of 100 to 200 units. Provide a range of  
2 building heights with no more than 40 feet in height along the Embarcadero and stepping up  
3 in height on the more inland portions to the maximum of 160 feet. In buildings fronting on  
4 Brannan Street in the 160 foot height area, create a strong base which maintains the street  
5 wall created by the residential complex to the east and the warehouse buildings to the west.  
6 Orient the mix of unit types to one and two bedrooms and include some three and four  
7 bedroom units. Pursue as the income and tenure goals, a mix of 20 percent low, 30 percent  
8 moderate and 50 percent middle and upper income, and a mix of rental, cooperative, and  
9 condominium units.\*

10 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
11 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.*

12  
13 Policy 30.22: Do not permit buildings to exceed 65 percent coverage of land or parking  
14 podium. To the maximum extent feasible, provide open space at ground level and provide  
15 planting in the ground. Ensure that any open space on top of a podium provides easy  
16 pedestrian and visual transition from the sidewalk.\*

17 *\*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing*  
18 *policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here.*

19  
20 Section 3. The Board of Supervisors hereby approves the following amendments to  
21 the General Plan Land Use Index:


22 The Land Use Index shall be updated as necessary to reflect the amendments set forth  
23 in Section 2, above.  
24  
25

1 Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
2 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
3 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
4 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

5 Section 5. Operative Date. This ordinance shall not become operative unless and until  
6 the Affordable Housing Bonus Program, Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ in Board file \_\_\_\_\_ or any  
7 part thereof becomes effective.

8 Section 6. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors  
9 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,  
10 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal  
11 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment  
12 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under  
13 the official title of the ordinance.

14  
15 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
16 DENNIS J. HERRERA, City Attorney

17 By:   
18 AUDREY WILLIAMS PEARSON  
19 Deputy City Attorney

20 n:\leganas\as2015\1600094\01098016.docx

## LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[General Plan Amendment - Affordable Housing Bonus Programs]

**Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1, and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

### Existing Law

The San Francisco General Plan consists of several parts, including a Housing Element, an Urban Design Element, and numerous area plans, which provide broad guidance on development in San Francisco, including the appropriate heights and massing of buildings.

In 1979, the State of California adopted the State Density Bonus Law, which requires all cities and counties to offer a density bonus and other incentives to housing developments that include a certain percentage of units available to very low, low, or moderate-income households. The Planning Code encourages increased density where project sponsors provide affordable housing through various mechanisms including through special use districts, exceptions to the calculation of residential density, and the provision of additional floor area ratio (FAR) in certain circumstances.

### Amendments to Current Law

The Proposed Legislation amends the General Plan to make conforming changes in the Housing Element and the Urban Design Element, and several area plans, related to the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Programs ("AHBP"), which can be found in Board of Supervisors file 150969. The AHBP consists of four separate programs to incentivize the construction of housing affordable to very low, low, moderate, and middle-income households by granting a range of development bonuses. The Proposed Legislation amends the General Plan to recognize that the City may adopt affordable housing policies that allow for greater heights and building massing than noted on the General Plan policies and maps.

The Proposed Legislation specifies that it would not go become operative unless the AHBP is adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

### Background Information

The AHBP, in separate legislation, is one of the tools put forward by the City to address its affordable-housing goals. The local components of the AHBP were developed to go above and beyond the State Law affordability requirements. The proposed AHBP implements the

FILE NO. 160347

2014 Housing Element, builds on the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance, and helps the City meet the housing goals mandated in Proposition K.

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# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

2016 APR -8 PM 4:22

April 8, 2016

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

Reception:  
415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

Ms. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
Honorable Mayor Lee  
Honorable Supervisor Tang  
Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors  
City and County of San Francisco  
City Hall, Room 244  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Transmittal of Planning Department Case Number 2014-001503GPA  
Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP)  
Board File No. \_\_\_\_\_ (pending) General Plan Amendment  
Planning Commission Recommendation: Forwarded to the Board of  
Supervisors with a recommendation for adoption.

Dear Clerk Calvillo and Mayor Edwin Lee:

On October 15, 2015, November 5, 2015, December 3, 2015, January 28, 2016, and February 25, 2016 the Planning Commission conducted duly noticed public hearings at regularly scheduled meetings to consider the proposed Ordinances that would create conforming General Plan Amendments and amend the San Francisco Planning Code for the Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP) as introduced by Mayor Lee and Supervisor Tang.

### General Plan Amendments.

The Commission unanimously recommended approval of the corresponding General Plan Amendments, contingent upon the adoption of the Affordable Housing Bonus Program Planning Code amendment. The Commission's amendment is pending review by the City Attorney and has not yet been incorporated into this draft ordinance.

### Planning Code Amendments

The Planning Commission forwarded the proposed Planning Code Amendments to the Board of Supervisors with several suggested amendments of consideration but without a recommendation on the ordinance as a whole. This ordinance will be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors separately.

On April 24, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 19121, certified the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report ("Final EIR"), prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. In Resolution No. 19122, the Planning Commission adopted the findings and conclusions required by CEQA regarding alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental impacts analyzed in the Final EIR, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and

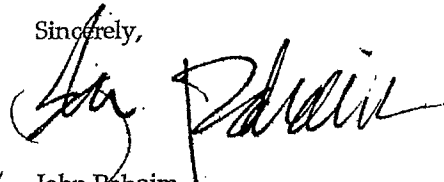
Reporting Program and a Statement of Overriding Considerations as part of its approval of the 2009 Housing Element.

On January 14, 2016, in response to the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program related General Plan Amendments, the San Francisco Planning Department prepared an Addendum to the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final EIR under CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 ("the Addendum"). The Addendum accessed here and the Note to File is Exhibit H: [http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.1304E\\_AHBP\\_Addendum03\\_011416%20Final.pdf](http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.1304E_AHBP_Addendum03_011416%20Final.pdf)

I humbly remind the legislative sponsors, Mayor Edwin Lee and Supervisor Tang, to please advise the City Attorney at your earliest convenience if you wish to incorporate any of the changes recommended by the Commission.

Please find attached documents relating to the actions of the Commission. If you have any questions or require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John Rahaim  
Director of Planning

cc:

Audrey Pearson, Deputy City Attorney  
Jeff Buckley, Senior Advisor, Office of Mayor Ed Lee  
Ashley Summers, Aide to Supervisor Tang  
Alisa Somera, Office of the Clerk of the Board  
Kearstin Dischinger, Planning Department  
Supervisor Kay Tang, Legislative Sponsor

Attachments:

1. Planning Commission Resolution 19577 – Proposed General Plan Amendments
2. Draft Ordinance Amending the General Plan
3. Planning Department Executive Summary
4. Addendum 3 to Environmental Impact Report



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Planning Commission Resolution No. 19577

HEARING DATE FEBRUARY 25, 2016

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

Reception:  
415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

*Date:* February 25, 2016  
*Case No.:* 2014-001503GPA  
*Project:* Affordable Housing Bonus Program  
*Adoption Hearing*  
*Staff Contact:* Menaka Mohan – (415) 575-9141  
Menaka.Mohan@sfgov.org  
 Paolo Ikeoze – (415)-575-9137  
Paolo.Ikezoe@sfgov.org  
*Reviewed by:* Kearstin Dischinger  
kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org  
 (415) 558-6284  
*Recommendation:* Adopt General Plan Amendments

ADOPTING CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PLAN IN ASSOCIATION WITH LEGISLATION TO ADOPT THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM TO UPDATE THE HOUSING ELEMENT, URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT, CHINATOWN AREA PLAN, DOWNTOWN AREA PLAN AND NORTHEAST WATERFRONT AREA PLAN TO CLARIFY THAT PROJECTS IN THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM MAY REQUEST DENSITY, HEIGHT AND BULK INCENTIVES FOR THE PROVISION OF GREATER LEVELS OF ONSITE AFFORDABLE HOUSING. THESE AMENDMENTS ARE CONTIGENT UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PLANNING CODE AMENDMENT.

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Section 4.105 of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco mandates that the Planning Department shall periodically recommend to the Board of Supervisors for approval or rejection proposed amendments to the General Plan;

WHEREAS, the 2014 Housing Element of the City's General Plan includes Implementation Program 39b, which calls for the establishment of a density bonus program with the goal of increasing the production of affordable housing;

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Planning Department seeks to establish a local ordinance implementing the State Density Bonus Law, Government Code section 65915 et seq.;

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Bonus Program reflects the goals of the Mayor's Executive Directive 13-01- *Accelerate Housing Production and Protect Existing Housing Stock*;

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Bonus Program reflects the goals of Proposition K (2014), which call for 33% of all new housing to be affordable to low- and moderate-income households;

WHEREAS, the proposed General Plan Amendments makes conforming amendments in association with legislation to adopt the Affordable Housing Bonus Program to various elements of the General Plan, including the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan And Northeast Waterfront Area Plan to clarify that in order to encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than detailed in some parts of the San Francisco General Plan.

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Bonus Program is generally consistent with the existing General Plan, including as it is proposed to be amended and staff recommends adoption of the draft Resolution to adopt limited conforming proposed amendments to the General Plan, amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan and Northeast Waterfront Area Plan.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission proposed adoption of the proposed General Plan Amendments contingent on the adoption of the affordable housing bonus program Planning Code Amendment.

WHEREAS, the conforming amendments are consistent with the Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1(b). Planning Code Section 101.1(b) establishes eight priority policies and is the basis by which differences between competing policies in the General Plan are resolved. The project is consistent with the eight priority policies, in that:

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

*The conforming General Plan Amendments do not impact neighborhood serving retail uses as they allow areas of the city to provide greater levels of residential density to encourage greater levels of affordability on-site. Additional residents would likely promote small increase in neighborhood spending and affordable units could provide housing for potential employees of neighborhood-serving businesses.*

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

*The AHBP conforming General Plan Amendments do not impact existing housing and neighborhood character because they allow only limited exceptions to various Planning Code provisions and height and bulk map only upon the provision of additional affordable housing and consistent with the Affordable Housing Bonus Program Design Guidelines which protect neighborhood character.*

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

*The AHBP General Plan Amendments will enhance the City's affordable housing supply by allowing greater levels of residential density for affordable housing on-site.*



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

*On balance, the proposed AHBP General Plan Amendments do not impede MUNI transit service or overburden the streets with 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.

*On balance the proposed AHBP General Plan Amendments would not adversely affect the industrial or service sectors or impede future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in the industrial or service sectors.*

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

*The proposed ordinance would not negatively affect preparedness in the case of an earthquake.*

7. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

*Landmarks and historic buildings would not be negatively affected by the proposed amendments. The General Plan amendments support the City's implementation of the State Density Bonus Law (Government Code Section 65915 et seq), which provides consideration for historic resources, by stating that the City is not required to approve any projects that "would have a specific adverse impact. . . on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and for which there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse impact, without rendering the development unaffordable to low- and moderate-income households." (Government Code Sections 65915 (d)(1)(B))"*

*The State Density Bonus Law further states that "Nothing in this subdivision shall be interpreted to require a local government to grant an incentive or concession that would have an adverse impact on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. The city, county, or city and county shall establish procedures for carrying out this section, that shall include legislative body approval of the means of compliance with this section." (Government Code Sections 65915 (d)(3))*

*The Local AHBP is only available to new construction projects, and vertical additions to existing buildings are not allowed. This limitation further reduces any potential conflict between the Local Program and historic resources.*

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

*On balance, the City's parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas would be unaffected by the proposed amendments. The amendments would allow only limited height increases only upon the provision of affordable housing and projects would be ineligible to use the Local and 100% Affordable AHBP if they create new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas.*

In addition, the conforming General Plan Amendments for the Affordable Housing Bonus program were developed in coordination with existing General Plan policies. The General Plan amendments are, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan, including Objectives and Policies as they are proposed for amendment.

## HOUSING ELEMENT

### OBJECTIVE 7

Secure funding and resources for permanently affordable housing, including innovative programs that are not solely reliant on traditional mechanisms or capital.

### POLICY 7.5

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

*The conforming General Plan Amendments encourage the production of on-site affordable housing without requiring public subsidy. The Amendments allow larger buildings, process and zoning accommodations to maximize the production of affordable housing and expedite the review and approval process for affordable housing projects.*

### Policy 7.7

Support housing for middle income households, especially through programs that do not require a direct public subsidy such as providing development incentives for higher levels of affordability, including for middle income households.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments provide development incentives in return for permanently affordable housing to middle income households.*

### OBJECTIVE 8

Build public and private sector capacity to support, facilitate, provide and maintain affordable housing.

### POLICY 8.1

Support housing for middle income households, especially through programs that do not require a direct public subsidy.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments support middle income households by allowing for a new source of permanently affordable middle-income housing provided by the private sector, with no direct public subsidy required.*

**POLICY 8.3**

**Support the production and management of permanently affordable housing.**

*The conforming General Plan Amendments encourage the production of on-site affordable housing by allowing larger buildings.*

**POLICY 11.3**

**Ensure growth is accommodated without substantially and adversely impacting existing residential neighborhood character.**

**Note that the amended General Plan adds text that states, "Accommodation of growth should be achieved without damaging existing residential neighborhood character. In existing residential neighborhoods, this means development projects should defer to the prevailing height and bulk of the area, while recognizing that the City may maintain neighborhood character while permitting larger overall building mass for projects including more affordable units on-site."**

*The AHBP program only provides development bonuses which may permit a larger overall building mass for projects that include affordable housing on-site.*

**URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT**

**OBJECTIVE 3**

**Moderation of Major New Development to Complement the City Pattern, The Resources To Be Conserved, And The Neighborhood Environment.**

*The amended Urban Design Element recognizes that to encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit projects heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger.*

**COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ELEMENT**

**OBJECTIVE 1**

**Manage economic growth and change to ensure enhancement of the total city living and working environment.**

**POLICY 1.1:**

**Encourage development which provides substantial net benefits and minimizes undesirable consequences. Discourage development which has substantial undesirable consequences that cannot be mitigated.**

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing and minimizes undesirable consequences.*

## BALBOA PARK AREA PLAN

### OBJECTIVE 4.5:

Provide increased housing opportunities affordable to a mix of households at varying income levels.

*The AHBP General Plan Amendments may permit a larger overall building mass for projects that include affordable housing on-site.*

## BAYVIEW AREA PLAN

### OBJECTIVE 6

Encourage the construction of new affordable and market rate housing at locations and density levels that enhance the overall residential quality of Bayview Hunters Point.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

## CENTRAL WATERFRONT AREA PLAN

### OBJECTIVE 2.1

Ensure that a significant percentage of new housing created in the central waterfront is affordable to people with a wide range of incomes.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

## CHINATOWN AREA PLAN

### OBJECTIVE 3

Stabilize and where possible increase the supply of housing.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

## DOWNTOWN PLAN

### OBJECTIVE 7

Expand the supply of housing in and adjacent to downtown.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

## MARKET AND OCTAVIA AREA PLAN

### OBJECTIVE 2.4

Provide increased housing opportunities affordable to households at varying income levels.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

**MISSION AREA PLAN  
OBJECTIVE 2.1**

Ensure that a significant percentage of new housing created in the Mission is affordable to people with a wide range of incomes.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

**SHOWPLACE/POTRERO HILL AREA PLAN  
OBJECTIVE 2.1**

Ensure that a significant percentage of new housing created in the Showplace /Potrero is affordable to people with a wide range of incomes.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

**SOMA AREA PLAN  
OBJECTIVE 3**

Encourage the development of new housing, particularly affordable housing.

*The conforming AHBP General Plan Amendments encourage a substantial net benefit in the form of affordable housing by allowing slightly larger buildings.*

WHEREAS, on January 28, 2016 the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed amendments to the General Plan, and considered the written and oral testimony of Planning Department staff, representatives of other City Departments and members of the public concerning the proposed adoption of the Affordable Housing Bonus Program and General Plan amendments; and,

WHEREAS, on April 24, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 19121, certified the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report ("Final EIR"), prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. In Resolution No. 19122, the Planning Commission adopted the findings and conclusions required by CEQA regarding alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental impacts analyzed in the Final EIR, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and a Statement of Overriding Considerations as part of its approval of the 2009 Housing Element; and,

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2015, in Ordinance No. 34-15, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the 2014 Housing Element, relying, in part, on the Final EIR and a January 22, 2015 Addendum published by the Planning Department; and

WHEREAS, on January 14, 2016, in response to the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program and the proposed General Plan Amendments, the San Francisco Planning Department prepared an Addendum to the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final EIR under CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 ("the Addendum"); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commission has reviewed and considered the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), the Addendum published by the Planning Department on January 14, 2016, and the record as a whole, and finds that the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final EIR is adequate for its use as the decision-making body for the action taken herein to approve the General Plan Amendments related to the ABHP, and incorporates the CEQA findings contained in Planning Commission Resolution 19122, including the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and updated in Ordinance 34-15, by this reference thereto as though fully set forth herein; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission finds that since the FEIR was finalized, there have been no substantial project changes and no substantial changes in project circumstances that would require major revisions to the FEIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or an increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts, and there is no new information of substantial importance that would change the conclusions set forth in the FEIR; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission for the reasons set forth herein, finds that the General Plan Amendments proposed herein are, on balance, consistent with the General Plan, including as it is proposed for amendment, and the priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1; and be it

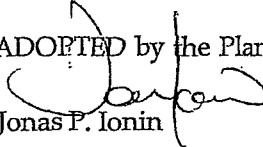
FURTHER RESOLVED, That pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, the Planning Commission hereby does find that the public necessity, convenience and general welfare require the approval of the attached ordinance, approved as to form by the City Attorney, and directs staff to make corresponding updates to the Land Use Index of the General Plan; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, the Planning Commission does hereby adopt the Affordable Housing Bonus Program General Plan Amendments of the San Francisco General Plan, and recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached ordinance.

Resolution 19577  
Hearing Date: February 25, 2016

CASE NO. 2014-001503GPA  
General Plan Amendments for AHP

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the Planning Commission on February 25, 2016.



Jonas P. Ionin

Commission Secretary

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Johnson

ADOPTED: February 25, 2016







# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Executive Summary Planning Code Amendment

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2016

90-DAY DEADLINE: APRIL 11, 2016

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*Project Name:* Affordable Housing Bonus Program  
*Case Number:* 2014-001503PCA [Board File No. 150969] and 2014-001503GPA  
*Initiated by:* Mayor Ed Lee  
Supervisor Katy Tang  
Introduced September 29, 2015, December 16, 2015, and  
January 12, 2016  
*Staff Contact:* Menaka Mohan, Legislative Affairs  
menaka.mohan@sfgov.org, 415-575-9141  
Paolo Ikezoe, Citywide Division  
paolo.ikezoe@sfgov.org, 415-575-9137  
*Reviewed by:* Kearstin Dischinger, Manager of Housing Policy  
kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org, 415-558-6284  
*Recommendation:* Recommend Approval with Modifications

### BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2015, Mayor Edwin M. Lee and Supervisor Katy Tang introduced an ordinance to implement the Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP). The Planning Commission has held four public hearings on the program to date:

- **October 15, 2015<sup>1</sup>**  
Initiation of General Plan Amendments: initiation at Planning Commission of the AHBP General Plan Amendments
- **November 5, 2015<sup>2</sup>**  
Initiation Hearing: introduced the basics of the program and feedback received to date.
- **December 3, 2015<sup>3</sup>**  
Initially scheduled for adoption. Response to public and Commissioner comments and concerns. Adoption hearing continued to January 28th.

<sup>1</sup>Case packet for initiation of AHBP General Plan Amendments:

<http://commissions.sfplanning.org/cpcpackets/2014-001503GPA.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Case packet for the Planning Code Amendment as presented to the Commission on November 5, 2015:

[http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/ahbp\\_memotoCPC\\_2014-001503PCA.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/ahbp_memotoCPC_2014-001503PCA.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>Presentation to Planning Commission: [http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP\\_CPC\\_Presentation-120315.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP_CPC_Presentation-120315.pdf)

- **January 28, 2016<sup>4</sup>**  
Update to Commission on public on changes to the program, including Supervisor Breed's amendment removing existing rent-controlled units from AHBP eligibility.

## REPORT STRUCTURE

The January 28th, 2016 Planning Commission hearing on the Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP or Program) included several public comments and a detailed discussion of the proposed program. In consultation with the Commission President, this case report focuses on six (6) key topics raised at that hearing. Each topic includes the following sections:

- **Topic** a brief summary of the topic and issue raised;
- **AHBP Current Response** a discussion of the AHBP's proposed strategy to address the issues raised.  
Note: the majority of these sections discuss the proposed Local Program which was crafted to respond to local housing policy goals. The Individually Requested and State Analyzed programs primarily implement the State Density Bonus Law; and
- **Recommended Amendments and Implications** a discussion of Amendment strategies to address the identified issues and potential implications of that Amendment. As proposed, the AHBP is intended to achieve increased levels of affordable housing production for low, moderate, and middle income households across San Francisco.

This program has been designed to: incentivize market-rate project applicants to choose a Local Program that achieves 30% affordability rather than the State density bonus program that allows for 12 to 18% affordability; increase the development of 100% affordable housing projects serving households below 60% AMI through the 100% AHBP program; and, increase the City's overall supply of affordable housing without drawing public resources away from existing affordable housing programs. All proposed Amendments to this program will be evaluated for their impact on project feasibility and on their ability to incentivize project sponsors to achieve the highest levels of affordability.

This case report is intended to provide a structure for the Commission to consider these six topics. To assist with this structure a summary Department recommendations has been provided as Exhibit C. These recommendations in no way limit the Commission's actions.

For more detail on the AHBP program goals, outcomes, and the proposed legislation please refer to the November 5, 2015<sup>2</sup> and January 28, 2016<sup>4</sup> Planning Commission Packets. Related studies and reports are available in those packets or on the program website.

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<sup>4</sup> Case packet for the Planning Code Amendment and General Plan Amendment as presented to the Commission on January 28, 2016. <http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/2014-001503PCA.pdf>

## ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

### Topic 1 Program Eligibility

Commenters are generally supportive of encouraging housing on soft sites; however some have expressed concerns that the AHBP ordinance could incentivize development of parcels that house existing residents. The zoning districts within the AHBP area contain roughly 30,500 parcels, and cover neighborhoods throughout the city.

This section discusses the existing limitations on program eligibility, expected outcomes, and includes one recommendation for Commission consideration.

#### Current Proposal: AHBP and Limits to the Program Scale

To be eligible for the AHBP program, a site must meet several eligibility criteria. A parcel's zoning district has been the most discussed eligibility criterion for the Program; however there are a number of other legislated eligibility criteria proposed in the ordinance that further restrict the program's application. Furthermore, analysis of past development patterns under rezonings and the financial requirements of the program indicate that use of the program will be further limited in application. This section briefly discusses these limiting criteria and supporting analysis.

The Department estimates that of the eligible parcels, approximately 240 parcels citywide will potentially benefit from the AHBP. Generally, these are parcels that are currently developed to less than five percent of existing zoning, do not have any residential uses, and are not schools, churches, hospitals, or historic resources

#### Limiting Criterion 1: Program applies in only certain Zoning Districts ("Program Area")

The California State Density Bonus Law (State Law)<sup>5</sup> applies to residential projects of five or more units anywhere in the state of California.<sup>6</sup> The proposed San Francisco Affordable Housing Bonus Program focuses this broad law on zoning districts with all three of the following features: 1) allowance of residential uses; 2) control of density by a ratio of units to lot area; and 3) allowance of multi-unit residential buildings. The following districts are NOT eligible for the Local or State Analyzed Programs of the AHBP: RH-1 and RH-2 and any zoning districts where density is regulated by form (such as NCT, RTO, UMU, DTR, C-3, etc.).

#### Limiting Criterion 2: No demolition of Historic Resources (less 4,750 or More Parcels)

The AHBP ordinance explicitly disqualifies many parcels within eligible zoning districts based on a number of characteristics. Known historic resources, identified as CEQA Category A buildings by the Department's Historic Preservation division, cannot be demolished to build AHBP projects.<sup>7</sup> Generally, the State Law does not recognize locally designated resources; however the State does allow cities to deny requested incentives, concessions or waivers only for properties listed on National or California Registers. The Local Program protects both eligible and listed

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<sup>5</sup>California Government Code Sections 65915 – 65918

<sup>6</sup> Please see Exhibit E which describes sponsor requested legislative changes.

<sup>7</sup>In addition, the Planning Commission does not approve demolition unless the proposed project is also approved.

resources under local, state and federal designations. Criterion 2 (exclusion of projects proposing to demolish historic resources) would reduce the number of eligible parcels by at least 4,750. Additional parcels could be excluded during the application or pre-application process as described below.

Properties in San Francisco are organized into three categories for the purposes of CEQA:

Status	Eligibility for AHBP
Category A: Known Historic Resources	are not eligible
Category B: Unknown (properties over 45 years of age)	may be eligible if determined not to have historic status
Category C: Not a Resource	are eligible to participate

The existing proposal is clear that "Known Historic Resources" sites are not eligible for the program and "Not a Resource" sites are eligible for the program. The only uncertainty that remains is for "Unknown" sites. It is not possible to determine which "Unknown" properties may be reclassified as "Category A" or "C" until a historic resource evaluation is filed with the environmental evaluation. The uncertainty in time and invested resources may reduce the incentive for a project sponsor to participate in the Local AHBP. There are an estimated 4,570 "Category A" buildings in the AHBP area. There are also 22,100 "Category B" buildings - with unknown potential as historic resources. Before a project could be approved on these sites, the necessary historic evaluation would be completed to determine the resource status.

*Category B Properties – Initial Historic Resource Determination*

As part of the AHBP entitlement process the Department may offer an initial historic resource determination. The initial historic resource determination application would not require information on the proposed project as only the historic status of the property would be evaluated. This would allow a project sponsor an opportunity to determine eligibility for the local AHBP without investing resources into the design of the proposed project.

*Category B Properties - Citywide Historic Resources Survey*

Since the beginning of the City's historic preservation program, small-scale surveys have been completed on a piecemeal basis, depending on funding and staff resources. Beginning in the summer of 2016, the Department will begin the first phase of a citywide historic resource survey documenting those areas of San Francisco that have not yet been evaluated. The first priority of this work will be areas potentially eligible for the AHBP and areas currently experiencing, or anticipated to have, heightened development. The citywide historic resource survey project is anticipated to take four to six years to complete. Early determination of either disqualification or eligibility will allow projects to be withdrawn if a resource is present or, if appropriate, designed with greater efficiency and compatibility. This survey work will minimize program uncertainties and associated costs for both the project and the City.

*Category B Properties - Neighborhood Commercial District Survey and Historic Context Statement*

The Department recently completed a Neighborhood Commercial Storefronts Historic Context Statement and data collection phase of a Neighborhood Commercial District Survey. The primary goal of the survey is to identify historic properties that may require future seismic or accessibility upgrades. The Department is currently preparing the community outreach phase of the survey. The survey examined approximately 83 current or formally-zoned neighborhood commercial areas, totaling 5,500 buildings. Along with recent area plan historic surveys, such as Market & Octavia, SoMa, and Mission, the Department will have determinations for virtually all neighborhood commercial corridors within the City. This information will provide upfront information on which properties are Category A or C.

**Limiting Criterion 3: No demolition of a Rent Control Unit**

Board President Supervisor London Breed proposed an amendment to the AHBP ordinance that bans the demolition of any rent control units through this program. The ordinance sponsors, Mayor Edwin Lee and Supervisor Katy Tang, as well as by the Department fully support this proposed amendment. Removing parcels with rent-controlled units is estimated to reduce the number of eligible parcels by 17,000.

**LIMITING CRITERIA TWO AND THREE REMOVE AN ESTIMATED 19,300 PARCELS FROM ELIGIBILITY (ROUGHLY 63% OF 30,500 PARCELS IN THE PROGRAM AREA).**

**Limiting Criterion 4: Cannot shadow a public park or open space**

The AHBP ordinance further limits the use of the Local Program for any project that would cause a significant shadow impact on a public park. It is difficult to estimate the exact limitation this restriction could cause on the program area, because shadow impacts would be determined during the environmental evaluation process, and could vary based on the specific building design. A preliminary shadow fan analysis indicates that up to 9,800 parcels could potentially be limited in their ability to build two additional stories of height due to this restriction and proximity to public parks. Specific analysis of a particular building proposal could change these initial results.

**Limiting Criterion 5: Gain Commission approval required to demolish a unit**

The City of San Francisco currently has very strict regulations around the demolition of a housing unit (Planning Code Section 317). Any project proposing to demolish a residential unit would be required to make the necessary findings and receive Planning Commission approval for the project.

**Past development patterns suggest development would primarily happen on underutilized (soft) sites**

The vast majority of eligible parcels contain healthy buildings and uses that would make them unlikely to be redeveloped. For example, the Market Octavia Area Plan rezoned every parcel in the Plan Area, removing density restrictions and increasing the zoned potential of most parcels. Despite this widespread rezoning, the plan resulted in new development on underutilized parcels such as former freeway parcels and large underutilized lots on Market Street. Other

parcels that were rezoned as part of Market and Octavia that host healthy older buildings including single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed uses have not attracted new development proposals because the current uses are highly valued by the community. It is anticipated that the AHBP would lead to similar development patterns. For purposes of estimating potential housing unit yields from the AHBP program, the Department identified approximately 240 underutilized ("soft") sites – sites where the current built envelope comprises five percent or less of the allowable building envelope under current zoning. Also, parcels containing residential uses, schools, hospitals and historic resources were also excluded as potential development sites.

While the Local AHBP offers clear development incentives, such as two stories of height and increased density, it also requires that project sponsors provide: 1) 30% of all units as permanently affordable; 2) 40% of the units as two bedroom; and 3) meet specific new design requirements of the Program. Financial analysis tested the program's value recapture to ensure the maximum affordable housing was required while still providing an incentive for projects to elect to provide 30% affordable housing. The analysis found the program is feasible, but only in some cases.

The financial feasibility analysis assumes current land values of the existing parcels remain constant with the implementation of the AHBP. The financial analysis assumes that land values would not increase due to program benefits; accordingly, there is little flexibility in the price projects can afford to pay for land. Further, the analysis assumes that the existing uses did not add to land value, so any existing use that would add value not considered by the financial analysis and would likely tip a project into infeasibility. In other words, the AHBP Local Program is financially feasible only for projects on sites where the existing building does not add costs to acquiring the property. A site with several residential units would command a higher market price than what was tested, and therefore the Local Program or State Analyzed Programs would likely not be financially feasible on sites with existing buildings.

#### **Department Recommended Amendment to Further Limit Program Eligibility**

To address concern around the program's scale, the Department recommends the following amendment:

- ❖ ADD LIMITING CRITERION: PROJECTS THAT PROPOSE TO DEMOLISH ANY RESIDENTIAL UNITS SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR AHBP.

Supervisor Breed's amendment to the program already prevents parcels containing existing rent-controlled units from developing through the AHBP. The City could further limit the eligibility for AHBP to projects that do not demolish any existing residential units (regardless of rent-controlled status).

### Potential Implication of Proposed Amendment

If the AHBP was limited to projects that did *not have ANY residential units*:

The AHBP could still produce 5,000 affordable housing units on 240 potential soft sites over a 20 year period. None of the soft sites identified contain known existing housing units, as the Department considers the development of sites with existing units unlikely for the reasons discussed above. Should the Planning Commission recommend this amendment, the amendment would not reduce the development potential on the identified potential soft sites.

Smaller increases in density to parcels with existing residential uses would be prohibited. Generally, sites with existing residential uses are unlikely to redevelop under the AHBP. However in the occasional instance where an owner wanted to redevelop a property with residential uses, the density of the new building would be limited by existing regulations, and there would not be the incentive to provide 30% affordable housing. Especially on smaller sites, where total units are below the 10 unit threshold for inclusionary housing under Planning Code section 415, the amendment could mean a reduction or omission of affordable housing when these sites are developed. If even 5% of the sites with only one unit in the Program area chose to develop and add more units (as allowed under existing regulations), the City could gain an additional roughly 300 permanently affordable units.<sup>8</sup> These units would not be built if this amendment is adopted. Additionally, these sites could redevelop under existing zoning controls producing zero affordable housing units.

For projects that include five or more units, property owners could still avail themselves of the State Density Bonus Law and receive up a 35% increase in density, up to three incentives and concessions and waivers of development standards as defined by the State Law, while providing less affordable housing and no middle income housing. In addition, the State Law would limit the Department and Commission's ability to disapprove any incentives, concessions or waivers requested by the project sponsor.

### Topic 2: Infrastructure to Support New Growth

San Francisco residents enjoy a high level of public infrastructure including access to open space and parks, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, schools, and an urban transit system. As the City's population grows, these amenities must be managed and scaled to accommodate new residents and maintain the quality of life in San Francisco. Recent area plans have generally included a community improvements plan and commensurate revenue strategies to enable infrastructure growth with new development. Commenters have asked how transportation and other amenities will be provided to support new residential development enabled through the AHBP. This section describes the City's current strategy for planning infrastructure to support new growth, with a focus on transportation.

#### Current Proposal: AHBP and Transportation Services

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<sup>8</sup> There are roughly 4,100 single-family homes in the AHBP program area in zoning districts that currently allow higher density development. Based on the Department's analysis, if only 5% of these sites were to redevelop they could produce upwards of 350 new permanently affordable units and a total net increase of 1,000 units.

The Program area is generally within walking distance to the Muni Rapid Network, the high level of service corridors such as Muni's light rail lines, Geary Boulevard and Mission Street. This means that the AHBP is encouraging new housing where the City is currently investing in increased levels of transportation services. This land use and transportation planning coordination ensures the City's investments will support new residents.

Area plans such as Market & Octavia and Eastern Neighborhoods include neighborhood specific impact fees to support concentrated development. For the more dispersed development associated with the AHBP, the City has subsequently completed a citywide infrastructure standards analysis and created commensurate citywide infrastructure funding mechanisms and plans. Many of the City's infrastructure systems, especially transit and childcare, operate on a citywide basis and generally require a citywide approach when planning improvements.

In the past several years, San Francisco has made great progress on several citywide transportation planning efforts and has established several new transportation revenue sources. In addition to the ongoing revenue sources, in 2014 voters approved a \$500 Million transportation bond. Also in 2014, voters supported Proposition B which tethers additional transportation funding to the rate of population growth.

The Citywide Transportation Sustainability Fee (TSF), which applies to new residential and commercial development, is anticipated to generate \$1.2 billion in revenue over 30 years. TSF revenues will enable the City to "invest in our transportation network" and "shift modeshare by requiring new developments to prioritize more sustainable travel methods". The Department anticipates that over 80% of the projected projects that take advantage of the AHBP would include 20 units or more, and therefore would be subject to the recently established TSP fee. Thus, the AHBP could generate upwards of 99 million dollars<sup>9</sup> in new transportation funding to support new residents. These funds will contribute meaningfully to the City's overall transportation funding strategy and enable the City to accomplish planned improvements to the network.

In addition to the TSF, all projects entitled under the AHBP would be subject to existing citywide fees for Public Schools, Public Utilities Commission (sewer and water) and childcare facilities.

These fees enable the City to make initial investments in infrastructure systems to support new growth. Maintaining a high level of service for all infrastructure types is critical to the quality of life in San Francisco. Much of the AHBP area includes parts of the City with higher levels of service for open space and pedestrian amenities.<sup>10</sup>

### Topic 3: Urban Design

Some commenters have expressed concerns about the compatibility of potential AHBP buildings and neighborhood context. Some have expressed concern that the AHBP takes a 'one-size-fits-all'

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<sup>9</sup> In today's dollars, at \$7.74 per GSF, this estimate does not account for annual indexing of fees to account for cost inflation.

<sup>10</sup> San Francisco Infrastructure Level of Service Analysis March 2014. [http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/plan-implementation/20140403\\_SFInfrastructureLOSAnalysis\\_March2014.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/plan-implementation/20140403_SFInfrastructureLOSAnalysis_March2014.pdf)



approach, which applies too broadly across the City's many neighborhoods. Some have asked whether the consistent development incentives would cause a monotonous or "one size fits all" outcome in terms of urban form. The need for special consideration for infill projects in existing historic districts has been raised. Some commenters also raised questions about the relationship between potential heights and existing road widths, suggesting that narrow streets may warrant special consideration. And, some have suggested that the limits on lot mergers should relate to the neighborhood context more specifically.

#### **Current Proposal: AHBP and Urban Design**

As drafted, the AHBP includes several parameters to ensure neighborhood and context-specific urban form.

#### **Existing Controls Vary to Reflect Neighborhood Context**

The Local Program of the AHBP enables projects to include two additional stories of housing when 30% of affordable housing is provided. The height increases are based upon the existing height regulations. While the incentive is the same increment across the City, the outcomes of the program will vary based on the underlying height limits. In many districts, the program enables six-story buildings, in some seven-story buildings, and in others eight-story and above buildings. While an AHBP project providing 30% on-site affordable units in the Western Addition and one in the Sunset would both receive two extra stories of height; the former, in a 65-foot height district, would result in an eight story building and the latter, in a 40 foot height district, would result in a six-story building. Current variations in underlying height controls will continue to be expressed through the AHBP.

Urban design in many cities and neighborhood types follow different general principles. San Francisco considers building height in relation to street widths. In some areas, a building's maximum podium height might be related to a street width, while in less dense neighborhoods, the overall maximum height of a building might be related to the street width. Generally, a ratio of building heights and street widths between .75 to 1.5 is considered appropriate in San Francisco.<sup>11</sup> This means that streets that are 40 feet wide can comfortably host buildings from 30 to 60 feet tall. Streets 50 feet wide can host buildings 40 to 75 feet tall. Streets 55 feet wide can host buildings 41 to 83 feet tall. All of the Program area includes roads that are 50 feet or wider – meaning they can comfortably host buildings that are 60 feet or taller. Thus, the AHBP does not currently allow buildings that would be considered too tall in relation to the street width, based on this ratio.

#### **Design Guidelines**

AHBP projects will be subject to program specific design guidelines. The guidelines address four topic areas: tops of buildings, middle of buildings, ground floors, and infill projects within existing historic districts. These guidelines will ensure San Francisco's practice of emphasizing context-specific design in new construction. The AHBP draft Design Guidelines includes 25 design guidelines<sup>12</sup>. Three of the most relevant to context-specific design include:

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<sup>11</sup> Allan B. Jacobs, *Great Streets*, Fourth Printing, 1996, pages 277 to 280.

<sup>12</sup> The complete AHBP draft design guidelines are available here: [http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP\\_Draft\\_Design\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP_Draft_Design_Guidelines.pdf)

- T1. Sculpt tops of buildings to contribute to neighborhood quality (page 6 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).
- T3. Express Exceptional and Complementary Architectural Character (page 7 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).
- B3. The façades of new buildings should extend patterns (page 10 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).

*Development within Historic Districts*

Some historic districts maintain a strong uniformity while other exhibit varied character. AHBP projects will likely result in developments of greater density than the surrounding historic context. Increased density in historic districts does not inherently conflict with historic preservation principles. Historic districts are capable of allowing increased housing density without affecting the historic character and features of a district.

Infill projects within an eligible district will be reviewed by Planning Department Preservation staff in addition to the Planning Commission for compatibility with the AHBP Design Guidelines. There is no proposed change in process for an infill project within a locally-designated district under Article 10 or Article 11 of the Planning Code. Historic Preservation Commission review and approval through a Certificate of Appropriateness or Permit to Alter entitlement would continue to be required. Findings of compliance with local guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards would also continue to be required.

Projects proposed for sites of non-contributing buildings and vacant lots within historic districts are required to meet the AHBP Design Guidelines for compatibility with surrounding historic context and features. AHBP projects will likely result in developments that may be taller than the surrounding historic context, thus it is crucial that the design of infill construction within historic districts not be so differentiated that it becomes the primary focus. Application of the AHBP Design Guidelines, by the Department, decision-makers, and with oversight from the community, will assist in achieving innovative and exceptional design solutions where the scale and massing of a project must relate to the surrounding historic context.

Below are two of the nine AHBP Design Guidelines for projects within a historic district:

- H2. Strengthen the primary characteristics of the district through infill construction by referencing and relating to the historic design, landscape, use, and cultural expressions found within the district (page 18 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).
- H6. Design to be identifiable as contemporary and harmonious with the historic district in terms of general site characteristics, materials, and features (page 18 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).

**Lot Merger Limits and AHBP**

Current Planning Code controls only regulate lot mergers in a limited number of districts<sup>13</sup> in the AHBP area. The AHBP ordinance proposes to extend lot limit merger regulations. AHBP projects

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<sup>13</sup> Inner and Outer Clement NCDs, and NC-2 Districts on Balboa Street between 2nd Avenue and 8th Avenues, and between 32nd Avenue and 38th Avenues.

that request a lot merger would be limited to less than 125 feet of street frontage. This generally reflects 50% of a typical San Francisco block, reflecting prevailing patterns in the program area neighborhoods.

The AHBP lot merger language is based on research that looked at past trends and the typical commercial corridor block length in the Sunset. Given that the typical commercial corridor block length in the Richmond and the Sunset is approximately 240 feet, 125 feet provides a good proximate for a building to not exceed. Note that this regulation would only apply to projects that participate in the AHBP. Current regulations would still apply to projects that are not participating in the AHBP. Currently, lot mergers are regulated in a few of the City's districts. Most commercial corridor zoning districts currently require a Conditional Use if the lot size is 10,000 square feet and above.

#### Department Recommended Amendments to Urban Design

- ❖ *ADD A DESIGN GUIDELINE TO MAXIMIZE LIGHT AND AIR TO THE SIDEWALKS AND FRONTAGES ALONG THE STREETS, INCLUDING ALLEYWAYS.*
- ❖ *BASE LOT MERGER LIMITATIONS ON 50% OF THE ACTUAL BLOCK LENGTH, RATHER THAN APPLY A CITYWIDE NUMERICAL CAP.*
- ❖ *DIRECT PLANNING STAFF TO INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF A PROJECT'S CONFORMITY TO DESIGN GUIDELINES IN A PLANNING COMMISSION CASE REPORT.*

#### Potential Implication of Proposed Amendments

Additional design guidelines would empower design review to focus on the relationship between street width and building heights. A design guideline to "maximize light and air to the sidewalks and frontages along the streets, including alleyways" would speak to the overall feel of a particular corridor and a specific housing proposal. The Planning Commission would be required to find projects consistent with all AHBP design guidelines as part of the approval process. This would enhance urban design outcomes and ensure that new buildings are context-sensitive.

Relating the lot merger limitations to block length rather than overall parcel size ensures that AHBP projects relate to the specific neighborhood context. Limitations on lot mergers could, in rare cases, reduce total units produced for an individual project. However the proposed ratio would result in good urban design consistent with prevailing patterns and would offer an appropriate limitation on the scale of potential AHBP projects.

#### Topic 4: Public Review and Commission Approval

Some commenters have expressed concern that AHBP projects will not have adequate public input, City review or Planning Commission review. In particular commenters raised questions about the appeals process proposed for the Local AHBP, the conditional use findings and the ability of the Commission to make modifications to the design of the building.

#### Current Proposal: The Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program Project Review

As drafted, the Local AHBP does not reduce public input nor public hearing requirements for projects entitled under this program. In fact, the Local Program increases the opportunity for public input because every Local AHBP project will require a Planning Commission hearing

under the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization proposed in Section 328, including some projects that would not otherwise require Planning Commission approval. Under the proposal, only projects that provide 30% permanently affordable housing, or greater, would be eligible for the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization process.

#### **Entitlement Process for AHBP State Analyzed Program**

Projects entitled under the State Analyzed Program will have no reduction in the City's current review process. These projects will either provide the minimum inclusionary amount, or may provide between 13% or 20% affordable housing in order to obtain a greater density bonus or an increased number of incentives and concessions. Projects entitled through the State-Analyzed program will be subject to the same review and approval processes as they would today – the triggers for Conditional Use Authorization or any other code section that requires a Planning Commission hearing will continue to have a Planning Commission hearing. Projects that use the State-Analyzed program and do not trigger a Planning Commission hearing under the Code are still subject to Discretionary Review (DR). Projects using the State-Analyzed program and choose an incentive off the pre-determined menu that would have required a variance would no longer be subject to a variance hearing. However, if the project seeks a variance that is not from the menu, a variance hearing would be required.

#### **Entitlement Process for AHBP Local Program and 100% Affordable**

Projects entitled under the Local Program and the 100% Affordable Program, which respectively provide 30% affordable units or are completely affordable developments, will be reviewed under the proposed "Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization," as proposed in Section 328. This entitlement process is similar to the existing Large Project Authorization (LPA) process in the Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts set forth in Planning Code section 329. The goals of establishing a new process for projects that provide 30% affordable housing include: 1) create a single process for projects with clear requirements and procedures; 2) enable the Planning Commission to grant exceptions to proposed projects without requiring a variance; and 3) build on the success of the LPA process established as part of the Eastern Neighborhood Mixed Use Districts. Should a project include a component that would currently require a conditional use approval (CU), the Commission would continue to be required to make the necessary findings that would otherwise be made as part of a CU hearing under the new entitlement process, and in addition to the required findings set forth in the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization.

Section 328 - the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization process has a consistent review process for all Local Program projects. The review allows the Commission to grant minor exceptions to the Code to respond to design concerns raised by staff and the community in ways that would otherwise require a variance from the Zoning Administrator.

The Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization process recognizes that projects that take advantage of the Local Program of the AHBP may be larger than the surrounding neighborhood context in order to facilitate higher levels of affordability. Projects must comply with the AHBP Design Guidelines. The Commission can *disapprove a project* if it fails to meet the AHBP Design Guidelines, other applicable design guidelines, the Better Streets Plan or the General Plan. A project must have the required 30% or more onsite affordability to qualify for the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization.

**CU findings and authority of CPC to change projects**

The Planning Commission will continue to have the authority to shape a building and revise certain components of a project, such as proposed land use, or other elements that might otherwise be approved under a particular Conditional Use Authorization permit.

The Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization is designed to allow the Planning Commission the ability to make minor modifications to a project's height, bulk, and mass. However, the process recognizes that these projects may be somewhat taller or bulkier than surrounding buildings, and the intent is to limit such modifications to ensure that projects meet the AHBP's affordability goals. Additionally, as mentioned above, the Planning Commission will be able to grant Planning Code exceptions to shift the mass of a project, if appropriate, as a tool to respond to surrounding context.

**Summary: Review Process Current Process and AHBP Projects**

	Current Process	State Analyzed	Local Program, 328 Affordable Housing Benefit Review
Preliminary Project Assessment (PPA)	x	x	x
Environmental Review	x	x	x
Pre-Application Meeting (with neighbors)	x	x	x
Design and Plan Review	x	x	x
Neighborhood notification (Section 311/312), or Planning Commission Hearing Notification	x	x	x
Required Planning Commission Hearing	Sometimes, DR optional	Sometimes, DR optional	x
Entitlement Appeals Body	Board of Appeals, or Board of Supervisors	Board of Appeals, or Board of Supervisors	Board of Appeals

**Priority Processing for Projects with High Levels of Affordability**

Projects that provide 20% affordable housing or more are currently eligible for priority processing – which means they are the first priority project for assigned staff. Priority processing does not change or reduce the steps in the review process. However, it can reduce time related to backlogs or high volumes of projects. Local AHBP projects would be eligible for priority processing.

**Department Recommended Amendments to Public Review and Commission Approval**

The following amendments regarding the entitlement process for Local AHBP projects could further address the identified issues:

- ❖ MODIFY THE LOCAL AND 100 PERCENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROJECT AUTHORIZATION SUCH THAT APPEALS WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

As currently drafted, projects that apply under the Local AHBP are subject to the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization (Section 328) are appealable to the Board of Appeals. The appeal of a Section 328 decision could be directed to the Board of Supervisors, using the process found in Section 308 et seq. Under this code section Planning Commission decisions are appealable to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days after the date of action by the Planning Commission, and would be subscribed by either (i) the owners of at least 20 percent of the property affected by the proposed amendment or (ii) five members of the Board of Supervisors.

**Alternative Amendment:**

- ❖ CONVERT THE 328 PROCESS TO A SEPARATE CONDITIONAL USE AUTHORIZATION PERMIT FOR ALL PROJECTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL AHBP.

**Potential Implications of Proposed Amendments**

Shifting appeals of entitlement to the Board of Supervisors for Local AHBP projects would not substantially impact the outcomes of the AHBP program in terms of unit production. There is some chance that project sponsors perceive this appeals process as offering less certainty or potentially an increased entitlement process, because the Board of appeals requires four out five votes to overturn a Planning Commission decision.

In contrast, appeals to the BOS require support of 20% of adjacent property owners or five Board members to be considered, however a two-thirds majority of Supervisors can overturn a Planning Commission decision. Therefore entitlement of projects likely would not be further burdened by this requirement.

**Topic 5: Preserving Small Business**

San Francisco's small business community is an integral part of our neighborhood commercial corridors, local economy and San Francisco's rich culture. Some commenters have expressed concerns around the potential impacts of the AHBP on existing small businesses and neighborhood commercial corridors. Will small businesses be afforded the opportunity to successfully transition to new locations when necessary? Will neighborhoods continue to have the neighborhood serving businesses?

**Current Proposal: Small Business Preservation and AHBP**

Generally, AHBP infill housing is anticipated on soft sites that are predominantly vacant, parking lots or garages, gas stations, or other uses that use only a small amount of the total development potential. That said some of these sites include existing businesses on neighborhood commercial corridors. New development requires a willing seller, buyer and developer. The potential impact

of this Program to specific businesses locations or business types cannot be quantified in any certain terms due to these factors. However it is generally understood that there are existing structures on less than half of the 240 potential soft sites.

The City is committed to maintaining small businesses in its neighborhoods. For this reason, the AHBP includes general assistance and support for any business that might be impacted, which can be tailored on a case-by-case basis. Staff anticipates that developments using the AHBP will produce additional commercial spaces and enhance existing commercial corridors.

#### **Protections for Existing Businesses**

As currently proposed, the AHBP addresses small business preservation in several ways.

Having adequate notification time when re-location is necessary has been one of the top concerns raised by small businesses in their recent quarterly meetings with the Mayor. Recently required seismic upgrades have forced many businesses to relocate with only a few months' notice. To address this concern and at the suggestion of OEWD and the Small Business Commission, the AHBP requires that project sponsors notify tenants of their first application to the Planning Department for environment review. Generally project construction starts two or three years after a project files for environmental review, but this can vary based on project size and other factors. This notification will guarantee tenants adequate time to develop an updated business plan, identify necessary capital, find an appropriate location, and complete necessary tenant improvements in a new location. The notification letter will also refer the business owner to OEWD and other agencies that can provide technical assistance and support. These services can help small businesses achieve a successful transition.

Relocating businesses may qualify for and take advantage of the Community Business Priority Processing Program (CB3P). Projects that qualify for and enroll in the CB3P are guaranteed a Planning Commission hearing date within 90 days of filing a complete application, and placement on the Consent Calendar. Certain limitations do apply<sup>14</sup>. All CB3P applications are subject to the same level of neighborhood notice, the same Planning Code provisions, and the same (if applicable) CEQA review requirements, and may still be shifted from Consent to Regular Calendar if requested by a Planning Commissioner or member of the public.

#### **Enhancing Neighborhood Commercial Corridors and AHBP**

Existing Planning Code controls encourage neighborhood appropriate new commercial spaces. Existing commercial size limits, listed below, will apply to new commercial space constructed as part of AHBP buildings. Existing use limitations (including formula retail regulations) will apply. These use size limitations were established through community planning processes to reflect neighborhood character. Any new or expanded uses above these amounts will continue to trigger a conditional use authorization.

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<sup>14</sup> Generally, eligible businesses cannot be a formula retail store with more than 20 establishments and cannot expand or intensify the use and certain uses such as alcohol, adult entertainment, massage, fringe financial and certain other uses cannot participate. See the Planning Department website for more information: <http://www.sf-planning.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=9130>.

The median independent retail size in San Francisco is 2,200 square feet and the median formula retail size in San Francisco is 6,500 square feet. Existing controls related to use size limitations generally encourage and support a continuation of small businesses on neighborhood commercial corridors. A sampling of use size controls is listed below.

NC District	Current Use Size Limit
North Beach, Castro Street, Pacific Avenue	2,000 sq. ft.
Inner Clement, Inner Sunset, Outer Clement, Upper Fillmore, Haight, Polk, Sacramento, Union, 24 <sup>th</sup> (Noe), West Portal	2,500 sq. ft.
NC-1, Broadway	3,000 sq. ft.
NC-2	4,000 sq. ft.
NC-3, NC-S	6,000 sq. ft.

Most Neighborhood Commercial Districts encourage, but do not require, neighborhood commercial uses<sup>15</sup>. New infill projects would likely choose to include ground floor commercial uses. In fact, the AHBP Design Guidelines include eight specific controls for the ground floor (on page 13 of the AHBP Design Guidelines), which otherwise do not exist in many of our neighborhoods. For example, the AHBP Design Guidelines state that no more than 30 percent of the width of the ground floor may be devote to garage entries or blank walls; building entries and shop fronts should add to the character of the street by being clearly identifiable and inviting; and where present, retail frontages should occupy no less than 75 percent of a building frontage at the ground floor.

**Department Recommended Amendments to Preserving Small Business**

The Planning Department presented the AHBP to the Small Business Commission on February 8. Staff will return to the Small Business Commission on February 22 for further discussion. The following potential amendments have been identified by the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) staff and the Small Business Commission.

- ❖ REQUIRE EXISTING BUSINESSES BE OFFERED FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE IN NEW BUILDINGS.
- ❖ RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT THE CITY TO ESTABLISH A SMALL BUSINESS RELOCATION FEE TO BE PAID BY NEW

<sup>15</sup> Planning Code Section 145.4 establishes requirements for ground floor retail on certain parts of streets such as along Market Street from Castro through the Downtown; along Hayes Street through the NCT; and along Fillmore Street from Bush Street to McAllister Street. See all such requirements in Planning Code Section 145.4.



*DEVELOPMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE VALUES OFFERED UNDER THE UNIFORM RELOCATION ACT.*

- ❖ *REQUIRE THAT EARLY NOTIFICATION TO COMMERCIAL TENANTS BE NO LESS THAN 18 MONTHS AND BE SENT TO BOTH THE TENANT AND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (OEWD)*
- ❖ *ALLOW PLANNING COMMISSION TO REDUCE COMMERCIAL USE SIZES OR REQUIRE COMMERCIAL USES IN AHBP PROJECTS TO PROTECT NEIGHBORHOOD SERVING BUSINESSES*

**Potential Implications of Proposed Amendments**

A first right of refusal would enable existing businesses to have a competitive edge in securing space on their existing site. Businesses could participate in site design and potentially benefit from efficiencies in building the commercial spaces, for example, by making later tenant improvements unnecessary. While most businesses will likely not exercise this option because it would require relocating twice, the option offers the opportunity, especially for location sensitive businesses. This requirement would not reduce potential affordable housing production, but it may provide a developer with additional community support when valued businesses are retained.

Notifying OEWD will enable the City to take a proactive role in supporting small businesses and to coordinate support through various programs such as Invest and Neighborhoods and the Retention and Relocation Program. OEWD will know about proposed developments early enough in the process to effectively engage businesses and provide whatever supports are needed.

The Small Business Commission and OEWD staff suggest that the early notification would be most effective if businesses are afforded at least 18 months from first notification to required relocation date. Since relocation is required before environmental review commences, this required notification period should not delay a projects entitlement or development process.

The City can apply the standards of the federal Uniform Relocation Act to AHBP properties. For new construction that is funded all or in part with federal funds, the Act requires relocation advisory services for displaced businesses; a minimum 90 days written notice to vacate prior to requiring possession; and reimbursement for moving and reestablishment expenses. For a business, moving fees are based on a public bidding process plus a business is eligible for \$10,000 in reestablishment costs; or a business can receive a fixed payment of no more than \$20,000. The City could require project sponsors provide relocation costs consistent with the Uniform Relocation Act to existing commercial tenants. This payment would facilitate a business's successful transition to a new space in the neighborhood.

**Topic 6: Who are we serving with this program? Affordability**

Several commenters have asked if the affordable units generated through the AHBP are serving the right households. Some have suggested that the program should be adjusted to include a broader range of affordability. Some have suggested that households at 100 and 120% AMI should also be serviced through this program. Others have questioned whether affordability

targets should vary based on neighborhood demographics. In particular the following questions have been raised:

1. Why doesn't the program address the lowest income households?
2. Are middle income households served by market rate housing?
3. Should there be neighborhood specific elements of the program?

**Current proposal: Households served and AHBP**

The AHBP will be one of many affordable housing programs in San Francisco. The Program is unique in that it does not require public subsidy of the affordable units and incentivizes the private sector to provide a greater absolute number and greater percentage of affordable housing, similar to the City's inclusionary housing program. The AHBP proposes to increase the number of affordable units built to service low and moderate income households while also broadening the band of households eligible for permanently affordable housing to include middle income households. The AHBP proposes to increase low, moderate and middle income housing in San Francisco's neighborhoods.

**Affordable Housing Programs and Housing Supply in San Francisco**

The AHBP will be one of many tools to address housing affordability in San Francisco. Today, the majority (88% of affordable units produced) of the City's affordable housing programs<sup>16</sup> serve households earning less than 60% AMI (\$42,800 for a one-person household and \$55,000 for a three-person household). Less than 9% of the affordable units created under the City's current programs serve those households at 80% AMI and above.

San Francisco is a leader in developing local funding sources for affordable housing, and has one of the nation's oldest inclusionary housing programs. The City's recent efforts include establishing a Local Housing Trust Fund and the Hope SF program. San Francisco dedicated a high proportion (40%) of all tax increment funding (TIF) generated in Redevelopment Areas to affordable housing. However, given that it costs \$250,000 or more to subsidize a single affordable housing unit in San Francisco, the City would need to generate \$4 billion in local subsidies to fund the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) target of 16,000 affordable units by 2022. Local subsidies cannot be the only approach to securing permanently affordable housing. This underscores the need for programs such as our existing inclusionary program and the AHBP.

Over the next ten years, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development plans to build an additional 4,640 housing units permanently affordable to households earning below 120% AMI. These new affordable units will be in addition to the thousands of affordable units that will be rehabilitated or preserved as part of RAD or other affordability preservation efforts. Roughly 4,400 of these units will service households earning 60% of the AMI or below. The remaining 241 units, most of which will be funded by federal and State dollars that often have further affordability restrictions, would service households at 60% AMI or below. With the construction of these pipeline projects the City will have a total of 42,640 permanently affordable housing units for households earning 60% AMI or below. The AHBP will add an additional 2,000

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<sup>16</sup>This includes units provided under the Multifamily Housing Program, the Inclusionary Program, Former SFRA, Inclusionary Condo Conversion, Public Housing, HUS-assisted Projects, Master Lease, and other Tax Credit Projects. This does not include the Down Payment Assistance Loan Program or Section 8 vouchers that are used in San Francisco.

units for low and moderate income households – bringing the total to 44,640. In addition, the AHBP will provide 3,000 permanently affordable middle income units.

Affordability Level	Existing Permanently Affordable Units	MOHCD Pipeline housing (10 years)	AHBP Affordable Units (20 years)	Projected Total Affordable Units (with MOHCD known pipeline and AHBP)	
Very Low, Low and Moderate Income	36,260 <sup>17</sup>				
Less than 60% AMI		4,640	2,000	44,640	94%
Less than 120% AMI	3,285 <sup>18</sup>				
Middle Income (120% rental and 140% owner)			3,000	3,000	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,500</b>		<b>5,000</b>	<b>47,640</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Local AHBP Program complements these existing and ongoing programs by providing affordable housing units to serve low, moderate, and middle income households making above 55% of AMI.

**Affordable Housing Units encouraged through the AHBP**

The AHBP builds on the City's existing Inclusionary Housing Program, which serves low and moderate income households earning up to 55% of AMI (rental) and 90% of AMI (ownership)<sup>19</sup>. Only projects that provide the affordable units on site are eligible for the AHBP. This will incentivize projects, that might otherwise elect to pay the in lieu fee, to elect to provide affordable units on-site within the project.

The AHBP is projected to enable 5,000 permanently affordable units over a 20 year period. The Department estimates that the AHBP could result in 2,000 low and moderate income inclusionary units over the next 20 years. This will be more than double the 900 possible inclusionary units enabled under current zoning on the same sites. This is a significant enhancement to San

<sup>17</sup> Roughly 13,180 of these units will service households earning 30% of the AMI or below.

<sup>18</sup> Most of the existing units for 120% AMI and below are affordable to households earning no more than 80% AMI.

<sup>19</sup> Note: the existing inclusionary program allows project sponsors to pay a fee in lieu of providing the affordable housing units.

Francisco's ability to provide affordable housing for low and moderate income households.<sup>20</sup> This program will also generate an additional 3,000 permanently affordable middle income units.

Potential Affordable Housing Units produced in AHBP Area, under current controls or under AHBP, by affordability, over 20 years.

Affordability Levels	Current Controls (Units)	AHBP Maximum Potential (Units)
Low and Moderate Income Households (55% AMI for rental and 90% AMI for ownership)	900	2,000
Middle Income Households (120% AMI for rental and 140% AMI for ownership)	0	3,000
<b>Total Permanently Affordable Housing Units</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>5,000</b>

**Low and Moderate Income Households Served**

The AHBP could potentially double the number of inclusionary units serving low and moderate income households (55% or 90% of AMI) produced in the Program Area, compared to current zoning controls.

In 2015, a one-person household making 55%-90% of Area Median Income earns between \$39,250 and \$64,200. For a family of three, the range is \$50,450 to \$82,550. Households in this income category could include the following:

- A single housekeeper (55% AMI)
- A single entry level public school teacher (90% AMI)
- A single parent police officer or fire fighter with one child (90% AMI)
- A single parent postal clerk with two children (55% AMI)
- A construction worker and a dishwasher (90% AMI)
- Two cashiers and two children (55% AMI)
- A public school teacher and a housekeeping cleaner with two children (90% AMI)

**THE AHBP WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 UNITS AFFORDABLE TO THESE HOUSEHOLDS.**

**Middle Income Households Served**

In 2015, a one-person household making 120% - 140% of Area Median Income earns between \$85,600 and \$99,900. For a family of three, the range is \$110,050 to \$128,400. This level of income

<sup>20</sup> Between 1992 through 2014 the inclusionary program has generated nearly 2,000 affordable units.

is significantly higher than households traditionally serviced by affordable housing programs; market rate housing is out of reach for these households in San Francisco. Households in this income category could include the following:

- A single Electrician (120% AMI)
- A single Electrical Engineer (140% AMI)
- A police officer or firefighter and a minimum wage worker (barista, etc.) (120% AMI)
- An ambulance dispatcher and a housekeeper (140% AMI)
- 2 Public School teachers with 1 child (140% AMI)
- 2 public school teachers with 2 children (120% AMI)
- A police officer and a firefighter with 2 children (140% AMI)

**THE AHBP WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL 3,000 UNITS AFFORDABLE TO THESE HOUSEHOLDS.**

**Need for Permanently Affordable Middle Income Housing**

Based on federal, state, and local standards, "affordable" housing costs no more than 30% of the household's gross income. In 2015 middle income households earning 120% of AMI and 140% of AMI could afford the following maximum rents and sale prices:

	Affordable monthly rent <sup>21</sup>	Median Rents in San Francisco, 2015	Affordable sales price <sup>22</sup>
1-person household (studio unit)	\$2,100	\$3,490 (one bedroom)	\$398,295
3-person household (2 bedroom unit)	\$2,689	\$4,630 Two bedroom	\$518,737

Comparatively, median rents are \$3,490 for a 1 bedroom, and \$4,630 for a 2 bedroom apartment in San Francisco<sup>23</sup>. To afford these rents a middle income households (120% AMI) would be required to dedicate 50% or more of their income to housing costs, market San Francisco recently exceeded \$1 million<sup>24</sup>, again twice what a middle income (140% AMI) household can afford.

The income categories serviced by the AHBP are the household types that are declining in San Francisco. Census data show that households earning between 50% of AMI and 150% of AMI fell from 49% of all households in 1990 to just 37% in 2013. These are the income categories for which new, permanently affordable housing would be created under the AHBP. Middle-income households (120-150% AMI, the dark orange bar below) include a diminishing share of the City's growing population, falling from 11% of the population in 1990 to 9% in 2013.

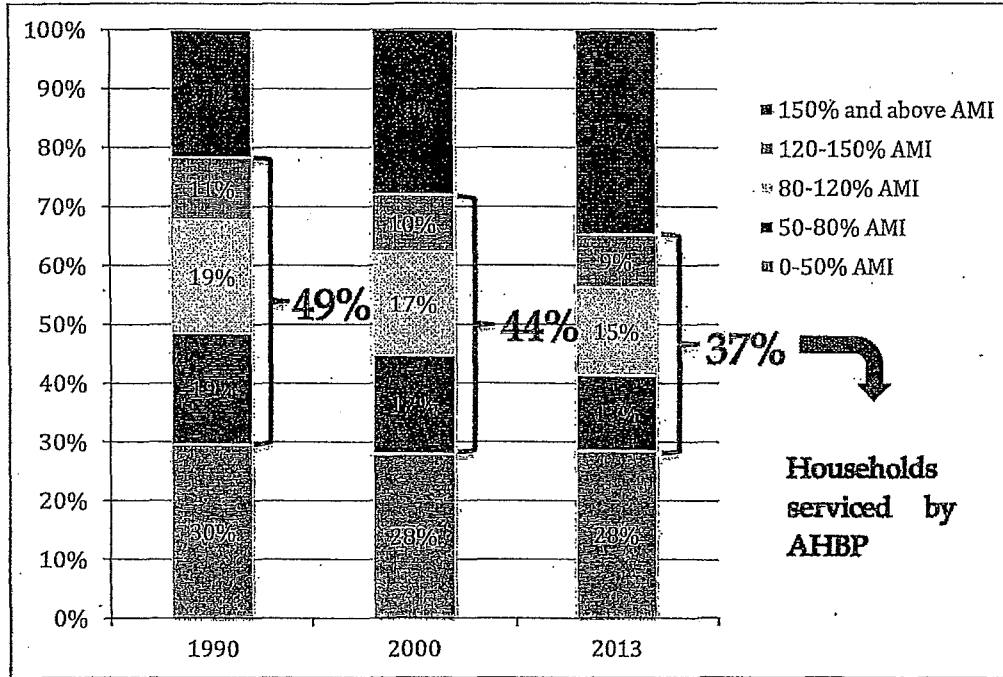
<sup>21</sup> MOHCD. 2015 Maximum Monthly Rent by Unit Type; Studio and 2-bedroom unit "without utilities" figure.

<sup>22</sup> MOHCD. 2015 Sample Sales Prices for the San Francisco Inclusionary Housing Program.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.zumper.com/blog/2016/01/zumper-national-rent-report-january-2016/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.sfgate.com/business/networth/article/1-million-city-S-F-median-home-price-hits-7-5626591.php>

San Francisco's Households by AMI, 1990-2013



The last several RHNA cycles show that San Francisco has consistently under-produced housing for these income category over the same period of time.<sup>25</sup>

From the 2014 Housing Element:

Household Affordability	Housing Goals 2007-2014	Annual Production 2007-Q1 2014	% of Production Target Achieved 2007-Q1 2014	Production Deficit as of Q1 2014
	Total	Total		
Low Income (under 80% AMI)	12,124	4,978	41%	7,146
Moderate Income (80% - 120% AMI)	6,754	1,107	16%	5,647
Market Rate	12,315	11,993	97%	322
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31,193</b>	<b>18,078</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>13,115</b>

Table E-6d  
 Annual Production Targets and Average Annual Production, San Francisco, 2007-Q1 2014

SOURCE: SF Planning Department; ABAG

<sup>25</sup> Note that since the City does not currently have a program which guarantees affordability for households above 120% of the Area Median Income, the Department does not have data on the production of housing for that income level. Based on current understanding of market sales and rental costs, staff believes that newly constructed housing is not affordable to middle income households.

Table I-65  
Annual Production Targets  
and Average Annual  
Production, San Francisco,  
1989-2006

Household Affordability	Housing Goals 1989-2006	Actual Production 1989-2006	% of Production Target Achieved	Production Deficit (Surplus)
	Total	Total		
Very Low Income (below 50% AMI)	5,244	4,342	82.8%	802
Low Income (50% - 79% AMI)	2,126	1,119	52.4%	1,013
Moderate Income (80% - 120% AMI)	5,629	725	12.9%	4,914
Market Rate	7,363	11,293	153.4%	(3,930)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20,372</b>	<b>17,473</b>	<b>85.8%</b>	

From the 2004 Housing Element:

TABLE I-65

Annual Production Targets and Average Annual Housing Production, 1989-1998\*

Affordability Categories	Housing Goals 1989-June 1995 (6.5 years)		Actual Production 1989-1998 (10 years) <sup>a</sup>		% of Annual Target Achieved
	Total	Annual Targets	Total	Annual Average	
Very Low Income (below 50% AMI)	5,392	830	2,202	220	26.5%
Low Income (50% - 79% AMI)	3,595	553	1,515	152	27.4%
Moderate Income (80% - 120% AMI)	4,493	691	557	56	8.1%
Market Rate	6,987	1,383	2,623	260	71.6%
Annual Production Target, 1989 - June 1995	22,467	3,456	14,157	1,417	41.0%

\*APRS Reporting Period

The Local AHBP program will increase the amount of inclusionary housing produced for households making 55% or 90% of AMI while creating a new source of housing for middle income households making 120% (rental) or 140% (ownership) of AMI.

#### Why Provide Affordable Housing for Moderate and Middle Income Households?

The AHBP is designed to complement the existing affordable housing programs and housing units, to ensure that the City of San Francisco can remain an equitable and inclusive City as we continue to welcome new residents. In the past several decades middle income households have benefited from affordability assured through rent control, however vacancy de-control and changes in tenure have reduced the affordability of this housing supply. Limited public subsidies for affordable housing can continue to service the very low, low and moderate income households, while mixed income development projects such as the AHBP and those enabled under the inclusionary housing program will service low, moderate and middle income households.

#### How does the AHBP Respond to Specific Neighborhoods?

The AHBP is a citywide program that addresses the affordability needs of all of San Francisco. Much like the City's inclusionary programs, the intention of the AHBP is to increase the production of privately-financed housing for the City as a whole, by leveraging market-driven

development that otherwise would provide fewer or no affordable units for low, moderate, and middle income residents.

**Neighborhood Specific AMI's: Focus on the Bayview**

Some have commented that in some neighborhoods, the Bayview Neighborhood, in particular, could warrant a neighborhood specific adjustment to the AHBP program.

Because the Bayview neighborhood has a history of industrial uses that has left several large, underutilized sites that, if those sites were developed under AHBP, they could result in a large number of new housing units. For example, one of the soft sites identified in the Bayview is 43,681 square feet, as compared to a typical 2,500 square foot (25ft. by 100ft) commercial lot in an NC district. The prevalence of large underutilized lots in the Bayview means more units could be developed there under AHBP when compared to other neighborhoods in the city.

Although new development potential under this program would come with increases in affordable housing units for low, moderate and middle income households, some commenters suggested that the AHBP affordability targets do not adequately serve existing low-income households in the Bayview. Census data<sup>26</sup> in the below table shows households by income level in the Bayview and citywide.

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<sup>26</sup> American Community Survey, 2010-14 5-Year Average



**Households by Income Level, Bayview and San Francisco**

% of AMI	Bayview		San Francisco	
	Households	% of HHs	Households	% of HHs
30%	3,468	31.6%	80,447	23.1%
50%	1,787	16.3%	40,146	11.5%
80%	1,841	16.8%	52,299	15.0%
100%	1,045	9.5%	28,683	8.2%
120%	828	7.6%	26,436	7.6%
150%	685	6.3%	31,267	9.0%
200%	646	5.9%	33,305	9.5%
>200%	662	6.0%	56,249	16.1%
Total	10,963	100.0%	348,832	100.0%

Bayview has a higher share of households earning 30% of AMI<sup>27</sup> and below than the citywide average. These households are typically served by SFHA public housing, of which there is a high concentration in the Bayview neighborhood relative to other neighborhoods in San Francisco.

Roughly 56% of Bayview households earn between 50% of AMI and 150% of AMI – these are the household incomes that will be served by the AHBP. Bayview households qualify at a higher proportion than the citywide average where only 51% of households earn between 50% and 150% of AMI.

Below is a demographic portrait of the Bayview Households by Race and Ethnicity.

**Households by Race and Ethnicity, Bayview and San Francisco<sup>28</sup>**

Race	Bayview		San Francisco	
	Households	% of HHs	Households	% of HHs
Black HHs	4,760	44.6%	20,495	6.0%
Asian HHs	2,793	26.2%	95,032	27.9%
Hispanic HHs	1,666	15.6%	37,901	11.1%

<sup>27</sup> \$21,400 for a one-person household, \$27,500 for a household of three

<sup>28</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (October 28, 2015). Consolidated Planning/ CHAS Data. 2008-12 ACS 5-Year Average.

White HHs	1,075	10.1%	176,841	51.9%
Other HHs	377	3.5%	10,156	3.0%
Total	10,671	100.0%	340,425	100.0%

The AHBP Local Program for mixed-income development is intended to complement existing and ongoing programs by providing affordable housing units to serve low, moderate, and middle income households making above 50% of AMI, including the half of Bayview households that fall into this income range. In addition, the 100% AHBP program is designed to yield a greater number of units affordable to households making below 60% of AMI, by allowing for greater density for 100% affordable housing developments.

**Serving Existing Residents with Below Market Housing**

There are two provisions to help ensure that existing residents can access below market housing in their neighborhood.

The first, which is recently adopted legislation separate from the AHBP, is often called 'Neighborhood Preference'. The legislation prioritizes 40% of all affordable inclusionary units be to existing neighborhood residents. This provision enables existing residents to seek permanently affordable housing in their neighborhood. In the case of the Bayview – existing residents will be competitive for the low, moderate and middle income units.

The second provision is part of the draft AHBP ordinance. In order to ensure that the affordable units are below market rates the AHBP legislation requires that all affordable units be rented or sold at a price at least 20% below a particular neighborhood's market housing costs. For example if a project in the Bayview was entitled under the Local AHBP program – before the 18% of units that are intended to service middle income households were marketed to residents (after construction) the project sponsors would be required to demonstrate that the middle income targets (120% and 140% AMI) were at least 20% below the prevailing market costs for housing in the Bayview. Should the City find that housing priced to be affordable to 140% AMI households was reflecting the market rate; the project sponsor would be required to reduce the cost to a price that is affordable to households at 120% AMI and market the units to qualifying households. This provision enables the program to be flexible to neighborhood specific market conditions and market variations over time.

**Department Recommended Amendments to Affordability**

- ❖ WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF FEASIBLY CONVERT SOME OF THE 18% MIDDLE INCOME (120%/140%) UNITS TO 100%/120% AMI.

The AHBP Local Program for mixed-income developments could be modified to require that a higher share of affordable units are required to be provided for households making below 100% of AMI (rental) or 120% AMI (ownership). This approach would not impact the 100% AHBP program.

**Potential Implications of Proposed Amendment**

This amendment addresses the concern that a wider band of households' affordable housing needs should be met through this program.

In general, lowering the income levels of required affordable units could have some impacts on financial feasibility for some projects. This approach could reduce participation in the Local

AHBP, in preference for the State Program or existing zoning requirements. A financial sensitivity analysis should be conducted in order to identify the exact relationship between lower income targets and project feasibility.

## REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

Two draft ordinances are before the Commission for consideration today. These items may be acted upon or may be continued, at the discretion of the Commission.

1. Mayor Lee and Supervisor Tang introduced the AHBP Ordinance amending the Planning Code on September 29, 2015; substitute legislation was introduced on January 12, 2016. The proposed Ordinance is before the Commission so that it may recommend adoption, rejection, or adoption with modifications to the Board of Supervisors.
2. On October 15, 2015 the Planning Commission initiated hearings on a proposed Ordinance amending the General Plan. The Planning Commission can recommend adoption, rejection, or adoption with modifications to the Board of Supervisors.

## RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The Department recommends that the Commission recommend approval with the amendments specified below to the Board of Supervisors of the proposed Ordinances and adopt the attached Draft Resolution to that effect. Further information, including the basis for the recommendations and potential implications of alternatives have been described in more detail earlier in the case report. The section merely summarizes the content to assist the Commission with voting on a potential recommendation. Please note the Commission's action is in no way constrained to the topics or recommendations listed below. This is only a summary of staff recommendations.

### Topic 1: Program Eligibility (pages 3-7)

- A. Recommend approval with scale limitations as currently drafted.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to add that projects that propose to demolish any residential units shall not be eligible for AHBP.
- C. Advise Board of Supervisors regarding benefits and concerns. Direct staff to continue work on these issues.

### Topic 2: Infrastructure to Support New Growth (pages 7-8)

- A. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval with infrastructure support as currently drafted.
- B. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

### Topic 3: Urban Design (pages 8-11)

- A. Recommend approval with urban design limitations as currently drafted.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to add a design guideline to maximize light and air to the sidewalks and frontages along the streets, including alleyways.

- C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify lot merger limitations on 50% of the actual block length, rather than apply a citywide numerical cap.
- D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Direct Planning Staff to include analysis of a project's conformity to design guidelines in a Planning Commission Case Report.
- E. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

**Topic 4: Public Review & Commission Approval (pages 11-14)**

- A. Recommend approval with new review process as proposed whereby appeals are considered by the Board of Appeals.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify the appeals body for the Local and 100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization-Section 328-to be the Board of Supervisors
- C. Modify the process such that Conditional Use Authorizations (CU) would not be considered as findings within the entitlement for AHBP projects, but would require a separate CU.
- D. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

**Topic 5: Preserving Small Business (pages 14-17)**

- A. Recommend approval with small business preservation tools as currently drafted.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to add that a requirement that existing businesses be offered first right of refusal for commercial space in new buildings.
- C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to ask that the Board of Supervisors direct the City to establish a small business relocation fee to be paid by new development consistent with the uniform relocation act.
- D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to require early notification to commercial tenants be no less than 18 months and also reported to the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.
- E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Allow Planning Commission to reduce commercial use sizes or require commercial uses in AHBP projects to protect neighborhood serving businesses.
- F. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

**Topic 6: Affordability (pages 17-27)**

- A. Recommend approval with new review process as proposed whereby the local program provides 12% low or moderate income housing and 18% middle income housing.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Within the constraints of feasibility convert some of the 18% middle income (120%/140%) units to 100%/120% AMI.
- C. Within the constraints of feasibility provide affordable housing units for a broader range of households than are currently served, by deepening income level targets.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On April 24, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 19121, certified the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report ("Final EIR"), prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. In Resolution No. 19122, the Planning Commission adopted the findings and conclusions required by CEQA regarding alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental impacts analyzed in the Final EIR, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and a Statement of Overriding Considerations as part of its approval of the 2009 Housing Element.

On January 14, 2016, in response to the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program and related General Plan Amendments, the San Francisco Planning Department prepared an Addendum to the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final EIR under CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 ("the Addendum"). The Addendum accessed here and the Note to File is Exhibit H: [http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.1304E\\_AHBP\\_Addendum03\\_011416%20Final.pdf](http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.1304E_AHBP_Addendum03_011416%20Final.pdf)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment on the proposed AHBP has been received through the 20 plus public outreach events, direct correspondence with the Planning Commission or Department staff, and through several public forums and media discussions. Staff have maintained a log of public comments and responded to questions as they are received.

Public comments range greatly and cover a variety of topics. Most frequently public comments include a request for more information or details on a specific item. Key topics of discussion are summarized in the discussions above.

Many commenters support the program's approach to providing more affordable housing, while others express a clear lack of support for the program. More nuanced comments include a series of suggested amendments. Generally these issues are addressed by the discussion above and the related proposed amendments.

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>Recommendation of Approval with Modifications</b>
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### Attachments:

- Exhibit A: Draft Planning Commission Resolution for General Plan Amendments
- Exhibit B: Draft Planning Commission Resolution for BOS File 150969
- Exhibit C: Department Recommendation Summary
- Exhibit D: Public Comment received since November 5, 2015
- Exhibit E: Project Sponsors proposed Amendments to the Affordable Housing Bonus Program
- Exhibit F: Ordinance Adopting General Plan Amendments
- Exhibit G: Board of Supervisors File No. 150969
- Exhibit H: Note to File





# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Executive Summary Planning Code Amendment HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2016 90-DAY DEADLINE: APRIL 11, 2016

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San Francisco,  
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*Project Name:* Affordable Housing Bonus Program  
*Case Number:* 2014-001503PCA [Board File No. 150969] and 2014-001503GPA  
*Initiated by:* Mayor Ed Lee  
Supervisor Katy Tang  
Introduced September 29, 2015, December 16, 2015, and  
January 12, 2016  
*Staff Contact:* Menaka Mohan, Legislative Affairs  
menaka.mohan@sfgov.org, 415-575-9141  
Paolo Ikezoe, Citywide Division  
paolo.ikezoe@sfgov.org, 415-575-9137  
*Reviewed by:* Kearstin Dischinger, Manager of Housing Policy  
kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org, 415-558-6284  
*Recommendation:* Recommend Approval with Modifications

### BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2015, Mayor Edwin M. Lee and Supervisor Katy Tang introduced an ordinance to implement the Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP). The Planning Commission has held four public hearings on the program to date:

- **October 15, 2015<sup>1</sup>**  
Initiation of General Plan Amendments: initiation at Planning Commission of the AHBP General Plan Amendments
- **November 5, 2015<sup>2</sup>**  
Initiation Hearing: introduced the basics of the program and feedback received to date.
- **December 3, 2015<sup>3</sup>**  
Initially scheduled for adoption. Response to public and Commissioner comments and concerns. Adoption hearing continued to January 28th.

<sup>1</sup>Case packet for initiation of AHBP General Plan Amendments:  
<http://commissions.sfplanning.org/cpcpackets/2014-001503GPA.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Case packet for the Planning Code Amendment as presented to the Commission on November 5, 2015:  
[http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/ahbp\\_memotoCPC\\_2014-001503PCA.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/ahbp_memotoCPC_2014-001503PCA.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>Presentation to Planning Commission: [http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP\\_CPC\\_Presentation-120315.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP_CPC_Presentation-120315.pdf)

- January 28, 2016<sup>4</sup>  
Update to Commission on public on changes to the program, including Supervisor Breed's amendment removing existing rent-controlled units from AHBP eligibility.

## REPORT STRUCTURE

The January 28th, 2016 Planning Commission hearing on the Affordable Housing Bonus Program (AHBP or Program) included several public comments and a detailed discussion of the proposed program. In consultation with the Commission President, this case report focuses on six (6) key topics raised at that hearing. Each topic includes the following sections:

- **Topic** a brief summary of the topic and issue raised;
- **AHBP Current Response** a discussion of the AHBP's proposed strategy to address the issues raised.  
Note: the majority of these sections discuss the proposed Local Program which was crafted to respond to local housing policy goals. The Individually Requested and State Analyzed programs primarily implement the State Density Bonus Law; and
- **Recommended Amendments and Implications** a discussion of Amendment strategies to address the identified issues and potential implications of that Amendment. As proposed, the AHBP is intended to achieve increased levels of affordable housing production for low, moderate, and middle income households across San Francisco.

This program has been designed to: incentivize market-rate project applicants to choose a Local Program that achieves 30% affordability rather than the State density bonus program that allows for 12 to 18% affordability; increase the development of 100% affordable housing projects serving households below 60% AMI through the 100% AHBP program; and, increase the City's overall supply of affordable housing without drawing public resources away from existing affordable housing programs. All proposed Amendments to this program will be evaluated for their impact on project feasibility and on their ability to incentivize project sponsors to achieve the highest levels of affordability.

This case report is intended to provide a structure for the Commission to consider these six topics. To assist with this structure a summary Department recommendations has been provided as Exhibit C. These recommendations in no way limit the Commission's actions.

For more detail on the AHBP program goals, outcomes, and the proposed legislation please refer to the November 5, 2015<sup>2</sup> and January 28, 2016<sup>4</sup> Planning Commission Packets. Related studies and reports are available in those packets or on the program website.

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<sup>4</sup> Case packet for the Planning Code Amendment and General Plan Amendment as presented to the Commission on January 28, 2016. <http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/2014-001503PCA.pdf>



## ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS

### Topic 1 Program Eligibility

Commenters are generally supportive of encouraging housing on soft sites; however some have expressed concerns that the AHBP ordinance could incentivize development of parcels that house existing residents. The zoning districts within the AHBP area contain roughly 30,500 parcels, and cover neighborhoods throughout the city.

This section discusses the existing limitations on program eligibility, expected outcomes, and includes one recommendation for Commission consideration.

#### Current Proposal: AHBP and Limits to the Program Scale

To be eligible for the AHBP program, a site must meet several eligibility criteria. A parcel's zoning district has been the most discussed eligibility criterion for the Program; however there are a number of other legislated eligibility criteria proposed in the ordinance that further restrict the program's application. Furthermore, analysis of past development patterns under rezonings and the financial requirements of the program indicate that use of the program will be further limited in application. This section briefly discusses these limiting criteria and supporting analysis.

The Department estimates that of the eligible parcels, approximately 240 parcels citywide will potentially benefit from the AHBP. Generally, these are parcels that are currently developed to less than five percent of existing zoning, do not have any residential uses, and are not schools, churches, hospitals, or historic resources

#### Limiting Criterion 1: Program applies in only certain Zoning Districts ("Program Area")

The California State Density Bonus Law (State Law)<sup>5</sup> applies to residential projects of five or more units anywhere in the state of California.<sup>6</sup> The proposed San Francisco Affordable Housing Bonus Program focuses this broad law on zoning districts with all three of the following features: 1) allowance of residential uses; 2) control of density by a ratio of units to lot area; and 3) allowance of multi-unit residential buildings. The following districts are NOT eligible for the Local or State Analyzed Programs of the AHBP: RH-1 and RH-2 and any zoning districts where density is regulated by form (such as NCT, RTO, UMU, DTR, C-3, etc.).

#### Limiting Criterion 2: No demolition of Historic Resources (less 4,750 or More Parcels)

The AHBP ordinance explicitly disqualifies many parcels within eligible zoning districts based on a number of characteristics. Known historic resources, identified as CEQA Category A buildings by the Department's Historic Preservation division, cannot be demolished to build AHBP projects.<sup>7</sup> Generally, the State Law does not recognize locally designated resources; however the State does allow cities to deny requested incentives, concessions or waivers only for properties listed on National or California Registers. The Local Program protects both eligible and listed

<sup>5</sup>California Government Code Sections 65915 – 65918

<sup>6</sup>Please see Exhibit E which describes sponsor requested legislative changes.

<sup>7</sup>In addition, the Planning Commission does not approve demolition unless the proposed project is also approved.

resources under local, state and federal designations. Criterion 2 (exclusion of projects proposing to demolish historic resources) would reduce the number of eligible parcels by at least 4,750. Additional parcels could be excluded during the application or pre-application process as described below.

Properties in San Francisco are organized into three categories for the purposes of CEQA:

Status		Eligibility for AHBP
Category A	Known Historic Resources	are not eligible
Category B	Unknown (properties over 45 years of age)	may be eligible if determined not to have historic status
Category C	Not a Resource	are eligible to participate

The existing proposal is clear that "Known Historic Resources" sites are not eligible for the program and "Not a Resource" sites are eligible for the program. The only uncertainty that remains is for "Unknown" sites. It is not possible to determine which "Unknown" properties may be reclassified as "Category A" or "C" until a historic resource evaluation is filed with the environmental evaluation. The uncertainty in time and invested resources may reduce the incentive for a project sponsor to participate in the Local AHBP. There are an estimated 4,570 "Category A" buildings in the AHBP area. There are also 22,100 "Category B" buildings – with unknown potential as historic resources. Before a project could be approved on these sites, the necessary historic evaluation would be completed to determine the resource status.

*Category B Properties – Initial Historic Resource Determination*

As part of the AHBP entitlement process the Department may offer an initial historic resource determination. The initial historic resource determination application would not require information on the proposed project as only the historic status of the property would be evaluated. This would allow a project sponsor an opportunity to determine eligibility for the local AHBP without investing resources into the design of the proposed project.

*Category B Properties – Citywide Historic Resources Survey*

Since the beginning of the City's historic preservation program, small-scale surveys have been completed on a piecemeal basis, depending on funding and staff resources. Beginning in the summer of 2016, the Department will begin the first phase of a citywide historic resource survey documenting those areas of San Francisco that have not yet been evaluated. The first priority of this work will be areas potentially eligible for the AHBP and areas currently experiencing, or anticipated to have, heightened development. The citywide historic resource survey project is anticipated to take four to six years to complete. Early determination of either disqualification or eligibility will allow projects to be withdrawn if a resource is present or, if appropriate, designed with greater efficiency and compatibility. This survey work will minimize program uncertainties and associated costs for both the project and the City.

*Category B Properties - Neighborhood Commercial District Survey and Historic Context Statement*

The Department recently completed a Neighborhood Commercial Storefronts Historic Context Statement and data collection phase of a Neighborhood Commercial District Survey. The primary goal of the survey is to identify historic properties that may require future seismic or accessibility upgrades. The Department is currently preparing the community outreach phase of the survey. The survey examined approximately 83 current or formally-zoned neighborhood commercial areas, totaling 5,500 buildings. Along with recent area plan historic surveys, such as Market & Octavia, SoMa, and Mission, the Department will have determinations for virtually all neighborhood commercial corridors within the City. This information will provide upfront information on which properties are Category A or C.

**Limiting Criterion 3: No demolition of a Rent Control Unit**

Board President Supervisor London Breed proposed an amendment to the AHBP ordinance that bans the demolition of any rent control units through this program. The ordinance sponsors, Mayor Edwin Lee and Supervisor Katy Tang, as well as by the Department fully support this proposed amendment. Removing parcels with rent-controlled units is estimated to reduce the number of eligible parcels by 17,000.

**LIMITING CRITERIA TWO AND THREE REMOVE AN ESTIMATED 19,300 PARCELS FROM ELIGIBILITY (ROUGHLY 63% OF 30,500 PARCELS IN THE PROGRAM AREA).**

**Limiting Criterion 4: Cannot shadow a public park or open space**

The AHBP ordinance further limits the use of the Local Program for any project that would cause a significant shadow impact on a public park. It is difficult to estimate the exact limitation this restriction could cause on the program area, because shadow impacts would be determined during the environmental evaluation process, and could vary based on the specific building design. A preliminary shadow fan analysis indicates that up to 9,800 parcels could potentially be limited in their ability to build two additional stories of height due to this restriction and proximity to public parks. Specific analysis of a particular building proposal could change these initial results.

**Limiting Criterion 5: Gain Commission approval required to demolish a unit**

The City of San Francisco currently has very strict regulations around the demolition of a housing unit (Planning Code Section 317). Any project proposing to demolish a residential unit would be required to make the necessary findings and receive Planning Commission approval for the project.

**Past development patterns suggest development would primarily happen on underutilized (soft) sites**

The vast majority of eligible parcels contain healthy buildings and uses that would make them unlikely to be redeveloped. For example, the Market Octavia Area Plan rezoned every parcel in the Plan Area, removing density restrictions and increasing the zoned potential of most parcels. Despite this widespread rezoning, the plan resulted in new development on underutilized parcels such as former freeway parcels and large underutilized lots on Market Street. Other

parcels that were rezoned as part of Market and Octavia that host healthy older buildings including single family homes, apartment buildings and mixed uses have not attracted new development proposals because the current uses are highly valued by the community. It is anticipated that the AHBP would lead to similar development patterns. For purposes of estimating potential housing unit yields from the AHBP program, the Department identified approximately 240 underutilized ("soft") sites – sites where the current built envelope comprises five percent or less of the allowable building envelope under current zoning. Also, parcels containing residential uses, schools, hospitals and historic resources were also excluded as potential development sites.

While the Local AHBP offers clear development incentives, such as two stories of height and increased density, it also requires that project sponsors provide: 1) 30% of all units as permanently affordable; 2) 40% of the units as two bedroom; and 3) meet specific new design requirements of the Program. Financial analysis tested the program's value recapture to ensure the maximum affordable housing was required while still providing an incentive for projects to elect to provide 30% affordable housing. The analysis found the program is feasible, but only in some cases.

The financial feasibility analysis assumes current land values of the existing parcels remain constant with the implementation of the AHBP. The financial analysis assumes that land values would not increase due to program benefits; accordingly, there is little flexibility in the price projects can afford to pay for land. Further, the analysis assumes that the existing uses did not add to land value, so any existing use that would add value not considered by the financial analysis and would likely tip a project into infeasibility. In other words, the AHBP Local Program is financially feasible only for projects on sites where the existing building does not add costs to acquiring the property. A site with several residential units would command a higher market price than what was tested, and therefore the Local Program or State Analyzed Programs would likely not be financially feasible on sites with existing buildings.

#### **Department Recommended Amendment to Further Limit Program Eligibility**

To address concern around the program's scale, the Department recommends the following amendment:

- ❖ ADD LIMITING CRITERION: PROJECTS THAT PROPOSE TO DEMOLISH ANY RESIDENTIAL UNITS SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR AHBP.

Supervisor Breed's amendment to the program already prevents parcels containing existing rent-controlled units from developing through the AHBP. The City could further limit the eligibility for AHBP to projects that do not demolish any existing residential units (regardless of rent-controlled status).

### Potential Implication of Proposed Amendment

If the AHBP was limited to projects that did *not have ANY residential units*:

The AHBP could still produce 5,000 affordable housing units on 240 potential soft sites over a 20 year period. None of the soft sites identified contain known existing housing units, as the Department considers the development of sites with existing units unlikely for the reasons discussed above. Should the Planning Commission recommend this amendment, the amendment would not reduce the development potential on the identified potential soft sites.

Smaller increases in density to parcels with existing residential uses would be prohibited. Generally, sites with existing residential uses are unlikely to redevelop under the AHBP. However in the occasional instance where an owner wanted to redevelop a property with residential uses, the density of the new building would be limited by existing regulations, and there would not be the incentive to provide 30% affordable housing. Especially on smaller sites, where total units are below the 10 unit threshold for inclusionary housing under Planning Code section 415, the amendment could mean a reduction or omission of affordable housing when these sites are developed. If even 5% of the sites with only one unit in the Program area chose to develop and add more units (as allowed under existing regulations), the City could gain an additional roughly 300 permanently affordable units.<sup>8</sup> **These units would not be built if this amendment is adopted. Additionally, these sites could redevelop under existing zoning controls producing zero affordable housing units.**

For projects that include five or more units, property owners could still avail themselves of the State Density Bonus Law and receive up a 35% increase in density, up to three incentives and concessions and waivers of development standards as defined by the State Law, while providing less affordable housing and no middle income housing. In addition, the State Law would limit the Department and Commission's ability to disapprove any incentives, concessions or waivers requested by the project sponsor.

### Topic 2: Infrastructure to Support New Growth

San Francisco residents enjoy a high level of public infrastructure including access to open space and parks, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, schools, and an urban transit system. As the City's population grows, these amenities must be managed and scaled to accommodate new residents and maintain the quality of life in San Francisco. Recent area plans have generally included a community improvements plan and commensurate revenue strategies to enable infrastructure growth with new development. Commenters have asked how transportation and other amenities will be provided to support new residential development enabled through the AHBP. This section describes the City's current strategy for planning infrastructure to support new growth, with a focus on transportation.

#### Current Proposal: AHBP and Transportation Services

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<sup>8</sup> There are roughly 4,100 single-family homes in the AHBP program area in zoning districts that currently allow higher density development. Based on the Department's analysis, if only 5% of these sites were to redevelop they could produce upwards of 350 new permanently affordable units and a total net increase of 1,000 units.

The Program area is generally within walking distance to the Muni Rapid Network, the high level of service corridors such as Muni's light rail lines, Geary Boulevard and Mission Street. This means that the AHBP is encouraging new housing where the City is currently investing in increased levels of transportation services. This land use and transportation planning coordination ensures the City's investments will support new residents.

Area plans such as Market & Octavia and Eastern Neighborhoods include neighborhood specific impact fees to support concentrated development. For the more dispersed development associated with the AHBP, the City has subsequently completed a citywide infrastructure standards analysis and created commensurate citywide infrastructure funding mechanisms and plans. Many of the City's our infrastructure systems, especially transit and childcare, operate on a citywide basis and generally require a citywide approach when planning improvements.

In the past several years, San Francisco has made great progress on several citywide transportation planning efforts and has established several new transportation revenue sources. In addition to the ongoing revenue sources, in 2014 voters approved a \$500 Million transportation bond. Also in 2014, voters supported Proposition B which tethers additional transportation funding to the rate of population growth.

The Citywide Transportation Sustainability Fee (TSF), which applies to new residential and commercial development, is anticipated to generate \$1.2 billion in revenue over 30 years. TSF revenues will enable the City to "invest in our transportation network" and "shift modeshare by requiring new developments to prioritize more sustainable travel methods". The Department anticipates that over 80% of the projected projects that take advantage of the AHBP would include 20 units or more, and therefore would be subject to the recently established TSP fee. Thus, the AHBP could generate upwards of 99 million dollars<sup>9</sup> in new transportation funding to support new residents. These funds will contribute meaningfully to the City's overall transportation funding strategy and enable the City to accomplish planned improvements to the network.

In addition to the TSF, all projects entitled under the AHBP would be subject to existing citywide fees for Public Schools, Public Utilities Commission (sewer and water) and childcare facilities.

These fees enable the City to make initial investments in infrastructure systems to support new growth. Maintaining a high level of service for all infrastructure types is critical to the quality of life in San Francisco. Much of the AHBP area includes parts of the City with higher levels of service for open space and pedestrian amenities.<sup>10</sup>

### Topic 3: Urban Design

Some commenters have expressed concerns about the compatibility of potential AHBP buildings and neighborhood context. Some have expressed concern that the AHBP takes a 'one-size-fits-all'

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<sup>9</sup> In today's dollars, at \$7.74 per GSF, this estimate does not account for annual indexing of fees to account for cost inflation.

<sup>10</sup>San Francisco Infrastructure Level of Service Analysis March 2014. [http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/plan-implementation/20140403\\_SFInfrastructureLOSAAnalysis\\_March2014.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/plan-implementation/20140403_SFInfrastructureLOSAAnalysis_March2014.pdf)

approach, which applies too broadly across the City's many neighborhoods. Some have asked whether the consistent development incentives would cause a monotonous or "one size fits all" outcome in terms of urban form. The need for special consideration for infill projects in existing historic districts has been raised. Some commenters also raised questions about the relationship between potential heights and existing road widths, suggesting that narrow streets may warrant special consideration. And, some have suggested that the limits on lot mergers should relate to the neighborhood context more specifically.

#### **Current Proposal: AHBP and Urban Design**

As drafted, the AHBP includes several parameters to ensure neighborhood and context-specific urban form.

#### **Existing Controls Vary to Reflect Neighborhood Context**

The Local Program of the AHBP enables projects to include two additional stories of housing when 30% of affordable housing is provided. The height increases are based upon the existing height regulations. While the incentive is the same increment across the City, the outcomes of the program will vary based on the underlying height limits. In many districts, the program enables six-story buildings, in some seven-story buildings, and in others eight-story and above buildings. While an AHBP project providing 30% on-site affordable units in the Western Addition and one in the Sunset would both receive two extra stories of height; the former, in a 65-foot height district, would result in an eight story building and the latter, in a 40 foot height district, would result in a six-story building. Current variations in underlying height controls will continue to be expressed through the AHBP.

Urban design in many cities and neighborhood types follow different general principles. San Francisco considers building height in relation to street widths. In some areas, a building's maximum podium height might be related to a street width, while in less dense neighborhoods, the overall maximum height of a building might be related to the street width. Generally, a ratio of building heights and street widths between .75 to 1.5 is considered appropriate in San Francisco.<sup>11</sup> This means that streets that are 40 feet wide can comfortably host buildings from 30 to 60 feet tall. Streets 50 feet wide can host buildings 40 to 75 feet tall. Streets 55 feet wide can host buildings 41 to 83 feet tall. All of the Program area includes roads that are 50 feet or wider – meaning they can comfortably host buildings that are 60 feet or taller. Thus, the AHBP does not currently allow buildings that would be considered too tall in relation to the street width, based on this ratio.

#### **Design Guidelines**

AHBP projects will be subject to program specific design guidelines. The guidelines address four topic areas: tops of buildings, middle of buildings, ground floors, and infill projects within existing historic districts. These guidelines will ensure San Francisco's practice of emphasizing context-specific design in new construction. The AHBP draft Design Guidelines includes 25 design guidelines<sup>12</sup>. Three of the most relevant to context-specific design include:

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<sup>11</sup> Allan B. Jacobs, *Great Streets*, Fourth Printing, 1996, pages 277 to 280.

<sup>12</sup> The complete AHBP draft design guidelines are available here: [http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP\\_Draft\\_Design\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/files/plans-and-programs/planning-for-the-city/ahbp/AHBP_Draft_Design_Guidelines.pdf)

- T1. Sculpt tops of buildings to contribute to neighborhood quality (page 6 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).
- T3. Express Exceptional and Complementary Architectural Character (page 7 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).
- B3. The façades of new buildings should extend patterns (page 10 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).

*Development within Historic Districts*

Some historic districts maintain a strong uniformity while other exhibit varied character. AHBP projects will likely result in developments of greater density than the surrounding historic context. Increased density in historic districts does not inherently conflict with historic preservation principles. Historic districts are capable of allowing increased housing density without affecting the historic character and features of a district.

Infill projects within an eligible district will be reviewed by Planning Department Preservation staff in addition to the Planning Commission for compatibility with the AHBP Design Guidelines. There is no proposed change in process for an infill project within a locally-designated district under Article 10 or Article 11 of the Planning Code. Historic Preservation Commission review and approval through a Certificate of Appropriateness or Permit to Alter entitlement would continue to be required. Findings of compliance with local guidelines and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards would also continue to be required.

Projects proposed for sites of non-contributing buildings and vacant lots within historic districts are required to meet the AHBP Design Guidelines for compatibility with surrounding historic context and features. AHBP projects will likely result in developments that may be taller than the surrounding historic context, thus it is crucial that the design of infill construction within historic districts not be so differentiated that it becomes the primary focus. Application of the AHBP Design Guidelines, by the Department, decision-makers, and with oversight from the community, will assist in achieving innovative and exceptional design solutions where the scale and massing of a project must relate to the surrounding historic context.

Below are two of the nine AHBP Design Guidelines for projects within a historic district

- H2. Strengthen the primary characteristics of the district through infill construction by referencing and relating to the historic design, landscape, use, and cultural expressions found within the district (page 18 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).
- H6. Design to be identifiable as contemporary and harmonious with the historic district in terms of general site characteristics, materials, and features (page 18 of the AHBP Design Guidelines).

**Lot Merger Limits and AHBP**

Current Planning Code controls only regulate lot mergers in a limited number of districts<sup>13</sup> in the AHBP area. The AHBP ordinance proposes to extend lot limit merger regulations. AHBP projects

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<sup>13</sup> Inner and Outer Clement NCDs, and NC-2 Districts on Balboa Street between 2nd Avenue and 8th Avenues, and between 32nd Avenue and 38th Avenues.



that request a lot merger would be limited to less than 125 feet of street frontage. This generally reflects 50% of a typical San Francisco block, reflecting prevailing patterns in the program area neighborhoods.

The AHBP lot merger language is based on research that looked at past trends and the typical commercial corridor block length in the Sunset. Given that the typical commercial corridor block length in the Richmond and the Sunset is approximately 240 feet, 125 feet provides a good proximate for a building to not exceed. Note that this regulation would only apply to projects that participate in the AHBP. Current regulations would still apply to projects that are not participating in the AHBP. Currently, lot mergers are regulated in a few of the City's districts. Most commercial corridor zoning districts currently require a Conditional Use if the lot size is 10,000 square feet and above.

#### Department Recommended Amendments to Urban Design

- ❖ *ADD A DESIGN GUIDELINE TO MAXIMIZE LIGHT AND AIR TO THE SIDEWALKS AND FRONTAGES ALONG THE STREETS, INCLUDING ALLEYWAYS.*
- ❖ *BASE LOT MERGER LIMITATIONS ON 50% OF THE ACTUAL BLOCK LENGTH, RATHER THAN APPLY A CITYWIDE NUMERICAL CAP.*
- ❖ *DIRECT PLANNING STAFF TO INCLUDE ANALYSIS OF A PROJECT'S CONFORMITY TO DESIGN GUIDELINES IN A PLANNING COMMISSION CASE REPORT.*

#### Potential Implication of Proposed Amendments

Additional design guidelines would empower design review to focus on the relationship between street width and building heights. A design guideline to "maximize light and air to the sidewalks and frontages along the streets, including alleyways" would speak to the overall feel of a particular corridor and a specific housing proposal. The Planning Commission would be required to find projects consistent with all AHBP design guidelines as part of the approval process. This would enhance urban design outcomes and ensure that new buildings are context-sensitive.

Relating the lot merger limitations to block length rather than overall parcel size ensures that AHBP projects relate to the specific neighborhood context. Limitations on lot mergers could, in rare cases, reduce total units produced for an individual project. However the proposed ratio would result in good urban design consistent with prevailing patterns and would offer an appropriate limitation on the scale of potential AHBP projects.

#### Topic 4: Public Review and Commission Approval

Some commenters have expressed concern that AHBP projects will not have adequate public input, City review or Planning Commission review. In particular commenters raised questions about the appeals process proposed for the Local AHBP, the conditional use findings and the ability of the Commission to make modifications to the design of the building.

#### Current Proposal: The Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program Project Review

As drafted, the Local AHBP does not reduce public input nor public hearing requirements for projects entitled under this program. In fact, the Local Program increases the opportunity for public input because every Local AHBP project will require a Planning Commission hearing

under the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization proposed in Section 328, including some projects that would not otherwise require Planning Commission approval. Under the proposal, only projects that provide 30% permanently affordable housing, or greater, would be eligible for the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization process.

**Entitlement Process for AHBP State Analyzed Program**

Projects entitled under the State Analyzed Program will have no reduction in the City's current review process. These projects will either provide the minimum inclusionary amount, or may provide between 13% or 20% affordable housing in order to obtain a greater density bonus or an increased number of incentives and concessions. Projects entitled through the State-Analyzed program will be subject to the same review and approval processes as they would today – the triggers for Conditional Use Authorization or any other code section that requires a Planning Commission hearing will continue to have a Planning Commission hearing. Projects that use the State-Analyzed program and do not trigger a Planning Commission hearing under the Code are still subject to Discretionary Review (DR). Projects using the State-Analyzed program and choose an incentive off the pre-determined menu that would have required a variance would no longer be subject to a variance hearing. However, if the project seeks a variance that is not from the menu, a variance hearing would be required.

**Entitlement Process for AHBP Local Program and 100% Affordable**

Projects entitled under the Local Program and the 100% Affordable Program, which respectively provide 30% affordable units or are completely affordable developments, will be reviewed under the proposed "Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization," as proposed in Section 328. This entitlement process is similar to the existing Large Project Authorization (LPA) process in the Eastern Neighborhoods Mixed Use Districts set forth in Planning Code section 329. The goals of establishing a new process for projects that provide 30% affordable housing include: 1) create a single process for projects with clear requirements and procedures; 2) enable the Planning Commission to grant exceptions to proposed projects without requiring a variance; and 3) build on the success of the LPA process established as part of the Eastern Neighborhood Mixed Use Districts. Should a project include a component that would currently require a conditional use approval (CU), the Commission would continue to be required to make the necessary findings that would otherwise be made as part of a CU hearing under the new entitlement process, and in addition to the required findings set forth in the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization.

Section 328 - the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization process has a consistent review process for all Local Program projects. The review allows the Commission to grant minor exceptions to the Code to respond to design concerns raised by staff and the community in ways that would otherwise require a variance from the Zoning Administrator.

The Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization process recognizes that projects that take advantage of the Local Program of the AHBP may be larger than the surrounding neighborhood context in order to facilitate higher levels of affordability. Projects must comply with the AHBP Design Guidelines. The Commission can *disapprove a project* if it fails to meet the AHBP Design Guidelines, other applicable design guidelines, the Better Streets Plan or the General Plan. A project must have the required 30% or more onsite affordability to qualify for the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization.

**CU findings and authority of CPC to change projects**

The Planning Commission will continue to have the authority to shape a building and revise certain components of a project, such as proposed land use, or other elements that might otherwise be approved under a particular Conditional Use Authorization permit.

The Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization is designed to allow the Planning Commission the ability to make minor modifications to a project's height, bulk, and mass. However, the process recognizes that these projects may be somewhat taller or bulkier than surrounding buildings, and the intent is to limit such modifications to ensure that projects meet the AHBP's affordability goals. Additionally, as mentioned above, the Planning Commission will be able to grant Planning Code exceptions to shift the mass of a project, if appropriate, as a tool to respond to surrounding context.

**Summary: Review Process Current Process and AHBP Projects**

	Current Process	State Analyzed	Local Program, 328 Affordable Housing Benefit Review
Preliminary Project Assessment (PPA)	x	x	x
Environmental Review	x	x	x
Pre-Application Meeting (with neighbors)	x	x	x
Design and Plan Review	x	x	x
Neighborhood notification (Section 311/312), or Planning Commission Hearing Notification	x	x	x
Required Planning Commission Hearing	Sometimes, DR optional	Sometimes, DR optional	x
Entitlement Appeals Body	Board of Appeals, or Board of Supervisors	Board of Appeals, or Board of Supervisors	Board of Appeals

**Priority Processing for Projects with High Levels of Affordability**

Projects that provide 20% affordable housing or more are currently eligible for priority processing – which means they are the first priority project for assigned staff. Priority processing does not change or reduce the steps in the review process. However, it can reduce time related to backlogs or high volumes of projects. Local AHBP projects would be eligible for priority processing.

**Department Recommended Amendments to Public Review and Commission Approval**

The following amendments regarding the entitlement process for Local AHBP projects could further address the identified issues:

- ❖ MODIFY THE LOCAL AND 100 PERCENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROJECT AUTHORIZATION SUCH THAT APPEALS WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.

As currently drafted, projects that apply under the Local AHBP are subject to the Local and 100 percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization (Section 328) are appealable to the Board of Appeals. The appeal of a Section 328 decision could be directed to the Board of Supervisors, using the process found in Section 308 et seq. Under this code section Planning Commission decisions are appealable to the Board of Supervisors within 30 days after the date of action by the Planning Commission, and would be subscribed by either (i) the owners of at least 20 percent of the property affected by the proposed amendment or (ii) five members of the Board of Supervisors.

**Alternative Amendment:**

- ❖ CONVERT THE 328 PROCESS TO A SEPARATE CONDITIONAL USE AUTHORIZATION PERMIT FOR ALL PROJECTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE LOCAL AHBP.

**Potential Implications of Proposed Amendments**

Shifting appeals of entitlement to the Board of Supervisors for Local AHBP projects would not substantially impact the outcomes of the AHBP program in terms of unit production. There is some chance that project sponsors perceive this appeals process as offering less certainty or potentially an increased entitlement process, because the Board of appeals requires four out five votes to overturn a Planning Commission decision.

In contrast, appeals to the BOS require support of 20% of adjacent property owners or five Board members to be considered, however a two-thirds majority of Supervisors can overturn a Planning Commission decision. Therefore entitlement of projects likely would not be further burdened by this requirement.

**Topic 5: Preserving Small Business**

San Francisco's small business community is an integral part of our neighborhood commercial corridors, local economy and San Francisco's rich culture. Some commenters have expressed concerns around the potential impacts of the AHBP on existing small businesses and neighborhood commercial corridors. Will small businesses be afforded the opportunity to successfully transition to new locations when necessary? Will neighborhoods continue to have the neighborhood serving businesses?

**Current Proposal: Small Business Preservation and AHBP**

Generally, AHBP infill housing is anticipated on soft sites that are predominantly vacant, parking lots or garages, gas stations, or other uses that use only a small amount of the total development potential. That said some of these sites include existing businesses on neighborhood commercial corridors. New development requires a willing seller, buyer and developer. The potential impact

of this Program to specific businesses locations or business types cannot be quantified in any certain terms due to these factors. However it is generally understood that there are existing structures on less than half of the 240 potential soft sites.

The City is committed to maintaining small businesses in its neighborhoods. For this reason, the AHBP includes general assistance and support for any business that might be impacted, which can be tailored on a case-by-case basis. Staff anticipates that developments using the AHBP will produce additional commercial spaces and enhance existing commercial corridors.

#### Protections for Existing Businesses

As currently proposed, the AHBP addresses small business preservation in several ways.

Having adequate notification time when re-location is necessary has been one of the top concerns raised by small businesses in their recent quarterly meetings with the Mayor. Recently required seismic upgrades have forced many businesses to relocate with only a few months' notice. To address this concern and at the suggestion of OEWD and the Small Business Commission, the AHBP requires that project sponsors notify tenants of their first application to the Planning Department for environment review. Generally project construction starts two or three years after a project files for environmental review, but this can vary based on project size and other factors. This notification will guarantee tenants adequate time to develop an updated business plan, identify necessary capital, find an appropriate location, and complete necessary tenant improvements in a new location. The notification letter will also refer the business owner to OEWD and other agencies that can provide technical assistance and support. These services can help small businesses achieve a successful transition.

Relocating businesses may qualify for and take advantage of the Community Business Priority Processing Program (CB3P). Projects that qualify for and enroll in the CB3P are guaranteed a Planning Commission hearing date within 90 days of filing a complete application, and placement on the Consent Calendar. Certain limitations do apply<sup>14</sup>. All CB3P applications are subject to the same level of neighborhood notice, the same Planning Code provisions, and the same (if applicable) CEQA review requirements, and may still be shifted from Consent to Regular Calendar if requested by a Planning Commissioner or member of the public.

#### Enhancing Neighborhood Commercial Corridors and AHBP

Existing Planning Code controls encourage neighborhood appropriate new commercial spaces. Existing commercial size limits, listed below, will apply to new commercial space constructed as part of AHBP buildings. Existing use limitations (including formula retail regulations) will apply. These use size limitations were established through community planning processes to reflect neighborhood character. Any new or expanded uses above these amounts will continue to trigger a conditional use authorization.

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<sup>14</sup> Generally, eligible businesses cannot be a formula retail store with more than 20 establishments and cannot expand or intensify the use and certain uses such as alcohol, adult entertainment, massage, fringe financial and certain other uses cannot participate. See the Planning Department website for more information: <http://www.sf-planning.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=9130>.

The median independent retail size in San Francisco is 2,200 square feet and the median formula retail size in San Francisco is 6,500 square feet. Existing controls related to use size limitations generally encourage and support a continuation of small businesses on neighborhood commercial corridors. A sampling of use size controls is listed below.

NC District	Current Use Size Limit
North Beach, Castro Street, Pacific Avenue	2,000 sq. ft.
Inner Clement, Inner Sunset, Outer Clement, Upper Fillmore, Haight, Polk, Sacramento, Union, 24 <sup>th</sup> (Noe), West Portal	2,500 sq. ft.
NC-1, Broadway	3,000 sq. ft.
NC-2	4,000 sq. ft.
NC-3; NC-S	6,000 sq. ft.

Most Neighborhood Commercial Districts encourage, but do not require, neighborhood commercial uses<sup>15</sup>. New infill projects would likely choose to include ground floor commercial uses. In fact, the AHBP Design Guidelines include eight specific controls for the ground floor (on page 13 of the AHBP Design Guidelines), which otherwise do not exist in many of our neighborhoods. For example, the AHBP Design Guidelines state that no more than 30 percent of the width of the ground floor may be devote to garage entries or blank walls; building entries and shop fronts should add to the character of the street by being clearly identifiable and inviting; and where present, retail frontages should occupy no less than 75 percent of a building frontage at the ground floor.

**Department Recommended Amendments to Preserving Small Business**

The Planning Department presented the AHBP to the Small Business Commission on February 8. Staff will return to the Small Business Commission on February 22 for further discussion. The following potential amendments have been identified by the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) staff and the Small Business Commission.

- ❖ REQUIRE EXISTING BUSINESSES BE OFFERED FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL FOR COMMERCIAL SPACE IN NEW BUILDINGS.
- ❖ RECOMMEND THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT THE CITY TO ESTABLISH A SMALL BUSINESS RELOCATION FEE TO BE PAID BY NEW

<sup>15</sup> Planning Code Section 145.4 establishes requirements for ground floor retail on certain parts of streets such as along Market Street from Castro through the Downtown; along Hayes Street through the NCT; and along Fillmore Street from Bush Street to McAllister Street. See all such requirements in Planning Code Section 145.4.

*DEVELOPMENT CONSISTENT WITH THE VALUES OFFERED UNDER THE UNIFORM RELOCATION ACT.*

- ❖ *REQUIRE THAT EARLY NOTIFICATION TO COMMERCIAL TENANTS BE NO LESS THAN 18 MONTHS AND BE SENT TO BOTH THE TENANT AND THE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT (OEWD)*
- ❖ *ALLOW PLANNING COMMISSION TO REDUCE COMMERCIAL USE SIZES OR REQUIRE COMMERCIAL USES IN AHBP PROJECTS TO PROTECT NEIGHBORHOOD SERVING BUSINESSES*

**Potential Implications of Proposed Amendments**

A first right of refusal would enable existing businesses to have a competitive edge in securing space on their existing site. Businesses could participate in site design and potentially benefit from efficiencies in building the commercial spaces, for example, by making later tenant improvements unnecessary. While most businesses will likely not exercise this option because it would require relocating twice, the option offers the opportunity, especially for location sensitive businesses. This requirement would not reduce potential affordable housing production, but it may provide a developer with additional community support when valued businesses are retained.

Notifying OEWD will enable the City to take a proactive role in supporting small businesses and to coordinate support through various programs such as Invest and Neighborhoods and the Retention and Relocation Program. OEWD will know about proposed developments early enough in the process to effectively engage businesses and provide whatever supports are needed.

The Small Business Commission and OEWD staff suggest that the early notification would be most effective if businesses are afforded at least 18 months from first notification to required relocation date. Since relocation is required before environmental review commences, this required notification period should not delay a projects entitlement or development process.

The City can apply the standards of the federal Uniform Relocation Act to AHBP properties. For new construction that is funded all or in part with federal funds, the Act requires relocation advisory services for displaced businesses; a minimum 90 days written notice to vacate prior to requiring possession; and reimbursement for moving and reestablishment expenses. For a business, moving fees are based on a public bidding process plus a business is eligible for \$10,000 in reestablishment costs; or a business can receive a fixed payment of no more than \$20,000. The City could require project sponsors provide relocation costs consistent with the Uniform Relocation Act to existing commercial tenants. This payment would facilitate a business's successful transition to a new space in the neighborhood.

**Topic 6: Who are we serving with this program? Affordability**

Several commenters have asked if the affordable units generated through the AHBP are serving the right households. Some have suggested that the program should be adjusted to include a broader range of affordability. Some have suggested that households at 100 and 120% AMI should also be serviced through this program. Others have questioned whether affordability

targets should vary based on neighborhood demographics. In particular the following questions have been raised:

1. Why doesn't the program address the lowest income households?
2. Are middle income households served by market rate housing?
3. Should there be neighborhood specific elements of the program?

**Current proposal: Households served and AHBP**

The AHBP will be one of many affordable housing programs in San Francisco. The Program is unique in that it does not require public subsidy of the affordable units and incentivizes the private sector to provide a greater absolute number and greater percentage of affordable housing, similar to the City's inclusionary housing program. The AHBP proposes to increase the number of affordable units built to service low and moderate income households while also broadening the band of households eligible for permanently affordable housing to include middle income households. The AHBP proposes to increase low, moderate and middle income housing in San Francisco's neighborhoods.

**Affordable Housing Programs and Housing Supply in San Francisco**

The AHBP will be one of many tools to address housing affordability in San Francisco. Today, the majority (88% of affordable units produced) of the City's affordable housing programs<sup>16</sup> serve households earning less than 60% AMI (\$42,800 for a one-person household and \$55,000 for a three-person household). Less than 9% of the affordable units created under the City's current programs serve those households at 80% AMI and above.

San Francisco is a leader in developing local funding sources for affordable housing, and has one of the nation's oldest inclusionary housing programs. The City's recent efforts include establishing a Local Housing Trust Fund and the Hope SF program. San Francisco dedicated a high proportion (40%) of all tax increment funding (TIF) generated in Redevelopment Areas to affordable housing. However, given that it costs \$250,000 or more to subsidize a single affordable housing unit in San Francisco, the City would need to generate \$4 billion in local subsidies to fund the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) target of 16,000 affordable units by 2022. Local subsidies cannot be the only approach to securing permanently affordable housing. This underscores the need for programs such as our existing inclusionary program and the AHBP.

Over the next ten years, the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development plans to build an additional 4,640 housing units permanently affordable to households earning below 120% AMI. These new affordable units will be in addition to the thousands of affordable units that will be rehabilitated or preserved as part of RAD or other affordability preservation efforts. Roughly 4,400 of these units will service households earning 60% of the AMI or below. The remaining 241 units, most of which will be funded by federal and State dollars that often have further affordability restrictions, would service households at 60% AMI or below. With the construction of these pipeline projects the City will have a total of 42,640 permanently affordable housing units for households earning 60% AMI or below. The AHBP will add an additional 2,000

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<sup>16</sup>This includes units provided under the Multifamily Housing Program, the Inclusionary Program, Former SFRA, Inclusionary Condo Conversion, Public Housing, HUS-assisted Projects, Master Lease, and other Tax Credit Projects. This does not include the Down Payment Assistance Loan Program or Section 8 vouchers that are used in San Francisco.



units for low and moderate income households – bringing the total to 44,640. In addition, the AHBP will provide 3,000 permanently affordable middle income units.

Affordability Level	Existing Permanently Affordable Units	MOHCD Pipeline housing (10 years)	AHBP Affordable Units (20 years)	Projected Total Affordable Units (with MOHCD known pipeline and AHBP)	
Very Low, Low and Moderate Income	36,260 <sup>17</sup>				
Less than 60% AMI		4,640	2,000	44,640	94%
Less than 120% AMI	3,285 <sup>18</sup>				
Middle Income (120% rental and 140% owner)			3,000	3,000	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,500</b>		<b>5,000</b>	<b>47,640</b>	<b>100%</b>

The Local AHBP Program complements these existing and ongoing programs by providing affordable housing units to serve low, moderate, and middle income households making above 55% of AMI.

**Affordable Housing Units encouraged through the AHBP**

The AHBP builds on the City’s existing Inclusionary Housing Program, which serves low and moderate income households earning up to 55% of AMI (rental) and 90% of AMI (ownership)<sup>19</sup>. Only projects that provide the affordable units on site are eligible for the AHBP. This will incentivize projects, that might otherwise elect to pay the in lieu fee, to elect to provide affordable units on-site within the project.

The AHBP is projected to enable 5,000 permanently affordable units over a 20 year period. The Department estimates that the AHBP could result in 2,000 low and moderate income inclusionary units over the next 20 years. This will be more than double the 900 possible inclusionary units enabled under current zoning on the same sites. This is a significant enhancement to San

<sup>17</sup> Roughly 13,180 of these units will service households earning 30% of the AMI or below.

<sup>18</sup> Most of the existing units for 120% AMI and below are affordable to households earning no more than 80% AMI.

<sup>19</sup> Note: the existing inclusionary program allows project sponsors to pay a fee in lieu of providing the affordable housing units.

Francisco's ability to provide affordable housing for low and moderate income households.<sup>20</sup> This program will also generate an additional 3,000 permanently affordable middle income units.

Potential Affordable Housing Units produced in AHBP Area, under current controls or under AHBP, by affordability, over 20 years.

Affordability Levels	Current Controls (Units)	AHBP Maximum Potential (Units)
<b>Low and Moderate Income Households</b> (55% AMI for rental and 90% AMI for ownership)	900	2,000
<b>Middle Income Households</b> (120% AMI for rental and 140% AMI for ownership)	0	3,000
<b>Total Permanently Affordable Housing Units</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>5,000</b>

**Low and Moderate Income Households Served**

The AHBP could potentially double the number of inclusionary units serving low and moderate income households (55% or 90% of AMI) produced in the Program Area, compared to current zoning controls.

In 2015, a one-person household making 55%-90% of Area Median Income earns between \$39,250 and \$64,200. For a family of three, the range is \$50,450 to \$82,550. Households in this income category could include the following:

- A single housekeeper (55% AMI)
- A single entry level public school teacher (90% AMI)
- A single parent police officer or fire fighter with one child (90% AMI)
- A single parent postal clerk with two children (55% AMI)
- A construction worker and a dishwasher (90% AMI)
- Two cashiers and two children (55% AMI)
- A public school teacher and a housekeeping cleaner with two children (90% AMI)

**THE AHBP WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 UNITS AFFORDABLE TO THESE HOUSEHOLDS.**

**Middle Income Households Served**

In 2015, a one-person household making 120% - 140% of Area Median Income earns between \$85,600 and \$99,900. For a family of three, the range is \$110,050 to \$128,400. This level of income

<sup>20</sup> Between 1992 through 2014 the inclusionary program has generated nearly 2,000 affordable units.

is significantly higher than households traditionally serviced by affordable housing programs; market rate housing is out of reach for these households in San Francisco. Households in this income category could include the following:

- A single Electrician (120% AMI)
- A single Electrical Engineer (140% AMI)
- A police officer or firefighter and a minimum wage worker (barista, etc.) (120% AMI)
- An ambulance dispatcher and a housekeeper (140% AMI)
- 2 Public School teachers with 1 child (140% AMI)
- 2 public school teachers with 2 children (120% AMI)
- A police officer and a firefighter with 2 children (140% AMI)

**THE AHBP WILL PRODUCE AN ADDITIONAL 3,000 UNITS AFFORDABLE TO THESE HOUSEHOLDS.**

**Need for Permanently Affordable Middle Income Housing**

Based on federal, state, and local standards, "affordable" housing costs no more than 30% of the household's gross income. In 2015 middle income households earning 120% of AMI and 140% of AMI could afford the following maximum rents and sale prices:

	Affordable monthly rent <sup>21</sup>	Median Rents in San Francisco, 2015	Affordable sales price <sup>22</sup>
1-person household (studio unit)	\$2,100	\$3,490 (one bedroom)	\$398,295
3-person household (2 bedroom unit)	\$2,689	\$4,630 Two bedroom	\$518,737

Comparatively, median rents are \$3,490 for a 1 bedroom, and \$4,630 for a 2 bedroom apartment in San Francisco<sup>23</sup>. To afford these rents a middle income households (120% AMI) would be required to dedicate 50% or more of their income to housing costs, market San Francisco recently exceeded \$1 million<sup>24</sup>, again twice what a middle income (140% AMI) household can afford.

The income categories serviced by the AHBP are the household types that are declining in San Francisco. Census data show that households earning between 50% of AMI and 150% of AMI fell from 49% of all households in 1990 to just 37% in 2013. These are the income categories for which new, permanently affordable housing would be created under the AHBP. Middle-income households (120-150% AMI, the dark orange bar below) include a diminishing share of the City's growing population, falling from 11% of the population in 1990 to 9% in 2013.

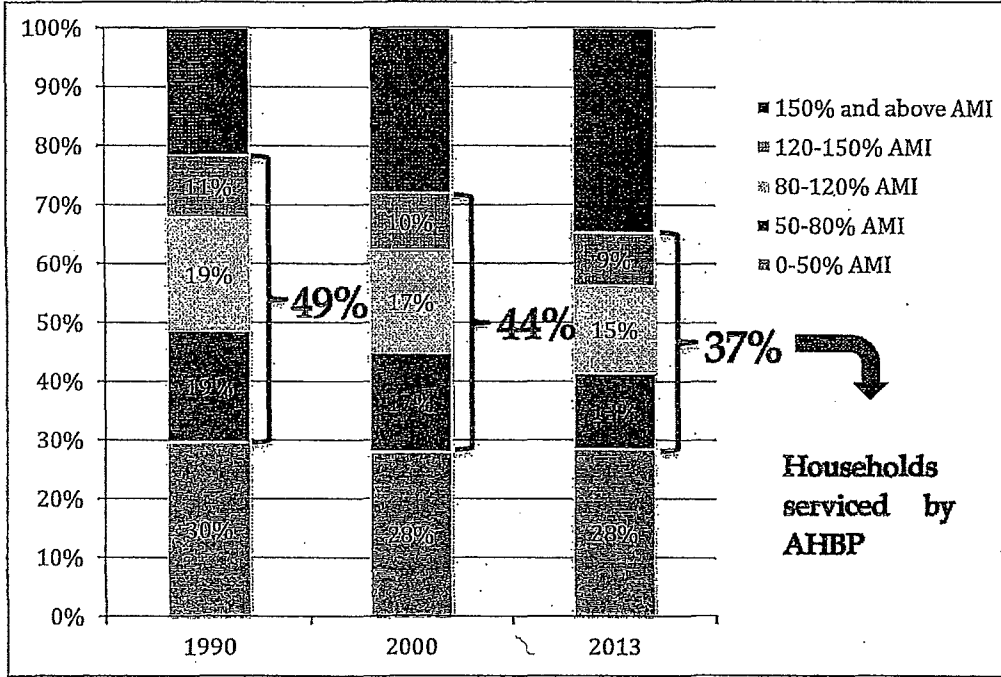
<sup>21</sup> MOHCD. 2015 Maximum Monthly Rent by Unit Type; Studio and 2-bedroom unit "without utilities" figure.

<sup>22</sup> MOHCD. 2015 Sample Sales Prices for the San Francisco Inclusionary Housing Program.

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.zumper.com/blog/2016/01/zumper-national-rent-report-january-2016/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.sfgate.com/business/networth/article/1-million-city-S-F-median-home-price-hits-7-5626591.php>

San Francisco's Households by AMI, 1990-2013



The last several RHNA cycles show that San Francisco has consistently under-produced housing for these income category over the same period of time.<sup>25</sup>

From the 2014 Housing Element:

Household Affordability	Housing Goals 2007-2014	Actual Production 2007-Q1 2014	% of Production Target Achieved 2007-Q1 2014	Production Deficit as of Q1 2014
	Total	Total		
Low Income (under 80% AMI)	12,124	4,973	41%	7,146
Moderate Income (80% - 120% AMI)	8,754	1,107	16%	5,647
Market Rate	12,315	11,993	97%	322
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31,193</b>	<b>18,078</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>13,115</b>

Table 1-64  
 Annual Production Targets and Average Annual Production, San Francisco, 2007-Q1 2014

SOURCE: SF Planning Department, ABAG

<sup>25</sup> Note that since the City does not currently have a program which guarantees affordability for households above 120% of the Area Median Income, the Department does not have data on the production of housing for that income level. Based on current understanding of market sales and rental costs, staff believes that newly constructed housing is not affordable to middle income households.

Table L-63  
Annual Production Targets  
and Average Annual  
Production, San Francisco,  
1999-2005

Household Affordability	Housing Goals	Actual Production	% of Production Target Achieved	Production Deficit (Surplus)
	1999-2005	1999-2005		
	Total	Total		
Very Low Income (below 50% AMI)	5,244	4,242	82.8%	902
Low Income (50% - 79% AMI)	2,128	1,119	52.4%	1,013
Moderate Income (80% - 120% AMI)	5,639	725	12.9%	4,914
Market Rate	7,353	11,293	153.4%	(3,930)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20,372</b>	<b>17,473</b>	<b>85.8%</b>	

From the 2004 Housing Element:

TABLE L-65

Annual Production Targets and Average Annual Housing Production, 1989-1998\*

Affordability Categories	Housing Goals		Actual Production		% of Annual Target Achieved
	1989-June 1995 (6.5 years)		1989-1998 (10 years) <sup>a</sup>		
	Total	Annual Targets	Total	Annual Average	
Very Low Income (below 50% AMI)	5,382	830	2,202	220	26.5%
Low Income (50% - 79% AMI)	3,595	553	1,515	152	27.4%
Moderate Income (80% - 120% AMI)	4,493	691	557	56	8.1%
Market Rate	8,987	1,383	9,823	989	71.6%
Annual Production Target, 1989 - June 1995	22,467	3,456	14,157	1,417	41.0%

\*ABAS Reporting Period

The Local AHBP program will increase the amount of inclusionary housing produced for households making 55% or 90% of AMI while creating a new source of housing for middle income households making 120% (rental) or 140% (ownership) of AMI.

**Why Provide Affordable Housing for Moderate and Middle Income Households?**

The AHBP is designed to complement the existing affordable housing programs and housing units, to ensure that the City of San Francisco can remain an equitable and inclusive City as we continue to welcome new residents. In the past several decades middle income households have benefited from affordability assured through rent control, however vacancy de-control and changes in tenure have reduced the affordability of this housing supply. Limited public subsidies for affordable housing can continue to service the very low, low and moderate income households, while mixed income development projects such as the AHBP and those enabled under the inclusionary housing program will service low, moderate and middle income households.

**How does the AHBP Respond to Specific Neighborhoods?**

The AHBP is a citywide program that addresses the affordability needs of all of San Francisco. Much like the City's inclusionary programs, the intention of the AHBP is to increase the production of privately-financed housing for the City as a whole, by leveraging market-driven

development that otherwise would provide fewer or no affordable units for low, moderate, and middle income residents.

**Neighborhood Specific AMI's: Focus on the Bayview**

Some have commented that in some neighborhoods, the Bayview Neighborhood, in particular, could warrant a neighborhood specific adjustment to the AHBP program.

Because the Bayview neighborhood has a history of industrial uses that has left several large, underutilized sites that, if those sites were developed under AHBP, they could result in a large number of new housing units. For example, one of the soft sites identified in the Bayview is 43,681 square feet, as compared to a typical 2,500 square foot (25ft. by 100ft) commercial lot in an NC district. The prevalence of large underutilized lots in the Bayview means more units could be developed there under AHBP when compared to other neighborhoods in the city.

Although new development potential under this program would come with increases in affordable housing units for low, moderate and middle income households, some commenters suggested that the AHBP affordability targets do not adequately serve existing low-income households in the Bayview. Census data<sup>26</sup> in the below table shows households by income level in the Bayview and citywide.

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<sup>26</sup> American Community Survey, 2010-14 5-Year Average

Households by Income Level, Bayview and San Francisco

% of AMI	Bayview		San Francisco	
	Households	% of HHs	Households	% of HHs
30%	3,468	31.6%	80,447	23.1%
50%	1,787	16.3%	40,146	11.5%
80%	1,841	16.8%	52,299	15.0%
100%	1,045	9.5%	28,683	8.2%
120%	828	7.6%	26,436	7.6%
150%	685	6.3%	31,267	9.0%
200%	646	5.9%	33,305	9.5%
>200%	662	6.0%	56,249	16.1%
Total	10,963	100.0%	348,832	100.0%

Bayview has a higher share of households earning 30% of AMI<sup>27</sup> and below than the citywide average. These households are typically served by SFHA public housing, of which there is a high concentration in the Bayview neighborhood relative to other neighborhoods in San Francisco.

Roughly 56% of Bayview households earn between 50% of AMI and 150% of AMI – these are the household incomes that will be served by the AHBP. Bayview households qualify at a higher proportion than the citywide average where only 51% of households earn between 50% and 150% of AMI.

Below is a demographic portrait of the Bayview Households by Race and Ethnicity.

Households by Race and Ethnicity, Bayview and San Francisco<sup>28</sup>

Race	Bayview		San Francisco	
	Households	% of HHs	Households	% of HHs
Black HHs	4,760	44.6%	20,495	6.0%
Asian HHs	2,793	26.2%	95,032	27.9%
Hispanic HHs	1,666	15.6%	37,901	11.1%

<sup>27</sup> \$21,400 for a one-person household, \$27,500 for a household of three

<sup>28</sup> Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (October 28, 2015). Consolidated Planning/CHAS Data. 2008-12 ACS 5-Year Average.

White HHs	1,075	10.1%	176,841	51.9%
Other HHs	377	3.5%	10,156	3.0%
Total	10,671	100.0%	340,425	100.0%

The AHBP Local Program for mixed-income development is intended to complement existing and ongoing programs by providing affordable housing units to serve low, moderate, and middle income households making above 50% of AMI, including the half of Bayview households that fall into this income range. In addition, the 100% AHBP program is designed to yield a greater number of units affordable to households making below 60% of AMI, by allowing for greater density for 100% affordable housing developments.

**Serving Existing Residents with Below Market Housing**

There are two provisions to help ensure that existing residents can access below market housing in their neighborhood.

The first, which is recently adopted legislation separate from the AHBP, is often called 'Neighborhood Preference'. The legislation prioritizes 40% of all affordable inclusionary units to existing neighborhood residents. This provision enables existing residents to seek permanently affordable housing in their neighborhood. In the case of the Bayview – existing residents will be competitive for the low, moderate and middle income units.

The second provision is part of the draft AHBP ordinance. In order to ensure that the affordable units are below market rates the AHBP legislation requires that all affordable units be rented or sold at a price at least 20% below a particular neighborhood's market housing costs. For example if a project in the Bayview was entitled under the Local AHBP program – before the 18% of units that are intended to service middle income households were marketed to residents (after construction) the project sponsors would be required to demonstrate that the middle income targets (120% and 140% AMI) were at least 20% below the prevailing market costs for housing in the Bayview. Should the City find that housing priced to be affordable to 140% AMI households was reflecting the market rate; the project sponsor would be required to reduce the cost to a price that is affordable to households at 120% AMI and market the units to qualifying households. This provision enables the program to be flexible to neighborhood specific market conditions and market variations over time.

**Department Recommended Amendments to Affordability**

- ❖ WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF FEASIBLY CONVERT SOME OF THE 18% MIDDLE INCOME (120%/140%) UNITS TO 100%/120% AMI.

The AHBP Local Program for mixed-income developments could be modified to require that a higher share of affordable units are required to be provided for households making below 100% of AMI (rental) or 120% AMI (ownership). This approach would not impact the 100% AHBP program.

**Potential Implications of Proposed Amendment**

This amendment addresses the concern that a wider band of households' affordable housing needs should be met through this program.

In general, lowering the income levels of required affordable units could have some impacts on financial feasibility for some projects. This approach could reduce participation in the Local



AHBP, in preference for the State Program or existing zoning requirements. A financial sensitivity analysis should be conducted in order to identify the exact relationship between lower income targets and project feasibility.

### REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

Two draft ordinances are before the Commission for consideration today. These items may be acted upon or may be continued, at the discretion of the Commission.

1. Mayor Lee and Supervisor Tang introduced the AHBP Ordinance amending the Planning Code on September 29, 2015; substitute legislation was introduced on January 12, 2016. The proposed Ordinance is before the Commission so that it may recommend adoption, rejection, or adoption with modifications to the Board of Supervisors.
2. On October 15, 2015 the Planning Commission initiated hearings on a proposed Ordinance amending the General Plan. The Planning Commission can recommend adoption, rejection, or adoption with modifications to the Board of Supervisors.

### RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY

The Department recommends that the Commission recommend approval with the amendments specified below to the Board of Supervisors of the proposed Ordinances and adopt the attached Draft Resolution to that effect. Further information, including the basis for the recommendations and potential implications of alternatives have been described in more detail earlier in the case report. The section merely summarizes the content to assist the Commission with voting on a potential recommendation. Please note the Commission's action is in no way constrained to the topics or recommendations listed below. This is only a summary of staff recommendations.

#### Topic 1: Program Eligibility (pages 3-7)

- A. Recommend approval with scale limitations as currently drafted.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to add that projects that propose to demolish any residential units shall not be eligible for AHBP.
- C. Advise Board of Supervisors regarding benefits and concerns. Direct staff to continue work on these issues.

#### Topic 2: Infrastructure to Support New Growth (pages 7-8)

- A. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommend approval with infrastructure support as currently drafted.
- B. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

#### Topic 3: Urban Design (pages 8-11)

- A. Recommend approval with urban design limitations as currently drafted.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to add a design guideline to maximize light and air to the sidewalks and frontages along the streets, including alleyways.

- C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify lot merger limitations on 50% of the actual block length, rather than apply a citywide numerical cap.
- D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Direct Planning Staff to include analysis of a project's conformity to design guidelines in a Planning Commission Case Report.
- E. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

**Topic 4: Public Review & Commission Approval (pages 11-14)**

- A. Recommend approval with new review process as proposed whereby appeals are considered by the Board of Appeals.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify the appeals body for the Local and 100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Project Authorization-Section 328-to be the Board of Supervisors
- C. Modify the process such that Conditional Use Authorizations (CU) would not be considered as findings within the entitlement for AHBP projects, but would require a separate CU.
- D. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

**Topic 5: Preserving Small Business (pages 14-17)**

- A. Recommend approval with small business preservation tools as currently drafted.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to add that a requirement that existing businesses be offered first right of refusal for commercial space in new buildings.
- C. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to ask that the Board of Supervisors direct the City to establish a small business relocation fee to be paid by new development consistent with the uniform relocation act.
- D. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Modify to require early notification to commercial tenants be no less than 18 months and also reported to the Office of Economic and Workforce Development.
- E. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Allow Planning Commission to reduce commercial use sizes or require commercial uses in AHBP projects to protect neighborhood serving businesses.
- F. Advise Board of Supervisors of issues on concern and direct staff to continue work on these issues.

**Topic 6: Affordability (pages 17-27)**

- A. Recommend approval with new review process as proposed whereby the local program provides 12% low or moderate income housing and 18% middle income housing.
- B. STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Within the constraints of feasibility convert some of the 18% middle income (120%/140%) units to 100%/120% AMI.
- C. Within the constraints of feasibility provide affordable housing units for a broader range of households than are currently served, by deepening income level targets.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

On April 24, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Commission, in Resolution No. 19121, certified the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report ("Final EIR"), prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq. In Resolution No. 19122, the Planning Commission adopted the findings and conclusions required by CEQA regarding alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant environmental impacts analyzed in the Final EIR, and adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and a Statement of Overriding Considerations as part of its approval of the 2009 Housing Element.

On January 14, 2016, in response to the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program and related General Plan Amendments, the San Francisco Planning Department prepared an Addendum to the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final EIR under CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 ("the Addendum"). The Addendum accessed here and the Note to File is Exhibit H: [http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.1304E\\_AHBP\\_Addendum03\\_011416%20Final.pdf](http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/2014.1304E_AHBP_Addendum03_011416%20Final.pdf)

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment on the proposed AHBP has been received through the 20 plus public outreach events, direct correspondence with the Planning Commission or Department staff, and through several public forums and media discussions. Staff have maintained a log of public comments and responded to questions as they are received.

Public comments range greatly and cover a variety of topics. Most frequently public comments include a request for more information or details on a specific item. Key topics of discussion are summarized in the discussions above.

Many commenters support the program's approach to providing more affordable housing, while others express a clear lack of support for the program. More nuanced comments include a series of suggested amendments. Generally these issues are addressed by the discussion above and the related proposed amendments.

<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b>	<b>Recommendation of Approval with Modifications</b>
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### Attachments:

- Exhibit A: ~~Draft Planning Commission Resolution for General Plan Amendments~~
- Exhibit B: ~~Draft Planning Commission Resolution for BOS File 150969~~
- Exhibit C: ~~Department Recommendation Summary~~
- Exhibit D: ~~Public Comment received since November 5, 2015~~
- Exhibit E: ~~Project Sponsors proposed Amendments to the Affordable Housing Bonus Program~~
- Exhibit F: Ordinance Adopting General Plan Amendments
- Exhibit G: Board of Supervisors File No. 150969
- Exhibit H: Note to File





# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Addendum 3 to Environmental Impact Report

*Addendum Date:* January 14, 2016  
*Case No.:* 2014.1304E; 2014-001503GPA  
*Project Title:* BOS File No. 150969 – Affordable Housing Bonus Program  
*EIR:* San Francisco 2004 and 2009 Housing Element, 2007.1275E  
SCL No. 2008102033, certified March 24, 2011, re-certified April 24, 2014  
*Project Sponsor:* Mayor Lee and Supervisor Tang  
*Sponsor Contact:* Kearstin Dischinger, (415) 558-6284, [kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org](mailto:kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org)  
*Lead Agency:* San Francisco Planning Department  
*Staff Contact:* Michael Li, (415) 575-9107, [michael.j.li@sfgov.org](mailto:michael.j.li@sfgov.org)

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### REMARKS

On April 24, 2014, the San Francisco Planning Commission certified the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element ("2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR" or "FEIR") pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA").<sup>1</sup> On June 17, 2014, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors ("Board") adopted the 2009 Housing Element as the Housing Element of the San Francisco General Plan. On April 27, 2015, the Board adopted the 2014 Housing Element, which updated the Data and Needs Analysis of the 2009 Housing Element and added five additional policies. Based on an addendum issued by the San Francisco Planning Department ("Planning Department" or "Department") for the 2014 Housing Element, the Board found that no additional environmental review was required beyond the review in the FEIR.<sup>2</sup>

This document is an addendum to the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR. Its purpose is to substantiate the Planning Department's determination that no supplemental or subsequent environmental review is required prior to adoption of the City and County of San Francisco ("City") Affordable Housing Bonus Program ("proposed program," "proposed project," or "AHBP") and related General Plan amendments. As described more fully below, the AHBP is an implementing program of the 2014 Housing Element. The Department has determined that the environmental effects of the AHBP have been adequately identified and analyzed under CEQA in the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR, and the proposed project would not result in any new or more severe environmental impacts than were identified in the FEIR.

<sup>1</sup> San Francisco Planning Department, *2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report*, April 24, 2014. Case No. 2007.1275E, <http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=1828>, accessed on January 13, 2016. Unless otherwise noted, all documents cited in this report are available for review at the San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA as part of Case No. 2014.1304E or the identified file number.

<sup>2</sup> San Francisco Planning Department, *Addendum to 2004 and 2009 Housing Element Final Environmental Impact Report, 2014 Housing Element*, January 22, 2015. Case No. 2014.1327E, <http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=1828>, accessed on January 13, 2016.

## Background

### ***State Housing Element Law – Government Code Section 65580***

The Housing Element is an element of San Francisco's General Plan which sets forth the City's overall policies regarding residential development and retention. Since 1969, California State Housing Element law (Government Code Section 65580 et seq.) has required local jurisdictions to adequately plan for and address the housing needs of all segments of its population, including low and very low income households, such that all communities contribute to the attainment of the state housing goals. Housing Element law requires local governments to plan for their existing and projected housing needs by facilitating the improvement and development of housing, rather than constraining opportunities. Under State Housing Element law, San Francisco's 2014 Housing Element was required to plan for an existing and projected housing need of 28,869 new residential units, 56.6 percent (%) of which must be affordable to very low, low, or moderate income households.

### ***State Density Bonus Law – Government Code Section 65915***

Under Government Code Section 65915, the State Density Bonus Law ("State Law"), cities are required to grant density bonuses, waivers from development standards,<sup>3</sup> and concessions and incentives<sup>4</sup> when a developer of a housing project of five or more units includes at least 5% of those units as housing units affordable to moderate, low or very low income households (between 50% and 120% of area median income).<sup>5</sup> The increased development potential allowed under this law is intended to offset the private developer's expenses necessary to provide additional affordable units. The amount of the density bonus, and the number of concessions and incentives varies depending on the percentage of affordable units proposed and the level of affordability; generally, however, State Law requires that cities grant between a 7% to 35% density bonus, and up to three concessions and incentives, if a developer provides between 5% and 40% affordable units. Additionally, project sponsors are able to request waivers from development standards if the development standards physically preclude the project with the additional density or with the concessions and incentives.<sup>6</sup> State Law requires that rental units be affordable for a term of no less than 55 years, and that ownership units be affordable to at least the first buyer through a shared equity

<sup>3</sup> "Development standard" includes a site or construction condition, including but not limited to a height limitation, a setback requirement, a floor area ratio, an onsite open-space requirement, or a parking ratio that applies to a residential development pursuant to any ordinance, general plan element, specific plan, charter, or other local condition, law, policy, resolution, or regulation. (See Government Code Section 65915(0)(1).

<sup>4</sup> Concessions and incentives mean (1) a reduction in site development standards or a modification of zoning requirements or architectural design requirements that exceed the minimum building standards approved by the California Building Standards Commission as provided in Part 2.5 (commencing with Section 18901) of Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code, including, but not limited to, a reduction in setback and square footage requirements and in the ratio of vehicular parking spaces that would otherwise be required that results in identifiable, financially sufficient, and actual cost reductions; (2) Approval of mixed-use zoning in conjunction with the housing project if commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses will reduce the cost of the housing development and if the commercial, office, industrial, or other land uses are compatible with the housing project and the existing or planned development in the area where the proposed housing project will be located; or (3) Other regulatory incentives or concessions proposed by the developer or the city, county, or city and county that result in identifiable, financially sufficient, and actual cost reductions. (See Government Code Section 65915)

<sup>5</sup> See generally, Government Code Section 65915 et seq.

<sup>6</sup> See Government Code Section 65915(e).

agreement.<sup>7</sup> Local jurisdictions are required to adopt an ordinance implementing the State Density Bonus Law; however, absent an ordinance, local jurisdictions are still required to comply with the law.<sup>8</sup>

### **City and County of San Francisco 2014 Housing Element of the General Plan**

To support the development of affordable housing, the City's 2014 Housing Element anticipates the adoption of a "density bonus program" implementing the State Law. As envisioned in the 2014 Housing Element, such a program would allow density bonuses for projects that include certain percentages of affordable housing, as well as allow other incentives, concessions, and waivers for projects that include more affordable units than required under existing City programs.

Specifically, the 2014 Housing Element contains the following discussion of a density bonus program in Part I, on page A.6:

*The City has continued the policy of establishing special use districts (SUDs)<sup>9</sup> and height exceptions intended to support the development of affordable housing by allowing density bonuses for higher percentages of affordable or special needs housing. Almost all new Area Plans adopted during the 2007-2014 reporting period also include these policies, as well as additional affordable housing impact fees. Floor area ratio (FAR) limitations have been removed in the downtown areas to encourage housing development. The Board of Supervisors is currently considering legislation to exempt on-site inclusionary units from existing density limits in certain districts, essentially giving developers who include affordable units within their projects a density bonus.*

*In February 2014, the Department released an RFP [Request for Proposals] for consultant support to develop a more proactive program to implement Government Code Section 65915. For example, the proactive approach may follow the model of other municipalities which indicate which exemptions will be not be [sic] deemed as potentially having an adverse impact on health and safety.*

In addition, under the 2014 Housing Element Implementing Programs (Part I, Chapter C, on page C.11), the following Implementing Program is identified to meet the goal of establishing a density bonus program in the City:

*Implementing Program 39b. Planning will develop a density bonus program with the goal of increasing the production of affordable housing. The program will be structured to incentivize market rate projects to provide significantly greater levels of affordable housing than required by the existing City Programs.*

A related strategy for further review of this Implementation Program is listed on page C.13:

*Planning should examine incentives such as density bonuses, or other zoning related mechanisms that encourage long-term (i.e. deed-restricted) permanently affordable rental housing.*

<sup>7</sup> See Government Code Section 65915(c)(1) and (2).

<sup>8</sup> See Government Code Section 65915(a).

<sup>9</sup> Approximately a dozen SUDs have been established in order to provide density bonuses and zoning modifications for affordable housing projects. Examples include the Alabama and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets Affordable Housing SUD (Planning Code Section 249.27), the Third Street and Oakdale Avenue Affordable Housing SUD (Section 249.30), the Third Street and Le Conte Affordable Housing SUD (Section 249.43), the 1500 Page Street Affordable Housing SUD (Section 249.47, and the Lombard and Scott Street Affordable Group Housing SUD (Section 249.55).

### ***City and County of San Francisco Inclusionary Affordable Housing Ordinance***

The Inclusionary Affordable Housing Ordinance is found in Planning Code Section 415 et seq. This ordinance requires project sponsors of residential projects with 10 units or more to pay an Affordable Housing Fee as a way of contributing to the City's affordable housing stock. Under certain circumstances, a project sponsor may choose to provide on- or off-site affordable housing units instead of paying the fee. The most common on-site requirement is 12% affordable units, although it is higher in some Area Plan zoning districts.<sup>10</sup>

### **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 2014 HOUSING ELEMENT**

#### **Affordable Housing Bonus Program**

On September 29, 2015, Mayor Lee and Supervisor Tang introduced legislation (Board File No. 150969) to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to amend the Planning Code to create the Affordable Housing Bonus Program. The proposed AHBP implements the density bonus program envisioned in the 2014 Housing Element.

In conjunction with the AHBP, the Planning Department has proposed minor amendments to the General Plan, including the Housing Element, so that the General Plan better and more specifically reflects the goals of the AHBP. The proposed amendments would add language to one Housing Element policy and descriptive text below two other Housing Element policies to recognize the City's need to allow development incentives for projects that include affordable housing units on-site. The proposed amendments, discussed in greater detail below, also include references to higher densities on Map 6 of the Housing Element and associated updates to the Land Use Index.

Overall, as reflected in the findings of the proposed AHBP ordinance, the goals of the proposed AHBP are to establish a program consistent with State Law; encourage the construction of a greater numbers of on-site affordable units; improve the feasibility of developing affordable units on underutilized sites; establish a program to provide housing for "middle income" households; and facilitate entitlement of 100 Percent affordable housing units. The AHBP would amend the San Francisco Planning Code by adding a new Section 206 to establish four avenues for project sponsors to receive a density bonus and other development bonuses, which would allow for a greater number of units to be built than would otherwise be permitted under existing zoning. The four programs are: 1) the Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program; 2) the 100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Program; 3) the Analyzed State Density Bonus Program; and 4) the Individually Requested State Density Bonus Program. Table 1 summarizes the key features of the four programs, which are described in further detail below. The AHBP also establishes an approval process for AHBP projects, as well as specific AHBP Design Guidelines.

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<sup>10</sup> See, for example, the Additional Affordable Housing Requirements for UMU districts in Planning Code Section 419 et seq.



**Table 1**  
**Comparison of Proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program Characteristics**

Characteristic	Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program	100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Program	Analyzed State Density Bonus Program	Individually Requested State Density Bonus Program
Pre-Program Density Requirement	3 or more units	3 or more units	5 or more units	5 or more units
Affordable Housing Requirement	30% total inclusionary and middle income affordable units onsite (all middle income if no inclusionary requirement)	100% affordable to 80% AMI and below	Various affordability levels, ranging from 5% to 30% at various AMIs	Various affordability levels, ranging from 5% to 40% at various AMIs (100% for senior citizen housing)
Location Requirement	Zoning districts that regulate residential density by lot area, plus the Fillmore and Divisadero NCTDs; excludes RH-1 and RH-2 districts	Zoning districts that allow residential uses, excluding RH-1 and RH-2 districts	Zoning districts that regulate residential density by lot area, plus the Fillmore and Divisadero NCTDs; excludes RH-1 and RH-2 districts	Zoning districts that allow residential uses and can accommodate 5 or more units under existing zoning controls
Unit Mix Requirement	40% two or more bedrooms or 50% more than one bedroom	-	-	-
Environmental Requirement	No significant historic, shadow, or wind impact	No significant historic, shadow, or wind impact	-	-
Density Bonus	Form-based density controls	Form-based density controls	Up to 35% density bonus	Up to 35% density bonus
Height Bonus	Up to 25 feet/two stories with min. 9-foot floor-to-ceiling height for residential floors	Up to 35 feet/three stories with min. 9-foot floor-to-ceiling height for residential floors	Up to 25 feet/two stories with min. 9-foot floor-to-ceiling height for residential floors	Height increases allowed as necessary in order to develop at allowed increased density and with concessions requested
Zoning Modifications/Concessions and Incentives	Up to three: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rear yard: min. 20%/15 feet</li> <li>• unit exposure: min. 25 feet</li> <li>• off street loading: none required</li> <li>• parking: up to 75% reduction</li> <li>• open space: up to 5% reduction in common open space</li> <li>• additional open space: up to another 5% reduction in common open space</li> </ul>	Any or all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rear yard min. 20%/15 feet</li> <li>• unit exposure: min. 15 feet</li> <li>• off street loading: none required</li> <li>• parking: up to 100% reduction</li> <li>• open space: up to 10% reduction in common open space (min. 36 sf/unit)</li> </ul>	Up to three depending on AMI: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rear yard: min. 20%/15 feet</li> <li>• unit exposure: min. 25 feet</li> <li>• off street loading: none required</li> <li>• parking: up to 50% reduction</li> <li>• open space: up to 5% reduction in common open space</li> <li>• additional open space: up to another 5% reduction in common open space</li> </ul>	Up to three, to be negotiated on project-by-project basis

Source: San Francisco Planning Department, January 2016.

### **Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program**

**Eligibility Requirements.** The Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program ("Local Program") would encourage construction of affordable housing by providing zoning modifications for projects that satisfy specified requirements. Local Program projects would be required to be all new construction (vertical additions to existing buildings would not qualify) with a pre-Program density (not including bonus units) of three or more residential units and to provide a total of 30% income restricted units on site. Local Program projects subject to the City's Inclusionary Affordable Housing Ordinance would need to provide the required inclusionary units on-site, plus provide an additional 18% of the units as middle income units (units which are affordable to households earning 140% of area mean income ("AMI") for ownership projects and 120% AMI for rental projects). For Local Program projects not subject to the Inclusionary Affordable Housing Ordinance, a total of 30% of the units would be required to be middle income units. The Local Program would be available in all zoning districts that regulate residential density by lot area, with the exception of RH-1 (House, One-Family) and RH-2 (House, Two-Family) districts, and also would be allowed in the Fillmore Neighborhood Commercial Transit District ("NCTD") and the Divisadero NCTD. Local Program projects would be required to meet certain unit mix requirements (40% two or more bedrooms or 50% two-bedroom or larger units). The Program requires nine-foot floor to ceiling heights on all residential floors.

Projects would only be eligible for the Local Program if the Planning Department determines that they would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource, create new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas, or alter wind in a manner that substantially affects public areas. This determination would be made by the Planning Department as part of the broader environmental review process to which AHBP projects would be subject. Environmental review for AHBP projects would include an evaluation of the projects' potential for significant environmental impacts in all applicable resource areas, pursuant to CEQA and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.<sup>11</sup>

Finally, Local Program projects would be required to comply with proposed AHBP Design Guidelines, described below.

**Development Bonuses.** Projects meeting the above requirements would be eligible to receive a height bonus (increase) of up to 20 feet above the existing height limit, or two stories with the required 9-foot floor-to-ceiling height.<sup>12</sup> In addition, Local Program projects with active ground floors would be granted up to an additional 5 feet in height at the ground floor, for a total maximum height bonus of 25 feet. Local Program projects also would be eligible to receive a density bonus through the application of form-based density controls rather than by lot area (i.e., by building volume rather than by units/square feet of lot

<sup>11</sup> In other words, historic resources, shadow, and wind would be only a few of the environmental topics reviewed; existing environmental review requirements would remain in place. The environmental review simply would inform the determination of whether projects would be eligible for the Local Program.

<sup>12</sup> All city parcels are subject to height and bulk limits, which set the maximum parameters for building height and bulk. For example, many residential (RH-1, RH-2, RH-3, etc.) districts are within the 40-X height and bulk limits, which mandate the maximum height of 40 feet, although most residential projects are also subject to the Planning Department's Residential Design Guidelines, design review, and other requirements that may further limit the possible height of development.

area). Density of Local Program projects therefore would be limited by applicable requirements and limitations, including height (with the bonus), bulk, setbacks, open space requirements, exposure, and unit mix.

**Zoning Modifications.** Up to three other modifications to rear yard, dwelling unit exposure, off-street loading, parking, and open space requirements, in the amounts listed in Table 1, would be available to developers who pursue the Local Program.

### ***100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Program***

**Eligibility Requirements.** The 100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Program ("100 Percent Affordable Program") would apply to new construction projects only (vertical additions to existing buildings would not qualify) with a base density of three or more units in which 100% of the total units are income restricted to 80% AMI or below. The 100 Percent Affordable Program would be available throughout the City on any parcel zoned to allow residential uses, with the exception of RH-1 and RH-2 districts. Projects would be eligible for the 100 Percent Affordable Program only if the Planning Department determines that they would not result in significant historical resource, shadow, or wind impacts. In addition, 100 Percent Affordable Program projects would be required to comply with the proposed AHBP Design Guidelines.

**Development Bonuses.** 100 Percent Affordable Program projects would be entitled to a height bonus of up to 30 feet or 3 stories above existing height limits, plus an extra 5 feet for active ground floor uses. These projects would be eligible to receive a density bonus through application of form-based density controls.

**Zoning Modifications.** Modifications in the amounts listed in Table 1 to rear yard, dwelling unit exposure, off-street loading, parking, and open space requirements would be available to developers who pursue the 100 Percent Affordable Program. Projects in this program would be eligible to receive any or all of the offered zoning modifications.

### ***Analyzed State Density Bonus Program***

**Eligibility Requirements.** The Analyzed State Density Bonus Program ("Analyzed State Program") would apply to projects of five or more units that include various affordability levels, ranging from 5% to 30% at various AMIs. (These affordability requirements mirror the requirements of the State Density Bonus Law.) The Analyzed State Program would apply in the same locations as the Local Program, i.e., all zoning districts that regulate residential density by lot area, with the exception of RH-1 and RH-2 districts, plus the Fillmore and Divisadero NCTDs. The Program requires 9-foot floor to ceiling heights on all residential floors and Analyzed State Program projects would be required to comply with proposed AHBP Design Guidelines.

**Development Bonuses.** Analyzed State Program projects would be eligible to receive a waiver of height restrictions up to 25 feet above existing height limits (a maximum of two stories given the required minimum 9-foot floor to ceiling height), subject to the requirements of a specified formula, and a density bonus of up to 35% above that allowed under existing zoning.

**Zoning Modifications.** Developers who pursue the Analyzed State Program would be eligible to select up to three concessions and incentives (modifications to zoning controls), in the amounts listed in Table 1, to rear yard, dwelling unit exposure, off-street loading, parking, and open space requirements.

#### ***Individually Requested State Density Bonus Program***

The Individually Requested State Density Bonus Program (“Individually Requested Program”) would be available to projects that are consistent with the State Density Bonus Law, but that request a set of incentives, concessions, or waivers that are not offered through the Analyzed State Program. The Individually Requested Program is also for those seeking a bonus for land donations, condominium conversions, or mobile home parks (as specifically allowed by State Law),<sup>13</sup> and for projects in zoning districts not eligible for Analyzed State projects.

**Eligibility Requirements.** The Individually Requested Program would apply to projects of five or more units that include various affordability levels, ranging from 5% to 40% at various AMIs, as provided in State Law. The Individually Requested Program would apply in all districts that allow residential units and can accommodate five or more units under existing zoning controls. Projects under this program would be required to comply with the AHBP Design Guidelines

**Development Bonuses.** Individually Requested Program projects would be entitled to a density bonus of up to 35% above that allowed under existing zoning, depending on the amount and type of restricted affordable units proposed.

**Zoning Modifications.** Developers who pursue the Individually Requested Program would be eligible to receive up to three concessions and incentives as necessary to make the density bonus physically and financially feasible. Project sponsors could also request a waiver of a development standard that physically precludes the development at the density and with the concessions requested.

#### ***AHBP Project Authorization***

The proposed legislation would also amend the Planning Code to add Section 328, which would establish a review and approval process for Local Program and 100 Percent Affordable Program projects. In addition to zoning modifications offered under the Local Program and 100 Percent Affordable Program, the proposed Section 328 would allow the Planning Commission to make minor project modifications to ensure a project’s consistency with the AHBP Design Guidelines.

All AHBP projects would be evaluated for consistency with the AHBP Design Guidelines. In recognition that some projects utilizing the AHBP would be taller or of differing mass than the surrounding context, the AHBP Design Guidelines would clarify how projects should both maintain their size and be designed to be compatible with their neighborhood context. Specific design guidelines would address ground-floor design, tops of buildings, sidewalk articulation, and architectural character. Also, the AHBP Design Guidelines would articulate existing design principles from neighborhood- or district-specific design

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<sup>13</sup> Density bonuses for “land donations” are regulated in Government Code Section 65915(g), “condominium conversions” are defined in Government Code Section 65915.5, and “mobile home parks” are defined under Government Code Section 65915(b)(1)(C).

guidelines that would be applied to all AHBP projects. These fundamental design principles would address such things as building massing and articulation, ground floors, and streets. Finally, the AHBP Design Guidelines would include historic preservation guidelines to ensure that AHBP projects preserve materials, features, and forms of historic districts, as applicable, and are compatible and differentiated. The draft AHBP Guidelines will be presented to the Planning Commission for adoption and forwarded to the BOS for approval.

All projects eligible to take advantage of the AHBP, under any of the four programs, would require review under CEQA.

### **AHBP General Plan Amendments**

In conjunction with the proposed AHBP ordinance, the Planning Department has proposed minor amendments to the General Plan. These amendments would add language to the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeast Waterfront Area Plan and associated updates to the Land Use Index to specifically reflect the goals and intent of the AHBP, which allow greater height and bulk for projects that provide affordable units on site.

Generally, the proposed amendments would include the following language in the relevant sections of the General Plan:

*To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described here. Refer to the Affordable Housing Bonus Program Design Guidelines.*

The proposed amendments would add language to one Housing Element Policy and descriptive text to two other Housing Element policies to specifically reference and allow development incentives, such as additional height, density, and bulk, in exchange for higher levels of affordability. The proposed amendments also include references to higher densities on Map 6 of the Housing Element and associated updates to the Land Use Index.

### **AHBP Approvals**

As amendments to the Planning Code and General Plan, the proposed AHBP and General Plan amendments would require review and recommendation by the Planning Commission to the Board of Supervisors, and approval of an ordinance by the Board of Supervisors.

### **SETTING**

San Francisco is a consolidated city and county located on the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula with the Golden Gate Strait to the north, San Francisco Bay to the east, San Mateo County to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The City is one of nine counties adjacent to San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Daly City and the City of Brisbane abut San Francisco to the south. San Francisco is approximately 49 square miles in size. The City is made up of numerous planning districts and several plan areas (areas which have undergone, or are in the process of, a comprehensive community planning effort). Although San Francisco is densely developed, there remain developable vacant parcels, as well as underused parcels, which are currently zoned to allow housing in various locations throughout the City.

## ANALYSIS OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

San Francisco Administrative Code Section 31.19(c)(1) states that a modified project must be reevaluated and that “[i]f, on the basis of such reevaluation, the Environmental Review Officer (ERO) determines, based on the requirements of CEQA, that no additional environmental review is necessary, this determination and the reasons therefore shall be noted in writing in the case record, and no further evaluation shall be required by this Chapter.”

CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 provides for the use of an addendum to document the basis of a lead agency’s decision not to require a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR for a change to a project that has been analyzed in a certified EIR. The lead agency’s decision to use an addendum must be supported by substantial evidence that the conditions that would trigger the preparation of a Subsequent EIR, as provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, are not present.

The proposed AHBP, which would implement the density bonus provisions referenced in the Housing Element, would not result in any new significant environmental impacts, substantially increase the severity of previously identified effects, or necessitate implementation of additional or considerably different mitigation measures than those identified in the FEIR. The effects associated with the proposed program would be substantially the same as those reported for the FEIR, and thus no supplemental or subsequent EIR is required. The following discussion provides the basis for this conclusion.

### 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR Conclusions

The 2009 Housing Element adopted policies that, generally, encouraged housing and higher density housing along transit lines and other infrastructure, and in proximity to neighborhood services, such as open space and childcare. The 2009 Housing Element policies also encouraged higher density through a community planning process and, for affordable housing projects, promoted the construction of multifamily housing. The 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR identified less-than significant environmental impacts in the following environmental topic areas:

- Land Use and Land Use Planning;
- Visual Quality and Urban Design;
- Population and Housing;
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources;
- Air Quality;
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions;
- Wind and Shadow;
- Recreation;
- Utilities and Service Systems;
- Public Services;
- Biological Resources;
- Geology and Soils;
- Hydrology and Soils;
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials;
- Mineral and Energy Resources; and
- Agricultural and Forest Resources.

The FEIR found that significant effects related to encouraging new residential development along streets with noise levels above 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$  can be avoided or reduced to a less-than-significant level with mitigation, and a mitigation measure addressing the issue was incorporated into the adopted Housing Element as an implementation measure.<sup>14</sup> The FEIR found also that adoption of the 2009 Housing Element

<sup>14</sup> *A-Weighted Sound Level (dBA)*: The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the internationally standardized A-weighting filter or as computed from sound spectral data to which A-weighting adjustments have been made. A-weighting de-emphasizes the low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the response of the average human ear. A-weighted sound levels correlate well with

would potentially result in significant environmental effects on the transit network that could not be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of feasible mitigation measures. The policies in the 2014 Housing Element were substantially the same as those in the 2009 Housing Element, and the adoption of the 2014 Housing Element did not change the conclusions in the FEIR.

#### 2004 and 2009 Housing Element EIR Alternative C

The 2004 and 2009 Housing Element EIR, in the Revised Alternatives Analysis, discussed and analyzed Alternative C ("2009 Housing Element Intensified"), which included potential policies (described herein as "concepts") that more actively encourage housing development through zoning accommodations than the policies in the 2009 Housing Element. These concepts were generated based on ideas and alternative concepts raised over the course of outreach for the 2009 Housing Element preparation process, but which were ultimately not included as policies in the 2009 Housing Element.

Alternative C included concepts intended to encourage housing by:

- 1) Allowing for limited expansion of allowable building envelope for developments meeting the City's affordable housing requirement on site with units of two or more bedrooms;
- 2) Requiring development to the full allowable building envelope in locations that are directly on Transportation Effectiveness Project ("TEP") rapid transit network lines;
- 3) Giving height and/or density bonuses for developments that exceed affordable housing requirements in locations that are directly on TEP rapid transit network lines;
- 4) Allowing height and/or density bonuses for 100 percent affordable housing in all areas of the City except in RH-1 and RH-2 zones; and
- 5) Granting of administrative (i.e., over the counter) variances for reduced parking spaces if the development is:
  - a) in an RH-2 zoning district that allows for greater residential density (e.g., adding a second unit without required parking);
  - b) in an area where additional curb cuts would restrict parking in areas with parking shortages; or
  - c) on a Transit Preferential Street.<sup>15</sup>

The 2004 and 2009 Housing Element EIR analyzed the environmental impacts of implementing a more intensified housing development program than what was proposed under the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that Alternative C would not result in any greater significant environmental impacts than those identified for the 2009 Housing Element. Specifically, the FEIR noted that Alternative C could result in a significant and unavoidable impact to the City's transit network – the same as the proposed 2009 Housing Element – and that, with respect to noise, Alternative C could result in a significant impact that could be mitigated to a less-than-significant level with implementation of Mitigation Measure M-NO-1 –

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subjective reactions of people to noise and are universally used for community noise evaluations.

*Day-Night Sound Level (L<sub>dn</sub>):* The Leq of the A-weighted noise level over a 24-hour period with a 10 dB penalty applied to noise levels between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

<sup>15</sup> The Transportation Element of the San Francisco General Plan contains Policy 20.1, which calls for "giving priority to transit vehicles based on a rational classification system of transit preferential streets (TPS)." The policy discussion elaborates that the TPS classification system should consider the multi-modal functions of the street, the existing and potential levels of transit service and ridership, and the existing transit infrastructure. A map of Transit Preferential Streets is provided in Map 9 of the Transportation Element.

also, the same as for the proposed Housing Element. In sum, the significance of the environmental impacts associated with Alternative C were determined to be similar to the significance of the impacts for the 2009 Housing Element. The growth projected in San Francisco over the Housing Element EIR review period was driven by assumptions based on regional demand, and therefore the EIR concluded that the policies contained within the Housing Element could incrementally affect the type of housing developed and, to some extent, the size of individual projects, but would not affect the overall number of units expected. Therefore, while some environmental impacts associated with Alternative C were determined to be either incrementally more or incrementally less severe than the impacts that were identified for the 2009 Housing Element, the difference in the severity of effects of Alternative C as compared to the 2009 Housing Element was not substantial.

### **Changed Circumstances since Certification of FEIR**

Since certification of the FEIR, a number of revisions have been made to the Planning Code, General Plan, and other city policies and regulations (including the Inclusionary Housing Program, Standards for Bird-Safe Buildings, and others) related to housing and development in San Francisco. Most changes to the Planning Code and other documents can be found on the Planning Department's website: <http://www.sf-planning.org/index.aspx?page=2977>. Those changes were independent from the adoption of the Housing Element and have undergone independent review under CEQA. The revisions primarily pertain to neighborhood-specific issues, and none of them would result in changes that substantially deviate from the overarching goals and objectives that were articulated in the 2009 or 2014 Housing Element (such as directing growth to certain areas of the City, promoting preservation of residential buildings, etc.) in a way that could render the conclusions reached in the FEIR as invalid or inaccurate. These revisions to the regulatory environment also would not be expected to affect the severity of impacts discussed in the FEIR. Further, no new information has emerged that would materially change the analyses or conclusions set forth in the FEIR. Any additional draft amendments proposed for adoption, but not yet adopted, would be reviewed for environmental impacts prior to adoption.

### **Changes to Housing Projections**

The FEIR contains population and housing projections that have since been updated. As reported in the 2014 Housing Element,<sup>16</sup> the 2012 American Community Survey estimated San Francisco's population to be about 807,755. ABAG projects continued population growth to 981,800 by 2030 or an overall increase of about 174,045 people who will need to be housed over the next 18 years.<sup>17</sup> In comparison, the 2009 Housing Element projected San Francisco's population at 934,000 by 2030. Household growth, an approximation of the demand for housing, currently indicates a need for some 72,530 new units in the 18 years to 2030. As with the 2009 and 2014 Housing Elements, the proposed AHBP would not change the population and housing projections, as those projections are due to, and influenced by, births, deaths, migration rates, and employment growth, and under current zoning the City can meet that demand. Rather, the AHBP would influence the location and type of residential development that would be constructed to meet demand.

<sup>16</sup> 2014 Housing Element, Part I, p. I.4.

<sup>17</sup> Association of Bay Area Governments, Projections 2013, p. 75.



### Approach to Analysis of AHBP Environmental Effects

As discussed above, the Analyzed State Program and the Individually Requested Program (hereafter "the State Programs") implement the State Law. Adoption of the State Programs would codify procedures that articulate the City's preferences and priorities for implementing the State Law in San Francisco. Project sponsors of qualifying projects in San Francisco already are entitled to receive the density bonuses and concessions and incentives that would be offered by the State Programs. The State Programs would make it easier for project sponsors to take advantage of the State Law, since State Program projects would not be required to receive exceptions or other allowances from applicable Planning Code requirements, such as through a conditional use, variance or Planning Code amendment. The two AHBP State Law avenues, however, would not be expected to substantially increase the number of projects that are developed consistent with State Law, because the underlying financial feasibility of developing a particular parcel would not substantially change with adoption of the State Programs. Furthermore, Alternative C in the FEIR identified potential policies, including increased heights and expanded building envelopes, that would allow more intense housing development in certain areas of San Francisco. Alternative C thereby reflected the potential for construction of relatively larger buildings with higher affordability levels in particular locations, such as along rapid transit corridors. Thus, because the State Law was already assumed as part of the baseline regulatory environment for both the Housing Element and Alternative C, impacts from implementation of the State Law through the State Programs were included in the analysis of the Housing Element in the FEIR. It is worth noting, however, that future proposed projects seeking to take advantage of the State Programs, or any AHBP program, would be subject to additional project-specific environmental review.

The Local Program and 100 Percent Affordable Program (hereafter "the Local Programs") contain additional eligibility requirements that are more restrictive than the requirements for the State Law. These include the affordability, location, unit mix, and environmental requirements. At the same time, the Local Programs have a lower threshold of eligibility regarding the pre-program density requirement (a minimum of three units versus five) and the density bonus offered under the Local Programs is not capped at a certain percentage, as is the State Law. In contrast to the State Programs, the Local Programs were not specifically included or assumed as part of the existing regulatory environment in the FEIR. The Department reasonably assumes, however, that projects constructed under the Local Programs would be generally similar to those that qualify for State Law development bonuses and, as with the State programs, would not substantially deviate from the development that the FEIR concluded could proceed under the concepts described in Alternative C.

Pursuant to CEQA, this document focuses specifically on the physical environmental effects that could result from implementing the proposed AHBP. The proposed program does not directly propose new housing development projects and thus, would not directly result in the construction of residential units. However, by allowing for and articulating the City's preferences and priorities for density bonuses and establishing a defined menu of zoning modifications from which a developer could choose, the AHBP could encourage the production of a greater number of market-rate and affordable housing units at any given eligible site than would occur under existing land use controls. In other words, the program would allow for a greater number of residential units to be included in a given development project. This construction would occur because the program would make it more financially feasible for project sponsors to develop or redevelop underutilized sites and include affordable housing. Nonetheless, as noted above, the AHBP would not increase projected demand for housing, nor would it change the total

amount of residential growth (in terms of numbers of units) anticipated in the City. Rather, the program would influence the location, density, building envelope, and affordability of residential development that would be constructed to meet demand.

The program characteristics that have the greatest potential to result in physical environmental effects are the height and density bonuses and the zoning modifications, as they would influence the size of the building envelope and may necessitate deeper foundations and larger lot coverage.

#### **Anticipated Development of AHBP Projects**

It is uncertain how many additional new units (affordable or market rate) would be built by project sponsors choosing to take advantage of the proposed AHBP. It is also uncertain precisely which parcels in the City would be developed or redeveloped with AHBP projects as opposed to traditional residential projects. Nonetheless, the Planning Department has estimated a theoretical maximum number of new units that would be built under the Program, based on the assumptions described below, and analyzed the distribution of sites throughout the City where such development would be most likely to occur.

#### ***Selection of AHBP Option by Developer***

The Planning Department crafted the four proposed AHBP options to provide for a range of program types suiting different project site conditions, project types, and project sponsor needs. The Department anticipates that the Local Program would be the most popular choice by developers because it would provide the greatest benefits, in the form of the bonuses and zoning modifications offered, relative to the costs to qualify (i.e., provision of affordable housing). The Analyzed State Program is anticipated to be the second most popular choice, for similar reasons, and it would be available to projects that do not meet the eligibility requirements for the Local Program. In addition, Local Program and Analyzed State Program projects would benefit from a more streamlined entitlement process, without the need to justify the financial or site constraints that merit specific zoning modifications, relative to Individually Requested Program projects. Although sponsors of projects meeting the affordability and other requirements of the 100 Percent Affordable Program would benefit from an additional 10-foot/one-story height bonus as compared to the Local Program and Analyzed State Program, the 100 Percent Affordable Program would be expected to attract a very small number of applicants on an annual basis due to the financing constraints for such projects. Most 100% affordable projects rely on some form of public funding, sources of which are very limited, and the AHBP would not increase public funding sources. The Individually Requested Program would be expected to attract a small number of projects due to the requirement to justify the financial and/or site constraints that merit the specifically requested zoning modifications, which are not required by the other three programs. Nonetheless, the Planning Department's estimate of theoretical maximum number of new AHBP units takes into account 100 Percent Affordable and Individually Requested Program units.

#### ***Development and Other Constraints***

In order to determine the likely number of new units that would be constructed under the AHBP, the Planning Department began by identifying the constraints to development of projects eligible to take advantage of the proposed AHBP. As noted above, it is anticipated that most developers would choose either the Local Program or the Analyzed State Program (hereafter "Local or Analyzed Programs"). Therefore these programs would be expected to incentivize the greatest number of residential units and the following discussion of development constraints focuses on these programs.

**Location.** Developers would be able to take advantage of the Local Program only in locations subject to quantified density limits and that allow three or more units per parcel. These locations, which total 30,850 parcels ("the study area"), constitute approximately 20 percent of all parcels in the City zoned for residential uses (see Figure 1). The Analyzed State Program would be available only in locations subject to quantified density limits and that allow five or more units per parcel; these parcels are encompassed within the study area.

Numerous areas of the City that benefit from more recent community plans are not subject to residential density limits, such as areas within the Market Octavia Area Plan, the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plans, the Balboa Park Plan Area and the Glen Park Plan Area. In these areas, proposed developments are subject to form-based regulation, and are ineligible for the Local or Analyzed Programs. Some individual parcels in areas with form-based zoning where residential use is permitted are expected to take advantage of the 100 Percent Affordable Program, but for the reasons described above this would not constitute a substantial number of sites.

In addition, projects seeking density bonuses under the Local, 100 Percent Affordable, and Analyzed State Programs would not be permitted in RH-1 and RH-2 districts, which allow only one or two units per lot, respectively. RH-1 and RH-2 districts make up approximately 72% of all existing land parcels and 50% of the City's developable acreage (meaning non-open space or land that is not federally owned).

As illustrated in Figure 1, the study area includes neighborhood commercial districts along Geary Boulevard, Van Ness Avenue, and Balboa, Fillmore, Divisadero, and Taraval streets. In addition, the study area includes some parcels along Van Ness Avenue and Mission, Third, Irving, and Judah streets.

The study area includes zoning districts in which mixed-use development is already encouraged or permitted (e.g., C (Commercial) districts, NC (Neighborhood Commercial), NCT (Neighborhood Commercial Transit) districts, and RC (Residential-Commercial Combined) districts, among others). Thus, AHBP projects would likely occur in zoning districts that have neighborhood-, city-, or regional-serving commercial uses in areas close to major transit lines (i.e., the Muni rapid network) and on major automobile arterials. Figure 2 shows the location of the Muni rapid network in relation to the study area.

**Existing and Proposed Site Development.** The majority of parcels throughout San Francisco are already developed with existing buildings that are not anticipated to be redeveloped. A total of 13,800 parcels in the study area are currently developed to more than 30% of the permitted site capacity.<sup>18</sup> Even with the density and height bonuses offered to projects qualifying for the Local and Analyzed Programs, it is unlikely that the financial incentives of the programs would be sufficient to incentivize redevelopment of those parcels. This standard assumption applies because the value of the existing uses on those parcels most likely exceeds the relative value of the new development potential, less the cost of redeveloping the parcel. These costs include the monetary cost of project design, environmental review, entitlement processing, demolition, and construction. Furthermore, because redevelopment entails an inherent uncertainty about whether the project would successfully receive entitlements, parcels already developed 30% above the permitted site capacity are unlikely to undergo the redevelopment process.

<sup>18</sup> The Planning Department divides the square footage of a building or buildings on a given parcel by the total square footage theoretically allowed on that same parcel under existing zoning controls (i.e., height limit, rear yard requirement, bulk controls, etc.) to calculate to what percent of zoned capacity the parcel is currently developed.

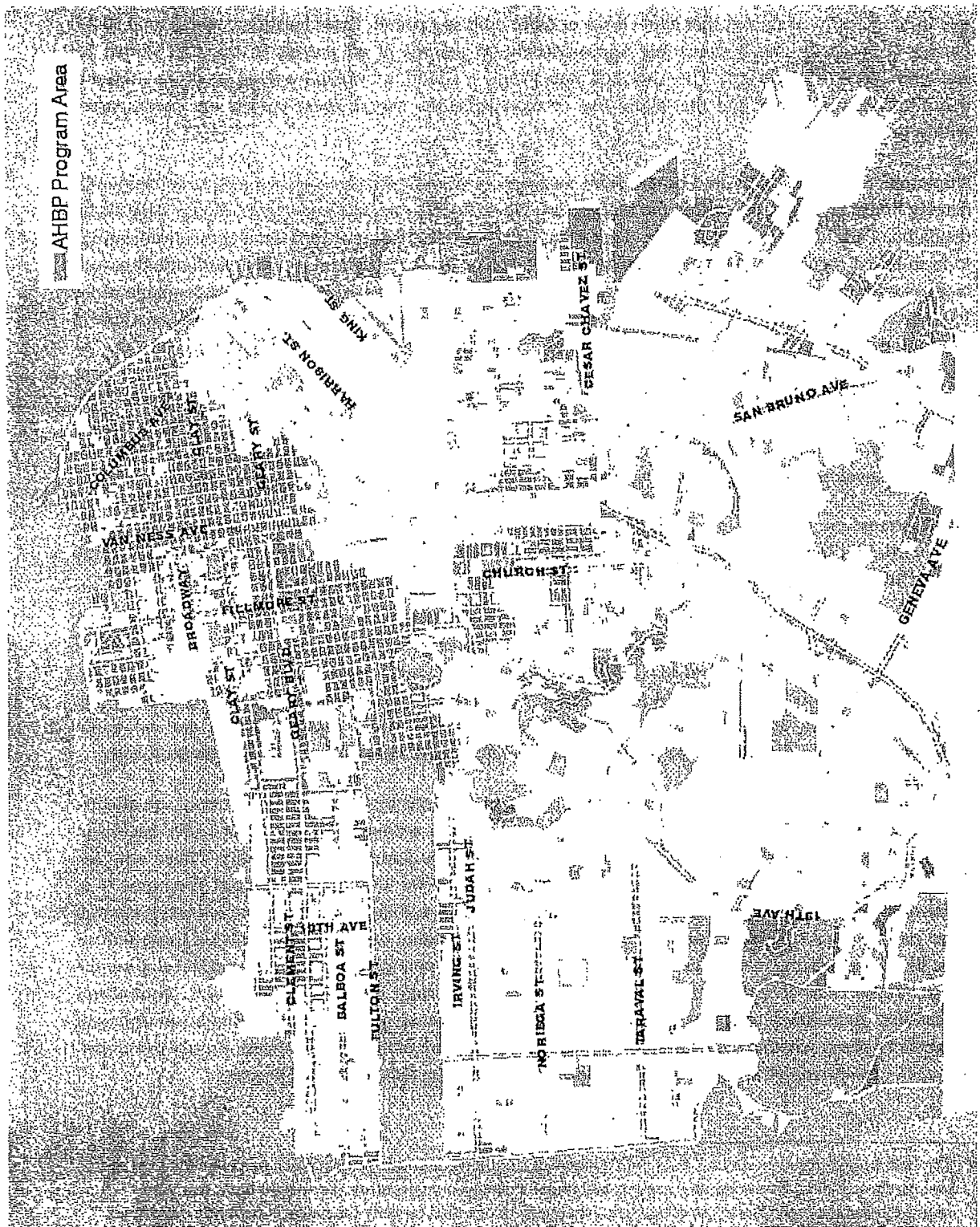


FIGURE 1: AHB STUDY AREA

SOURCE: San Francisco Planning Department, 2016

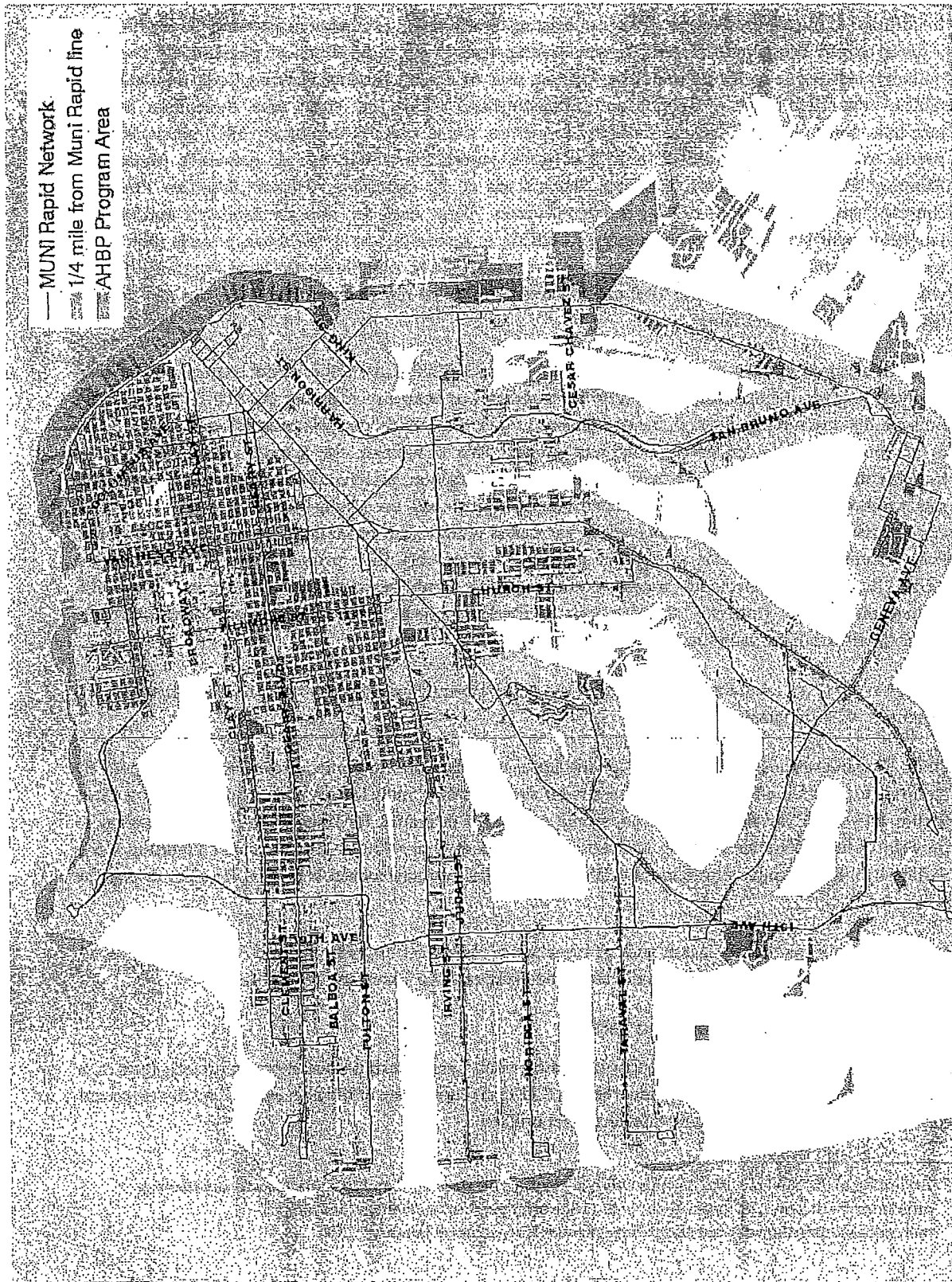


FIGURE 2: AHBP STUDY AREA AND MUNI RAPID NETWORK

SOURCE: San Francisco Planning Department, 2016

In addition to the above, the type and age of existing development is a factor in assessing the likelihood of a given parcel being redeveloped. Certain existing uses make redevelopment prohibitively costly or unlikely, either due to the nature of the existing uses or due to existing Planning Code regulations or policies that discourage demolition and reconstruction. Within the study area, these uses include: hospitals, San Francisco Housing Authority properties, single resident occupancy (SRO) hotels, schools, parcels containing rent-controlled residential units, parcels containing historic properties (those with Planning Department Historic Resource Status Code of A, signifying "Historic Resource Present"), churches, and parcels with existing residential units. These uses are strongly regulated and/or their redevelopment is discouraged, making them difficult to redevelop. As noted above, projects that would result in a significant impact to a historic resource would not be eligible for the Local Programs. Parcels with buildings constructed after 1990 are also less likely to be redeveloped due to the age and relative health of the existing building.

In addition, parcels that are currently vacant but where buildings are either under construction or have received their entitlements are unlikely to be modified and reapproved under the AHBP. Furthermore, projects that are moving through the entitlement process (so-called "pipeline projects") are very unlikely to be modified to be an entirely different project. This is because the sponsor's recent substantial investments in non-construction costs, including site acquisition, architectural design, engineering, legal fees, application fees, pursuit of entitlements, and carrying costs are strong incentives to stay the course and not risk the additional time and expense associated with project revisions to conform with the AHBP. Even if some project sponsors of pipeline projects opt to modify their project to take advantage of the AHBP, the increased development capacity on those sites would be negligible in the context of this EIR addendum analysis. Currently, there are only 26 pipeline projects in the project area. Individual AHBP projects will be subject to individual environmental review.

Exclusion of parcels with the aforementioned site development characteristics from the study area leaves a remainder of 3,475 parcels.

**Other Considerations.** To be eligible for the Local or Analyzed Programs, project sponsors would be required to provide affordable housing units on site, including inclusionary units under Planning Code Section 415. Some developers, however, would not find it desirable, for financial or business reasons, to provide onsite affordable housing and would rather elect to pay the in-lieu fee under Planning Code Section 415. Historically, approximately 21% of residential projects subject to Section 415 elect to pay the in-lieu fee.<sup>19</sup>

Lastly, on any given parcel, factors such as the shape of the parcel, topography, and other considerations, such as neighborhood opposition, would affect the likelihood of a given site being redeveloped.

#### ***Theoretical Maximum Number of Bonus Units***

As noted, of the 30,850 parcels in the City in locations that would permit Local Program projects (and, to a lesser degree, Analyzed State Program projects), 3,475 parcels are free of the above-described development constraints that would make their redevelopment unlikely.

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<sup>19</sup> According to the San Francisco Mayor's Office of Housing, between 1992 and 2014, the inclusionary housing ordinance resulted in 1,787 onsite units, or 81 onsite units per year, on average. See <http://sf-moh.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=8736>, accessed January 7, 2016.

Planning Department staff then identified a subset of these 3,475 parcels that were either vacant or built to 5% or less of their zoned capacity. The number of parcels in the study area that contain existing buildings or are built to greater than 5% of their zoned capacity equals 3,235 parcels. Because the remaining 240 parcels, or "soft sites," are either vacant or developed to less than 5% of zoned capacity, and are therefore deemed to have the characteristics that make them the most likely to be of sufficient appeal to developers seeking to take advantage of the Local Program.

Under existing density, height, and bulk controls, the 240 soft sites have the capacity to accommodate approximately 7,400 housing units, including 890 affordable units.<sup>20</sup> If all 240 sites were developed consistent with the Local Program, they could accommodate approximately 16,000 housing units, including 5,000 affordable units. If the 240 soft sites were developed consistent with the Analyzed State Program, they would have the capacity for up to 10,000 housing units, including approximately 1,500 affordable units. Thus, it is assumed that the AHBP could incentivize the development of between 10,000 and 16,000 housing units. For the purpose of this analysis, this addendum reasonably assumes that this development would occur over a 20-year period.<sup>21</sup>

It should be noted that the theoretical maximum development of up to 16,000 bonus units does not take into account the "Other Considerations" described above. In addition, this analysis assumes that developers of all 240 soft sites elect to participate in the Local Program and maximize the number of units built on those lots. In reality, for some sites, the Local Program would not provide sufficient additional development potential compared to current zoning or the Analyzed State Program. On such sites, development under existing zoning or the Analyzed State Program would yield fewer units.

As noted previously, implementation of the AHBP, in and of itself, would not result in new development; instead, the program would create a procedure for complying with the State Density Bonus Law, as well as establish additional incentives for including affordable housing above that required by the City's Inclusionary Housing Program. Future impacts to the environment, however, could occur as a result of specific development projects on individual sites. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review.

Consistent with the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR, this addendum does not attribute any difference in environmental impacts to affordable housing as compared to market-rate housing; thus, the addendum analyzes the buildout of all residential units on the soft sites, regardless of their affordability level.

The above-described theoretical maximum development of AHBP units is a reasonable basis for assessing the physical environmental impacts of the program for CEQA purposes. In addition, it provides a basis for understanding the effectiveness of the program at meeting its goal of incentivizing affordable housing production pursuant to Implementing Program 39b of the 2014 Housing Element.

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<sup>20</sup> This assumes that all required inclusionary affordable units would be provided onsite.

<sup>21</sup> Twenty years, or approximately so, is commonly used as a forecast horizon for growth projections in planning and CEQA documents. For example, the 2009 Housing Element projected population growth over a 21-year period.



## ***Land Use and Land Use Planning***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts related to land use and land use planning. The 2009 Housing Element would not conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations, including, but not limited to, the *San Francisco General Plan (General Plan)*, the *San Francisco Countywide Transportation Plan*, and the *San Francisco Bicycle Plan*. Individual development projects would be reviewed for consistency and compliance with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations. The 2009 Housing Element would not physically divide established communities by promoting the construction of physical barriers to neighborhood access, such as new freeways, or by removing existing means of access, such as bridges or roadways. The 2009 Housing Element would not have a substantial impact upon the existing character of San Francisco. Individual development projects would undergo design review to ensure that new construction is compatible with the neighborhoods in which the projects are located. In addition, individual development projects would be reviewed for compliance with San Francisco Planning Code (Planning Code) regulations to ensure that the proposed land uses are permitted in the zoning districts in which the projects are located.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in incrementally greater impacts related to land use and land use planning, but these impacts would be less than significant.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would promote housing along or near transit corridors and on sites in established neighborhoods throughout San Francisco. The AHBP includes Planning Code amendments that would allow qualifying projects to exceed existing height limits, resulting in buildings that could be taller and denser than what is currently permitted under existing regulations.

Plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect are those that directly address environmental issues and/or contain targets or standards that must be met in order to maintain or improve characteristics of the City's physical environment. Examples of such plans, policies, or regulations include the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's *2010 Clean Air Plan* and the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board's *San Francisco Basin Plan*. The AHBP would not directly conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would be evaluated by City decision-makers for their consistency with such plans, policies, or regulations, and conflicts would need to be addressed prior to the approval of any entitlements.

The AHBP would not physically divide established communities by calling for the construction of physical barriers to neighborhood access, such as freeways, or the removal of existing means of access, such as bridges and roadways. AHBP projects would generally be constructed on vacant or underutilized sites along or near transit corridors and in established residential neighborhoods. New freeways would not need to be constructed to provide access to and from these projects, and existing bridges and roadways would not need to be removed to accommodate the development of these projects.



The AHBP would not have a substantial impact on the existing land use character of San Francisco. The AHBP would promote housing in zoning districts that currently allow residential and neighborhood-serving commercial uses. AHBP projects would introduce new residential and neighborhood-serving commercial uses to established neighborhoods in which such land uses already exist. Therefore, AHBP projects would be largely compatible with the existing land use character of the neighborhoods in which they would be located. AHBP projects could be taller and denser than both non-AHBP projects and existing development. However, the increased height and density would not affect the land use character of a neighborhood in which an AHBP project is located, because new residential uses would be compatible with existing residential uses whether they are housed in a three-story building with fewer units or a five-story building with more units. The physical environmental impacts associated with taller buildings are discussed under the topics of Aesthetics and Wind and Shadow, and the physical environmental impacts associated with denser buildings are discussed under the topics of Population and Housing, Recreation, Utilities and Service Systems, and Public Services.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to land use and land use planning. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts related to land use and land use planning.

## ***Aesthetics***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on aesthetics. The 2009 Housing Element would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, would not damage scenic resources that contribute to a scenic public setting, and would not degrade the existing visual character of San Francisco. As discussed in the FEIR, future development would be required to comply with existing regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding such impacts. The FEIR also found that the 2009 Housing Element would not create new sources of substantial light and glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views or would substantially affect other people or properties. New exterior lighting associated with future development would be focused on specific areas rather than illuminating large areas that are currently not illuminated. Furthermore, all future development would be required to comply with Planning Commission Resolution No. 9212, which prohibits the use of highly reflective or mirrored glass in new construction.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller buildings could result in incrementally greater impacts related to aesthetics, but these impacts would be less than significant.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would allow qualifying projects to exceed existing height limits in certain locations throughout San Francisco, resulting in buildings that could be taller than what is currently permitted under existing regulations. For this reason, adoption of the AHBP could indirectly affect the visual character of the areas in which AHBP projects are located.

CEQA was amended in 2013 to add Public Resources Code ("PRC") Section 21099 regarding the analysis of aesthetics and parking impacts for certain urban infill projects in transit priority areas.<sup>22</sup> PRC Section 21099(d) provides that, "aesthetics and parking impacts of a residential, mixed-use residential, or employment center project on an infill site located within a transit priority area shall not be considered significant impacts on the environment." Accordingly, aesthetics and parking are no longer to be considered in determining if a project has the potential to result in significant environmental effects for projects that meet all of the following three criteria:

- 1) The project is in a transit priority area;
- 2) The project is on an infill site; and
- 3) The project is residential, mixed-use residential, or an employment center.

Since the AHBP would promote housing on infill sites along or near transit corridors throughout San Francisco, most, if not all, AHBP projects would meet all three of the criteria listed above. Pursuant to PRC Section 21099, AHBP projects that meet the three criteria listed above would not result in significant impacts related to aesthetics. In addition, implementation of the AHBP Design Guidelines and Planning Commission Resolution No. 9212 would ensure that AHBP projects would be architecturally and visually compatible with the neighborhoods in which they are located. Since AHBP projects would likely be scattered throughout the City and not concentrated in any one neighborhood or particular block, adoption of the AHBP would not have significant impacts related to aesthetics. Buildings that are somewhat taller or denser than their surrounding context are common and expected in urban environments.

For these reasons, adoption of the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to aesthetics. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts related to aesthetics.

## ***Population and Housing***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts related to population and housing. As noted above, population growth in San Francisco and the region is primarily a result of births, deaths, migration, and employment growth. The growth projections in the FEIR were not driven by assumptions regarding proposed development. The purpose of the 2009 Housing Element is to provide ways for housing supply to meet housing demand and need; if housing supply were the basis for the growth projections, there would be no need for a housing element. For this reason, the 2009 Housing Element would not induce a substantial amount of population growth above the level anticipated in regional growth projections generated by the Association of Bay Area Governments.

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<sup>22</sup> A "transit priority area" is defined in as an area within one-half mile of an existing or planned major transit stop. A "major transit stop" is defined in Section 21064.3 of the California Public Resources Code as a rail transit station, a ferry terminal served by either a bus or rail transit service, or the intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods. A map of transit priority areas in San Francisco can be found at <http://sfmea.sfplanning.org/CEQA%20Update-SB%20743%20Summary.pdf>.

Implementation of the 2009 Housing Element would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing units or people. Individual development projects would be subject to regulations that limit the demolition and merger of existing housing units, which would reduce the need to construct replacement housing.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. These taller and denser buildings could result in incrementally greater impacts related to population and housing, but these impacts would be less than significant.

#### Modified Project (AHBP)

The AHBP would not directly induce population growth above that anticipated by regional growth projections due to births, deaths, migration and employment growth; rather, it would be a new mechanism for providing housing supply – particularly affordable housing – to meet demand. The AHBP would promote housing in certain areas of San Francisco and could influence the design or types of buildings in which projected population growth is housed. In addition, the AHBP would not indirectly induce substantial population growth by calling for the extension of roads, utilities, or other infrastructure. The AHBP would promote housing along or near transit corridors and in established neighborhoods that are already served by roads, utilities, and other infrastructure. Individual projects proposed under the AHBP would be evaluated for their impacts on demand for roads, utilities, and other infrastructure.

The AHBP would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing units or residents by calling for the demolition of existing housing stock. Individual AHBP projects that involve the conversion or demolition of existing housing units would be subject to local policies and regulations that protect existing housing stock. These policies and regulations include, but are not limited to, the Housing Element of the General Plan; Planning Code Section 317: Loss of Dwelling Units through Demolition, Merger, and Conversion; San Francisco Administrative Code (Administrative Code) Chapter 41: Residential Hotel Unit Conversion and Demolition Ordinance; Administrative Code Chapter 41A: Residential Unit Conversion Ordinance; and Administrative Code Chapter 41C: Time-Share Conversion Ordinance. Required compliance with these policies and regulations would ensure that AHBP projects would not displace substantial numbers of existing housing units or residents, thus minimizing the demand for replacement housing and the environmental impacts associated with the construction of replacement housing.

The AHBP would not directly displace businesses, but AHBP projects that involve demolition of existing buildings could displace businesses. The physical effects of business displacement would be considered on an individual basis as part of the environmental review process for each project, because such impacts are project-specific and location-specific. Without individual development proposals to evaluate, it would be speculative to conclude that the AHBP would result in significant overall impacts related to business displacement.

Although businesses are not afforded the same type of protection as residents where displacement is concerned, the City operates several programs to assist displaced businesses. The Office of Economic and Workforce Development runs the Invest in Neighborhoods program, which helps displaced businesses find relocation sites and, under certain circumstances, can provide funding for specific construction improvements, such as façade upgrades. The Small Business Development Center offers pro bono legal advice and technical assistance, and the Office of Small Business provides one-to-one case management assistance with licenses, permits, and financing. In addition to these existing programs, the AHBP includes additional protection for businesses that could be displaced. Sponsors of AHBP projects that

involve demolition of existing buildings and displacement of businesses would be required to notify the affected businesses prior to the start of environmental review, which would provide the affected businesses with more time (anywhere from one to two years) to develop and implement relocation plans. The addition of this notification requirement, in conjunction with the existing programs, would reduce impacts on businesses that could be displaced as a result of the development of AHBP projects.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to population and housing. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts related to population and housing.

### ***Cultural and Paleontological Resources***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element could result in a substantial adverse change to a historic resource if it promoted inappropriate alterations to or demolition of an existing building that is a historic resource, inappropriate new construction in a historic district, or demolition by neglect.<sup>23</sup> The FEIR also found that assessing such impacts on historic resources would be most appropriate during the review of individual development projects proposed under the 2009 Housing Element. Such impacts would be offset through required compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations that protect historic resources.

The FEIR also found that the 2009 Housing Element would not result in a substantial adverse change to an archeological resource, would not destroy a paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, and would not disturb human remains. Individual development projects that could have potential impacts on archeological resources, paleontological resources, or human remains would be subject to existing regulations that protect such resources. These regulations include, but are not limited to, the National Historic Preservation Act and the California Public Resources Code. In addition, the Planning Department has established procedures to assess impacts on archeological resources as well as mitigation measures to reduce potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote a larger number of development projects as well as taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that this increased amount of development, combined with potentially taller buildings, in or adjacent to existing historic districts could result in incrementally greater impacts on cultural and paleontological resources, but these impacts would be less than significant.

#### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would not directly alter or encourage the alteration of existing historic resources. However, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could result in direct effects on historic

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<sup>23</sup> CEQA defines "substantial adverse change" as "demolition, destruction, relocation or alteration," activities that would impair the significance of a historical resource either directly or indirectly. Demolition by neglect is the gradual deterioration of a building when routine or major maintenance is not performed and/or when a building is allowed by the owner to remain vacant and open to vandals.

resources through demolition or alteration of existing buildings or through new construction in existing historic districts. AHBP projects would be evaluated for their potential impacts on historic resources during the environmental review process. In order to be eligible for the Local and 100 Percent Affordable programs, project sponsors must demonstrate that their projects would not result in a substantial adverse change in a historic resource. If the Planning Department determines that a project would result in a substantial adverse change in a historic resource, then the project would not be eligible for the Local and 100 Percent Affordable programs. The project would need to be modified in order to avoid causing such a change, or the project could not be approved under these programs. Given this constraint, projects proposed under the Local and 100 Percent Affordable programs would result in less-than-significant impacts on historic resources.

As discussed in the project description, there is an existing State Density Bonus Law that allows developers to seek density bonuses in exchange for providing affordable housing; this existing law does not require projects to avoid causing substantial adverse changes in historic resources. The AHBP would not change the existing law, but it would provide developers with two avenues (the Analyzed State Program and the Individually Requested Program) for seeking density bonuses in exchange for providing affordable housing; these two State Programs would be consistent with the existing law (i.e., they would not require projects to avoid causing substantial adverse changes in historic resources). Projects proposed under either of the State programs could result in potentially significant impacts on historic resources. These impacts would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis, because impacts on historic resources are project-specific and location-specific. Without individual development proposals to evaluate, it would be speculative to conclude that either of the State Programs would result in significant overall impacts on historic resources. The AHBP would not result in impacts that would be more severe than those that could result from development proposed under the existing State Density Bonus Law.

The AHBP would not directly place or encourage housing in areas of San Francisco that could be underlain by soils containing archeological resources, paleontological resources (i.e., fossils), or human remains. However, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could be located in such areas. Required compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations and procedures would ensure that AHBP projects would not result in a substantial adverse change to an archeological resource, would not destroy a paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature, and would not disturb human remains.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on cultural and paleontological resources. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on cultural and paleontological resources.

## ***Transportation and Circulation***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on traffic, pedestrians, bicycles, loading, emergency access, and construction-related traffic. However, the FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in a significant and unavoidable transit impact, because policies in the 2009 Housing Element that encourage transit-oriented residential development could result in a mode shift toward transit. Such a shift could result in an exceedance of the San Francisco Municipal Railway's capacity utilization standard of 85 percent. The FEIR identified two mitigation measures to address this impact. The first mitigation measure called for the City to implement various transportation plans and programs that would reduce congestion and decrease transit travel times.<sup>24</sup> Since the certification of the FEIR, the Transit Effectiveness Project and the Van Ness Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project have been approved and are being implemented. The second mitigation measure called for the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency to increase capacity by providing more buses. At the time that the FEIR was certified, the feasibility of these mitigation measures could not be established. For this reason, the FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element's impact on transit would be significant and unavoidable.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. In addition, Alternative C would encourage reduced parking requirements for future development and increased density along existing transit lines, resulting in fewer vehicle trips but more transit trips. The FEIR concluded that effects on the roadway network from future development under Alternative C would not be expected to exceed 2025 cumulative conditions. As with the 2009 Housing Element, Alternative C would result in a potentially significant impact on transit but would have no impact on pedestrians, bicycles, loading, emergency vehicle access, or construction-related traffic.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would promote housing along or near transit corridors and on sites in established neighborhoods throughout San Francisco, which is consistent with many local plans, policies, and regulations, including the General Plan, the *San Francisco Countywide Transportation Plan*, and the City's Transit First Policy. This type of transit-oriented development would help encourage residents to move away from the use of private automobiles and toward alternative modes of transportation, such as transit, bicycling, and walking. This mode shift would help reduce impacts on traffic, pedestrians, bicycles, loading, emergency access, and construction-related traffic. Although this mode shift is consistent with the 2009 Housing Element policies, it has the potential to increase the demand for transit service to the degree that the San Francisco Municipal Railway's capacity utilization of 85 percent would be exceeded.<sup>25</sup>

On November 17, 2015, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors adopted the Transportation Sustainability Fee ("TSF") (Ordinance No. 200-15, effective December 25, 2015) to replace the Transit Impact

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<sup>24</sup> The FEIR noted that various transportation plans were adopted, but not implemented, or proposed. Adopted plans/programs included SF Park, SF Go, the *San Francisco Bicycle Plan*, the Transbay Terminal, Caltrain Electrification, and High Speed Rail project, and the Central Subway. Proposed plans included congestion pricing, SFMTA's Transit Effectiveness Project, the Van Ness Avenue and Geary Boulevard Bus Rapid Transit projects, and the *San Francisco Better Streets Plan*.

<sup>25</sup> Capacity utilization is the number of passengers on board a transit vehicle relative to the total capacity.

Development Fee.<sup>26</sup> The TSF applies to new commercial projects, market-rate residential projects with more than 20 units, and certain institutional projects. Developers of such projects would pay a fee that would fund various transit improvements, including additional buses and trains, the reengineering of streets and transit stops, and upgrades to bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The AHBP could reasonably result in a higher number of market-rate residential projects with more than 20 units than under existing zoning regulations. Therefore, more projects would be subject to the TSF, and more revenue would be generated to mitigate transit impacts.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on traffic, pedestrians, bicycles, loading, emergency access, and construction-related traffic, but it would result in a significant and unavoidable impact on transit. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on transportation and circulation.

## Noise

### 2009 Housing Element

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in a less-than-significant impact related to a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels due to policies that discourage demolition and encourage maintenance of the City's existing housing stock. In addition, all construction activities are required to comply with the regulations set forth in the San Francisco Noise Ordinance (Noise Ordinance).

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would not result in the exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, because potential impacts resulting from groundborne vibration or groundborne noise due to construction activities would be reduced to less-than-significant levels through compliance with federal, state, and local regulations. The FEIR also found that the 2009 Housing Element would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing at the time of that the Notice of Preparation of an EIR was published.

Lastly, the FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in a significant but mitigable impact related to the exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of established standards. The FEIR concluded that by encouraging future growth along transit corridors within the City, such growth could be located in areas with existing ambient noise levels exceeding 60 dBA  $L_{dn}$ , which is the maximum satisfactory exterior noise level for residential areas.<sup>27,28</sup> Interior noise levels for residential uses are addressed through compliance with the noise standards set forth in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, as implemented during the design and review phase for individual development projects.

<sup>26</sup> San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Ordinance No. 200-15, adopted November 17, 2015. Available at <http://www.sfbos.org/ftp/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/ordinances15/o0200-15.pdf>, accessed January 13, 2016.

<sup>27</sup> The standard method used to quantify environmental noise involves evaluating the sound with an adjustment to reflect the fact that human hearing is less sensitive to low-frequency sound than to mid- and high-frequency sound. This measurement adjustment is called "A" weighting, and the data are reported in A-weighted decibels (dBA).

<sup>28</sup>  $L_{dn}$  is the average equivalent sound level during a 24-hour day, obtained after the addition of 10 dB to sound levels during nighttime hours (from 10:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m.).

However, some areas of the City may be especially noisy. FEIR Mitigation Measure M-NO-1: Interior and Exterior Noise, requires the preparation of a noise analysis for new residential development projects located on streets with noise levels above 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . The noise analysis shall include, at a minimum, (1) a site survey to identify potential noise-generating uses within two blocks of the project site and (2) at least one 24-hour noise measurement with maximum noise level readings taken at least every 15 minutes prior to completion of the environmental review. The analysis shall demonstrate with reasonable certainty that Title 24 standards, where applicable, can be met. FEIR Mitigation Measure M-NO-1 also requires that open space for new residential uses be protected, to the maximum extent feasible, from existing ambient noise levels that could prove annoying or disruptive to users of the open space. Implementation of this measure could involve designing the project in a way that uses the building itself to shield on-site open space from noise sources, constructing noise barriers between on-site open space and noise sources, and appropriately using both common and private open space in multi-unit residential buildings. Since the certification of the FEIR, this mitigation measure has been implemented as part of every proposed residential project that (1) is located on a street with ambient noise levels above 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$  and/or (2) includes open space.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in incrementally greater noise and vibration impacts during both the construction and operational phases, but these impacts would be less than significant with implementation of FEIR Mitigation Measure M-NO-1.

#### Modified Project (AHBP)

The AHBP would promote housing in areas of San Francisco that could have existing ambient noise levels exceeding 60 dBA  $L_{dn}$ . Individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would be required to comply with the noise standards set forth in Title 24 as well as the provisions of the Noise Ordinance. As discussed above, AHBP projects that are located on streets with ambient noise levels above 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$  or that include open space would be required to implement FEIR Mitigation Measure M-NO-1. Required compliance with existing noise regulations and implementation of FEIR Mitigation Measure M-NO-1 would ensure that new noise-sensitive receptors occupying AHBP projects would not be substantially affected by existing noise levels. No additional mitigation measures to address noise impacts on noise-sensitive receptors are necessary.

Construction of AHBP projects would result in temporary site-specific increases in noise and vibration levels. Once construction has been completed, noise and vibration produced by construction equipment and construction vehicles would cease. In addition, all construction activities in San Francisco are required to comply with the Noise Ordinance, which prohibits construction between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Construction of AHBP projects would generate vibration that could damage adjacent or nearby buildings. The DBI is responsible for reviewing building permit applications to ensure that proposed construction activities, including pile driving, shoring, and underpinning, comply with all applicable procedures and requirements and would not materially impair adjacent or nearby buildings.

Vehicle traffic is a primary source of noise and vibration throughout San Francisco. Like the 2009 Housing Element, the AHBP would promote housing in some areas along or near major transportation corridors that have higher ambient noise and vibration levels than other areas of San Francisco. Although AHBP



projects could be taller and denser than development anticipated under the 2009 Housing Element, AHBP projects would not include substantially more units such that there would be a noticeable increase in traffic noise and vibration. Vehicle traffic generated by AHBP projects would result in localized increases in noise and vibration levels, but these increases would not be substantial given the elevated noise and vibration levels that already exist along major transportation corridors.

AHBP projects would include mechanical equipment, such as heating and ventilation systems, that could produce operational noise and potentially disturb adjacent and nearby noise-sensitive receptors. The operation of this mechanical equipment is subject to the provisions of the Noise Ordinance. Compliance with the Noise Ordinance would minimize noise from building operations.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant noise and vibration impacts. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding noise and vibration impacts.

### ***Air Quality***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on air quality. As discussed in the FEIR, the 2009 Housing Element would not increase the overall citywide population from 2009 to 2025 above the level assumed in the *Bay Area 2005 Ozone Strategy*, which was the applicable air quality plan at the time the FEIR was prepared. During this 16-year period, the number of vehicle-miles-traveled would increase at a lower rate than the rate of population growth, meaning that air pollution from vehicles would not outpace the population growth anticipated in the *Bay Area 2005 Ozone Strategy*. For these reasons, the 2009 Housing Element would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan and would not violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. In addition, all construction activities associated with individual development projects would be subject to the provisions of the Construction Dust Control Ordinance.

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial air pollutant concentrations. Increased housing development along or near transit corridors could increase concentrations of certain air pollutants, including PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, and toxic air contaminants, on some roadways within San Francisco. At the same time, increased density and associated shifts from private automobiles to alternative modes of transportation, such as transit, bicycling, and walking, could reduce the overall expected growth of vehicle trips and vehicle-miles traveled. In addition, Article 38 of the San Francisco Health Code contains requirements for air quality assessment and mitigation when new residential exposures exceed action levels for acceptable air pollutant concentrations.

The FEIR also concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts related to carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations. To support this conclusion, CO concentrations were calculated based on simplified CALINE4 screening procedures developed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Based on the modeling, under future 2025 cumulative traffic conditions, none of the 10 worst-performing intersections included in the model would exceed

CO standards. Thus, it was assumed that if CO levels at the 10 worst-performing intersections do not exceed the CO thresholds, then the remaining 50 intersections analyzed in the traffic study would not exceed the CO thresholds.

Lastly, the FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts related to objectionable odors, because residential uses generally do not create objectionable odors.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. In addition, Alternative C would encourage increased density along existing transit lines, resulting in fewer vehicle miles traveled but more transit trips. The FEIR concluded that overall air quality impacts associated with taller and denser transit-oriented development under Alternative C would be incrementally reduced when compared to the impacts under the 2009 Housing Element. The air quality impacts under Alternative C would be less than significant.

#### Modified Project (AHBP)

The AHBP would not directly contribute to air pollutant emissions, but individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would contribute to air pollutant emissions during their construction and operational phases. AHBP projects would be subject to state, regional, and local plans, policies, and regulations related to the protection of air quality. These plans, policies, and regulations include, but are not limited to, the BAAQMD's *2010 Clean Air Plan*, the San Francisco Construction Dust Control Ordinance, and Article 38 of the San Francisco Health Code. The Construction Dust Control Ordinance requires that all site preparation work, demolition, or other construction activities that have the potential to create dust or to expose or disturb more than 10 cubic yards or 500 square feet of soil comply with specified dust control measures. Such measures include watering all active construction areas sufficiently to prevent dust from becoming airborne, wet sweeping or vacuuming the streets, sidewalks, paths, and intersections where work is in progress at the end of the workday, and covering inactive stockpiles of excavated material, backfill material, gravel, sand, road base, and soil. Pursuant to Article 38, any project, AHBP or otherwise, located in an Air Pollutant Exposure Zone (APEZ) would be required to provide an enhanced ventilation system to protect its residents from exposure to toxic air contaminants. In addition, any project, AHBP or otherwise, located in an APEZ may be subject to mitigation measures that are necessary to reduce construction-related air quality impacts to less-than-significant levels. Required compliance with these plans, policies, and regulations would ensure that AHBP projects would not violate an air quality standard, contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, or expose sensitive receptors to substantial air pollutant concentrations.

Residential uses generally do not create objectionable odors. Land uses that commonly create objectionable odors include wastewater treatment plants, oil refineries, landfills, and composting facilities. Since AHBP projects would not include these types of land uses, AHBP projects would not create objectionable odors.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on air quality. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on air quality.

## **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would not generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment and would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Moreover, implementation of the 2009 Housing Element would not conflict with Assembly Bill (AB) 32 or San Francisco's *Strategies to Address Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. In addition, Alternative C would encourage increased density along existing transit lines and more energy-efficient buildings. The FEIR concluded that overall GHG impacts associated with taller, denser, and more energy-efficient transit-oriented development under Alternative C would be incrementally reduced when compared to the impacts under the 2009 Housing Element. The GHG impacts under Alternative C would be less than significant.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

Adoption of the AHBP would not directly generate GHG emissions, but individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would generate GHG emissions during their construction and operational phases. The AHBP would promote housing along or near transit corridors and in established neighborhoods where jobs and other services are easily accessible by public transit or are within walking distance. This type of transit-oriented development would encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation (transit, bicycling, walking) and help reduce GHG emissions from the use of private automobiles, which is one of the primary sources of GHG emissions. In addition, AHBP projects would be subject to state, regional, and local plans, policies, and regulations related to the reduction of GHG emissions. These plans, policies, and regulations include Executive Order S-3-05, Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's *2010 Clean Air Plan*, San Francisco's *Strategies to Address Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, and the San Francisco Green Building Ordinance. Required compliance with these plans, policies, and regulations would ensure that AHBP projects would not result in cumulatively considerable contributions to GHG emissions. To the degree that AHBP projects are concentrated closer to public transit and in taller and denser buildings (i.e., fewer buildings in fewer locations), GHG emissions would be reduced when compared to development patterns anticipated under the 2009 Housing Element.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to GHG emissions. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts related to GHG emissions.

## **Wind and Shadow**

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant wind and shadow impacts, because the 2009 Housing Element would not directly result in the construction of projects that would alter wind or create new shadow. In addition, wind and shadow impacts are project-specific;

individual development projects would be subject to the Planning Department's procedures requiring modification of any new building or addition that would exceed the Planning Code's wind hazard criterion and would be evaluated for their shadow impacts under CEQA and for compliance with Planning Code Sections 146, 147, and 295.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller buildings could result in incrementally greater wind and shadow impacts, but required compliance with Planning Code wind and shadow regulations would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

#### Modified Project (AHBP)

The AHBP would not directly result in the construction of any new development and thus would not alter wind or create new shadow. However, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could alter wind or create new shadow in their respective vicinities. The AHBP would allow qualifying projects to exceed existing height limits in certain locations throughout San Francisco, resulting in buildings that could be taller than the existing scale of development or taller than what is currently permitted under existing regulations. AHBP projects would be evaluated for their wind and shadow impacts during the environmental review process and for compliance with Planning Code wind and shadow regulations during the entitlement process. In order to be eligible for the Local and 100 Percent Affordable programs, project sponsors must demonstrate that their projects would not alter wind in a manner that substantially affects public areas or create new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas. If it is determined that a project would result in a significant wind or shadow impact, then the project would need to be modified in order to avoid causing such an impact. If modifications are not feasible, then the project would not be eligible for the Local and 100 Percent Affordable programs. Given these constraints, projects proposed under the Local and 100 Percent Affordable programs would result in less-than-significant wind and shadow impacts.

As discussed in the project description, there is an existing State Density Bonus Law that allows developers to seek density bonuses in exchange for providing affordable housing; this existing law does not require projects to avoid altering wind in a manner that substantially affects public areas or creating new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas. The AHBP would not change the existing law, but it would provide developers with two avenues (the State Analyzed Density Bonus Program and the Individually Requested State Density Bonus Program) for seeking density bonuses in exchange for providing affordable housing; these two State programs would be consistent with the existing law (i.e., they would not require projects to avoid creating new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas). Projects proposed under either of the State programs could result in potentially significant wind and shadow impacts. These impacts would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis, because wind and shadow impacts are project-specific and location-specific. Without individual development proposals to evaluate, it would be speculative to conclude that either of the State programs would result in significant overall wind and shadow impacts. The AHBP would not result in impacts that would be more severe than those that could result from development proposed under the existing State Density Bonus Law.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant wind and shadow impacts. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result

in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding wind and shadow impacts.

## **Recreation**

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts related to the increased use of existing parks or recreational facilities, the need to construct new or expand existing recreational facilities, and the physical degradation of existing recreational resources. While the FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element contains policies that could result in an increase in demand for existing recreational facilities in certain areas, the 2009 Housing Element also contains policies that could reduce the need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities by encouraging quality-of-life elements in residential developments such as on-site usable open space. The 2009 Housing Element includes measures to ensure community plan areas are adequately served by recreation facilities, thereby indirectly promoting the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The need for new or expanded recreational facilities and their associated impacts would be determined during the evaluation of specific community plan proposals.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element, potentially resulting in an increase in demand for and the use of recreational facilities in certain areas of San Francisco. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in incrementally greater impacts related to recreation, but these impacts would be less than significant.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

As noted above, the AHBP would promote housing in certain areas of San Francisco but would not increase the overall citywide population above the level of future growth projected in the 2009 Housing Element. For this reason, AHBP projects would not increase the overall demand for recreational facilities above the level analyzed in the FEIR, but there could be localized fluctuations in demand for certain recreational facilities depending on where AHBP projects are constructed. In November 2000, San Francisco voters approved Proposition C, which extended the life of the Open Space Fund through Fiscal Year 2030-2031. The Open Space Fund is used to finance property acquisitions and capital improvement projects for the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. A percentage of property tax revenues is set aside for the Open Space Fund, and such revenue would increase with the development of AHBP projects.

In addition, AHBP projects would be subject to Planning Code requirements for usable open space. Although AHBP projects would be eligible for certain modifications or waivers from these requirements, they would not be entirely exempt from complying with these requirements. The granting of open space modifications or waivers available to AHBP projects would not significantly increase demand for recreational facilities such that new open space or recreational facilities would be required. Most of the City's recreational facilities are located on properties zoned for public use (P Districts); the AHBP does not apply to sites in P Districts and would not reclassify any P Districts. Lastly, the AHBP would not convert existing recreational facilities to other uses or otherwise physically degrade recreational resources.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to recreation. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts related to recreation.

### ***Utilities and Service Systems***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on utilities and service systems. The 2009 Housing Element would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements, would not exceed the capacity of the wastewater treatment provider, and would not require the construction of new or expansion of existing wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage facilities. Such impacts would be offset through required compliance with existing regulations that address wastewater and stormwater discharges. In addition, the 2009 Housing Element would not increase water demand above the level assumed for planning purposes in the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC's) Water Supply Availability Study that was prepared for the FEIR. Lastly, the 2009 Housing Element would not exceed the permitted capacity of the City's designated landfill. Any incremental increases in waste at landfills would be offset through required compliance with existing regulations that address the generation and disposal of solid waste.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in similar but incrementally greater impacts on utilities and service systems, but these impacts would be less than significant.

#### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would not directly generate stormwater or wastewater, but individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would generate stormwater and wastewater during their construction and operational phases. All stormwater and wastewater generated by AHBP projects would flow to the City's combined stormwater/sewer system and would be treated to standards contained in the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits for the Southeast Treatment Plant and the Oceanside Treatment Plant prior to discharge into San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean, respectively. The NPDES standards are set and regulated by the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Therefore, AHBP projects would not conflict with RWQCB requirements and would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements. In addition, AHBP projects would be subject to local regulations that include, but are not limited to, the Green Building Ordinance and the Stormwater Management Ordinance. Required compliance with these regulations would reduce stormwater and wastewater flows from AHBP projects, thereby ensuring that AHBP projects would not exceed the capacity of the wastewater treatment provider and would not require the construction of new or expansion of existing wastewater treatment and stormwater drainage facilities.

The AHBP would not directly consume water, but individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would consume water during their construction and operational phases. As noted above, the AHBP would promote housing in certain areas of San Francisco but would not increase the overall population beyond the future growth projected in the 2009 Housing Element. For this reason, AHBP

projects would not increase the overall demand for water above the level assumed for planning purposes in the SFPUC's Water Supply Availability Study prepared for the FEIR. In addition, AHBP projects would be subject to local regulations that include, but are not limited to, the Green Building Ordinance, the Green Landscaping Ordinance, and the Residential Water Conservation Ordinance. Required compliance with these regulations would reduce water consumption by AHBP projects, thereby ensuring that AHBP projects would not exceed the available water supply and would not require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements.

The AHBP would not directly generate solid waste, but individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would generate solid waste during their construction and operational phases. The AHBP would promote housing in certain areas of San Francisco but would not increase the overall citywide population above the level of future growth projected in the 2009 Housing Element. For this reason, AHBP projects would not increase the overall amount of solid waste generated above the level analyzed in the FEIR. In addition, AHBP projects would be subject to local regulations that include, but are not limited to, the Mandatory Recycling and Composting Ordinance, the Construction and Demolition Debris Recovery Ordinance, and the Green Building Ordinance. Required compliance with these regulations would promote the composting and recycling of solid waste and reduce the amount of solid waste sent to the City's designated landfill, thereby ensuring that AHBP projects would not exceed the permitted capacity of the City's designated landfill.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on utilities and service systems. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on utilities and service systems.

### ***Public Services***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on fire protection, police protection, schools, or other public services, such as libraries or public health facilities. The San Francisco Fire Department and the San Francisco Police Department regularly redeploy their resources based on need to ensure that response times and service ratios do not fall below acceptable levels. New development projects are required to pay development impact fees to fund school and library facilities and operations, which would help offset potential impacts on school and library services. The 2009 Housing Element would not increase the overall citywide population above regional growth projections for which public health facilities have accounted, which would reduce the need to construct new or expand existing facilities.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in similar but incrementally greater impacts on public services, but these impacts would be less than significant.

#### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

As noted above, the AHBP would promote housing in certain areas of San Francisco but would not increase the overall citywide population above the level of future growth projected in the 2009 Housing

Element. For this reason, AHBP projects would not increase the overall demand for fire protection or police protection above the level analyzed in the FEIR. There could be localized fluctuations in demand for fire protection and police protection depending on where AHBP projects are constructed, but as discussed above, both the Fire Department and the Police Department regularly redeploy their resources based on need to ensure that response times and service ratios do not fall below acceptable levels. The AHBP would promote housing on sites in established neighborhoods that already receive fire protection and police protection, potentially allowing the Fire Department and the Police Department to maintain response times and service ratios at or close to their current levels and reducing the need to construct new or expand existing facilities.

As discussed in the FEIR, the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) assigns students to schools based on a lottery system. This lottery system ensures that student enrollment is distributed to facilities that have sufficient capacity to adequately serve the educational needs of students. Directing growth to certain areas of San Francisco generally would not affect the school system, because students are not assigned to schools based on location. AHBP projects could affect school services if they create additional demand for school services that cannot be accommodated by the SFUSD's existing capacity, thereby requiring the need to construct new or expand existing facilities. At the time of the preparation of the FEIR, SFUSD facilities had a capacity of about 63,835 students, and about 56,446 students were enrolled in these facilities. More recently, approximately 58,400 students were enrolled in SFUSD facilities during the 2014-2015 school year. Pursuant to California Education Code Section 17620(a)(1), the governing board at any school district is authorized to levy a fee, charge, dedication, or other requirement against any construction within the boundaries of the district for the purpose of funding the construction or reconstruction of school facilities. AHBP projects would be subject to a development impact fee, and the payment of this fee would help fund school facilities and operations and offset potential impacts on school services.

The AHBP would promote housing in certain areas of San Francisco but would not increase the overall citywide population above the level of future growth projected in the 2009 Housing Element. For this reason, AHBP projects would not increase the overall demand for libraries or public health facilities, but there could be localized fluctuations in demand for libraries and public health facilities depending on where AHBP projects are constructed. In November 2000, San Francisco voters approved a bond measure to fund the Branch Library Improvement Program (BLIP). Among other objectives, the BLIP calls for the renovation of 16 existing branch libraries, the demolition and replacement of three branch libraries with newly constructed facilities, and the construction of a new branch library in the emerging Mission Bay neighborhood. In addition to the BLIP, AHBP projects would be subject to a development impact fee to fund library facilities and operations. The payment of this fee, as well as property tax revenue from AHBP projects, would help fund library facilities and operations and offset potential impacts on library services. The AHBP would promote housing on sites in established neighborhoods that are already served by public health facilities, potentially allowing such facilities to maintain response times and service ratios at or close to their current levels and reducing the need to construct new or expand existing facilities.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on public services. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on public services.



## ***Biological Resources***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on biological resources. The 2009 Housing Element would not have a substantial adverse effect on any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species, riparian habitat, other sensitive natural communities, or federally protected wetlands, and would not interfere with the movement of species. Some 2009 Housing Element policies would promote housing in certain areas of the City, consequently increasing the amount of new housing being constructed in those areas and resulting in impacts on biological resources (e.g., tree removal, construction on or near riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities, interference with migration, etc.). However, increasing density could accommodate more of the City's fair share of the Regional Housing Needs Allocation in fewer buildings, resulting in fewer construction sites and decreasing the potential for disturbance of or interference with biological resources. The FEIR also found that the 2009 Housing Element would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources or conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, because the 2009 Housing Element does not contain any policies that would directly or indirectly conflict with any policies protecting biological resources or any adopted habitat conservation plans.

As discussed in the FEIR, concluded that Alternative C would promote a larger number of development projects as well as taller buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that increased amount of development, combined with potentially taller buildings could result in greater impacts on biological resources, but required compliance with federal, state, and local regulations that protect biological resources would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would not directly place housing in areas of San Francisco that are in or near riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities. However, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could be in or near such areas. In addition, the AHBP would allow qualifying projects to exceed existing height limits in certain locations throughout San Francisco, resulting in buildings that could be taller than what is currently permitted under existing regulations. Multi-story buildings are potential obstacles that can injure or kill birds in the event of a collision. AHBP projects would be evaluated for their impacts on biological resources and would be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations that protect biological resources. These regulations include, but are not limited to, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Sections 3503 and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, the San Francisco Urban Forestry Ordinance, and San Francisco Planning Code Section 139: Standards for Bird-Safe Buildings. The AHBP would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, because the AHBP does not contain any policies that would directly or indirectly conflict with any policies protecting biological resources or any adopted habitat conservation plans.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on biological resources. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on biological resources.

## ***Geology and Soils***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on geology and soils. Individual development projects would be developed in a seismically sound manner because they would be required to comply with building regulations for seismic safety that are enforced through the City's interdepartmental review process. Compliance with these regulations would ensure that people or structures would not be exposed to substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, landslides, unstable soil, or expansive soils. The FEIR also found that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil, because these impacts are site-specific. Individual development projects would be evaluated for their impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil and would be required to comply with applicable regulations related to the prevention of erosion and the discharge of sediment into construction site runoff. Lastly, the FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would not substantially change the topography or any unique geologic or physical features of development sites, because all permit applications for excavation and grading would be reviewed by City agencies for consistency with policies related to land alteration.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in greater impacts on geology and soils, but required compliance with federal, state, and local regulations that address geologic hazards would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would allow qualifying projects to exceed existing height limits in certain locations throughout San Francisco, resulting in buildings that could be taller than what is currently permitted under existing regulations. Taller buildings may require deeper and more substantial foundations to support the additional building loads. Moreover, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could be located in or near areas that are susceptible to geologic hazards (e.g., earthquake faults, landslide or liquefaction zones, unstable or expansive soils). AHBP projects would be required to comply with the seismic safety standards set forth in the San Francisco Building Code. The Department of Building Inspection is the City agency responsible for reviewing building permit applications, structural drawings and calculations, and geotechnical reports and ensuring that projects comply with the seismic safety standards and other applicable requirements of the Building Code. Project compliance with the Building Code would ensure that people or structures would not be exposed to substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, landslides, unstable soil, or expansive soils. AHBP projects would be evaluated for their impacts related to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil and would be required to comply with applicable regulations related to the prevention of erosion and the discharge of sediment into construction site runoff. All permit applications for excavation and grading activities would be reviewed by City agencies for consistency with policies related to land alteration.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to geology and soils. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C,

would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on geology and soils.

### ***Hydrology and Water Quality***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in less-than-significant impacts on hydrology and water quality. The 2009 Housing Element would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, would not alter existing drainage patterns or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in substantial erosion, siltation, or flooding, and would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Individual development projects would be required to comply with applicable regulations related to erosion prevention and stormwater management, treatment, and discharge.

The FEIR also concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge, would not result in significant impacts related to placing housing in areas at risk of flooding, and would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of injury, loss, or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, mudflow, or the failure of a dam or levee.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller and denser buildings could result in greater impacts on hydrology and water quality, but these impacts would be less than significant.

#### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would not directly result in the construction of housing in areas of San Francisco that are prone to flooding or are at risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, mudflow, or the failure of a dam or levee. However, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could be located in such areas. These projects would be required to comply with applicable regulations related to minimizing the risk of loss, injury, or death from hydrologic hazards. These regulations include, but are not limited to, the San Francisco Floodplain Management Ordinance and the San Francisco Building Code. Groundwater could be encountered during construction of AHBP projects. Dewatering of excavated areas during construction would lower groundwater levels, but these effects would be temporary. Once dewatering has been completed, groundwater levels would return to normal. Wastewater and stormwater generated by AHBP projects would flow to the City's combined stormwater/sewer system and would be treated to standards contained in the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Oceanside Treatment Plant and the Southeast Treatment Plant prior to discharge into the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, respectively. Required compliance with the San Francisco Stormwater Management Ordinance would ensure that AHBP projects would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on hydrology and water quality. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C,

would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on hydrology and water quality.

### ***Hazards and Hazardous Materials***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in a less-than-significant impact related to hazards and hazardous materials. The 2009 Housing Element would not transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials and would not release hazardous materials into the environment. However, the construction of individual development projects would result in the emission of exhaust from construction equipment and vehicles as well as the demolition of older buildings that may contain asbestos, lead-based paint, or other hazardous building materials. In addition, the operation of individual development projects would involve the use of relatively small quantities of hazardous materials such as batteries, household cleaning products, and paint for routine purposes. Most of these materials are consumed through use, resulting in relatively little waste. Existing federal, state, and local regulations and programs address emissions from construction equipment and vehicles, the abatement of hazardous building materials during demolition and construction activities, and the transportation and disposal of hazardous materials. Individual development projects, including those that would be on sites on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 or would handle hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, would be required to comply with these existing regulations and programs.

The FEIR also concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fires. In San Francisco, fire safety is ensured through compliance with the provisions of the Building Code and the Fire Code. The building permit applications for individual development projects would be reviewed by the Department of Building Inspection and the Fire Department for compliance with all regulations related to fire safety.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote residential development in commercial areas, near transit lines, or in other areas where hazardous materials are used. The FEIR concluded that residential development in such areas could result in greater impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials when compared to the impacts under the 2009, but required compliance with federal, state, and local regulations that address hazards and hazardous materials would reduce these impacts to less-than-significant levels.

#### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

The AHBP would not directly result in the construction of housing on sites that are included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. However, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could be located on such sites. All AHBP projects, including those located on hazardous materials sites or those that would handle hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school, would be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local regulations and programs related to the abatement of hazardous materials, the emission of exhaust from construction equipment and vehicles, and the transportation and disposal of hazardous materials. Required compliance with such regulations and programs would ensure that AHBP

projects would not emit hazardous materials into the environment and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Required compliance with fire safety regulations would ensure that AHBP projects would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan or expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving fires.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions on impacts regarding hazards and hazardous materials.

### ***Mineral and Energy Resources***

#### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in a less-than-significant impact on mineral and energy resources. The 2009 Housing Element would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site, or the use of large amounts of fuel, water, or energy.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. The FEIR concluded that these taller buildings could result in incrementally greater impacts on mineral and energy resources, but these impacts would be less than significant.

#### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

All land in San Francisco is designated Mineral Resource Zone 4 (MRZ-4) by the California Division of Mines and Geology (CDMG) under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975.<sup>29</sup> This designation indicates that there is inadequate information available for assignment to any other MRZ. Thus, the AHBP-eligible development sites are not designated areas of significant mineral deposits or locally important mineral resource recovery sites and the AHBP would not result in the loss of availability of such resources. Furthermore, the AHBP would not encourage activities that result in the use of large amounts of fuel, water, or energy, or use these in a wasteful manner, because individual development projects proposed under the AHBP would be required to comply with state and local ordinances that regulate such activities. In California, energy consumption for the heating, cooling, ventilation, and lighting of buildings is regulated by Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. As part of the building permit application process, project sponsors are required to submit documentation demonstrating project compliance with Title 24 standards. In addition, projects in San Francisco are subject to the requirements of the San Francisco Green Building Ordinance.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on mineral and energy resources. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on mineral and energy resources.

<sup>29</sup> California Division of Mines and Geology, Open File Report 96-03, 1996, and Special Report 146 Parts I and II, 1986.

## ***Agriculture and Forest Resources***

### **2009 Housing Element**

The FEIR concluded that the 2009 Housing Element would result in a less-than-significant impact related to conflicts with existing zoning for agricultural use. Implementation of the 2009 Housing Element would not include any changes to the City's zoning districts and would not conflict with existing zoning for urban agricultural uses.

As discussed in the FEIR, Alternative C would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use but would promote taller and denser buildings than would the 2009 Housing Element. These taller buildings could block sunlight for longer periods of time and result in incrementally greater impacts on agriculture resources (community gardens), but these impacts would be less than significant.

### **Modified Project (AHBP)**

San Francisco is not zoned for agricultural use and is not subject to a Williamson Act contract.<sup>30</sup> The AHBP would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use and would not conflict with existing zoning related to agricultural use. The AHBP would not directly block sunlight to community gardens, but after they have been constructed, individual development projects proposed under the AHBP could block sunlight to community gardens. These projects would be evaluated for their specific shadow impacts on community gardens as part of their individual environmental review and entitlement processes.

At the time of the preparation of the FEIR, the topic of forest resources was not part of the Environmental Checklist Form (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). For this reason, the FEIR did not analyze impacts on forest resources. In 2010, the topic of forest resources was added to the Environmental Checklist Form. San Francisco does not contain forest land or timberland as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) and Public Resources Code Section 4526, respectively. The AHBP would not convert forest land or timberland to non-forest use and would not conflict with existing zoning related to forest use.

For these reasons, the AHBP would result in less-than-significant impacts on agriculture and forest resources. The AHBP would not result in more severe impacts than the 2009 Housing Element or Alternative C, would not result in new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR, and would not require new mitigation measures. Furthermore, there is no new information that would alter the FEIR's conclusions regarding impacts on agriculture and forest resources.

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<sup>30</sup> California Department of Conservation, *San Francisco Bay Area Important Farmland 2010*. Available online at [ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/regional/2010/bay\\_area\\_fmmp2010.pdf](ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dlrp/FMMP/pdf/regional/2010/bay_area_fmmp2010.pdf), accessed January 6, 2016.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

The 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR identified the following mitigation measure to mitigate the potentially significant impact related to interior and exterior noise to a less-than-significant level. This measure was adopted as Implementation Measures 17 and 18 in the 2009 Housing Element, which are continued as Implementation Measures 17 and 18 in the 2014 Housing Element.

### ***Mitigation Measure M-NO-1: Interior and Exterior Noise***

For new residential development located along streets with noise levels above 75 dBA  $L_{dn}$ , as shown in Figure V.G-3 of the 2004 and 2009 Housing Element FEIR, the Planning Department shall require the following:

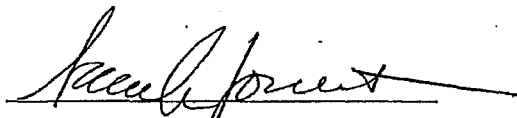
1. The Planning Department shall require the preparation of an analysis that includes, at a minimum, a site survey to identify potential noise-generating uses within two blocks of the project site, and including at least one 24-hour noise measurement (with maximum noise level readings taken at least every 15 minutes), prior to completion of the environmental review. The analysis shall demonstrate with reasonable certainty that Title 24 standards, where applicable, can be met, and that there are no particular circumstances about the proposed project site that appear to warrant heightened concern about noise levels in the vicinity. Should such concerns be present, the Department may require the completion of a detailed noise assessment by person(s) qualified in acoustical analysis and/or engineering prior to the first project approval action, in order to demonstrate that acceptable interior noise levels consistent with those in the Title 24 standards can be attained; and
2. To minimize effects on development in noisy areas, for new residential uses, the Planning Department shall, through its building permit review process, in conjunction with noise analysis required above, require that open space required under the Planning Code for such uses be protected, to the maximum feasible extent, from existing ambient noise levels that could prove annoying or disruptive to users of the open space. Implementation of this measure could involve, among other things, site design that uses the building itself to shield on-site open space from the greatest noise sources, construction of noise barriers between noise sources and open space, and appropriate use of both common and private open space in multi-family dwellings, and implementation would also be undertaken consistent with other principles of urban design.

## CONCLUSION

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.

DATE

*January 14, 2016*



Sarah B. Jones, Environmental Review Officer  
for John Rahaim, Director of Planning



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## Planning Commission Resolution No. 19494

HEARING DATE:  
OCTOBER 15, 2015

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

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415.558.6378

Fax:  
415.558.6409

Planning  
Information:  
415.558.6377

*Date:* October 15, 2015  
*Case No.:* 2014-001503GPA  
*Project Address:* Affordable Housing Bonus Program  
*Initiated by:* John Rahaim, Director of Planning  
*Staff Contact:* Menaka Mohan – (415) 575-9141  
[menaka.mohan@sfgov.org](mailto:menaka.mohan@sfgov.org)  
Paolo Ikeoze – (415)-575-9137  
[Paolo.Ikeoze@sfgov.org](mailto:Paolo.Ikeoze@sfgov.org)  
*Reviewed by:* Kearstin Dischinger  
[kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org](mailto:kearstin.dischinger@sfgov.org)  
*Recommendation:* Approval to Initiate

INITIATING CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL PLAN IN ASSOCIATION WITH LEGISLATION TO ADOPT THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM TO UPDATE THE HOUSING ELEMENT, URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT, CHINATOWN AREA PLAN, DOWNTOWN AREA PLAN AND NORTHEAST WATERFRONT AREA PLAN TO CLARIFY THAT PROJECTS IN THE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM MAY REQUEST DENSITY, HEIGHT AND BULK INCENTIVES FOR THE PROVISION OF GREATER LEVELS OF ONSITE AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

### PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, Section 4.105 of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco mandates that the Planning Department shall periodically recommend to the Board of Supervisors for approval or rejection proposed amendments to the General Plan;

WHEREAS, in compliance with State law, the San Francisco Planning Department is seeking to establish a local ordinance implementing the State Density Bonus Law;

WHEREAS, the Housing Element of the City's General Plan includes an implementation measure calling for the establishment of an affordable housing bonus program;

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Bonus Program reflects the goals of the Mayor's Executive Directive 13-01- *Accelerate Housing Production and Protect Existing Housing Stock*;

WHEREAS, the affordable housing bonus program reflects the goals of Proposition K (2014), which call for 33% of all new housing to be affordable to low- and moderate-income households;



WHEREAS, the proposed General Plan Amendment makes conforming amendments in association with legislation to adopt the Affordable Housing Bonus Program to various elements of the General Plan, including the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan And Northeast Waterfront Area Plan to clarify that in order to encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than detailed in some parts of the San Francisco General Plan.

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Bonus Program is generally consistent with the existing General Plan, and is highlighted as an Implementation Measure in the recently adopted 2014 Housing Element. Staff recommends adoption of the draft Resolution of Intention to initiate limited conforming proposed amendments to the General Plan, amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan And Northeast Waterfront Area Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, the Planning Commission adopts a Resolution of Intention to initiate amendments to the General Plan of the City and County of San Francisco, in order to update the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan And Northeast Waterfront Area Plan of the General Plan.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that pursuant to Planning Code Section 306.3, the Planning Commission authorizes the Department to provide appropriate notice for a public hearing to consider the above referenced General Plan amendment in a draft ordinance approved as to form by the City Attorney contained in Attachment 2, as though fully set forth herein, to be considered at a publicly noticed hearing on or after November 5, 2015.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission on October 15, 2015.

Jonas Ionin  
Commission Secretary

AYES: Wu, Fong, Richards, Antonini, Johnson

NOES:

ABSENT: Hillis, Moore



16347

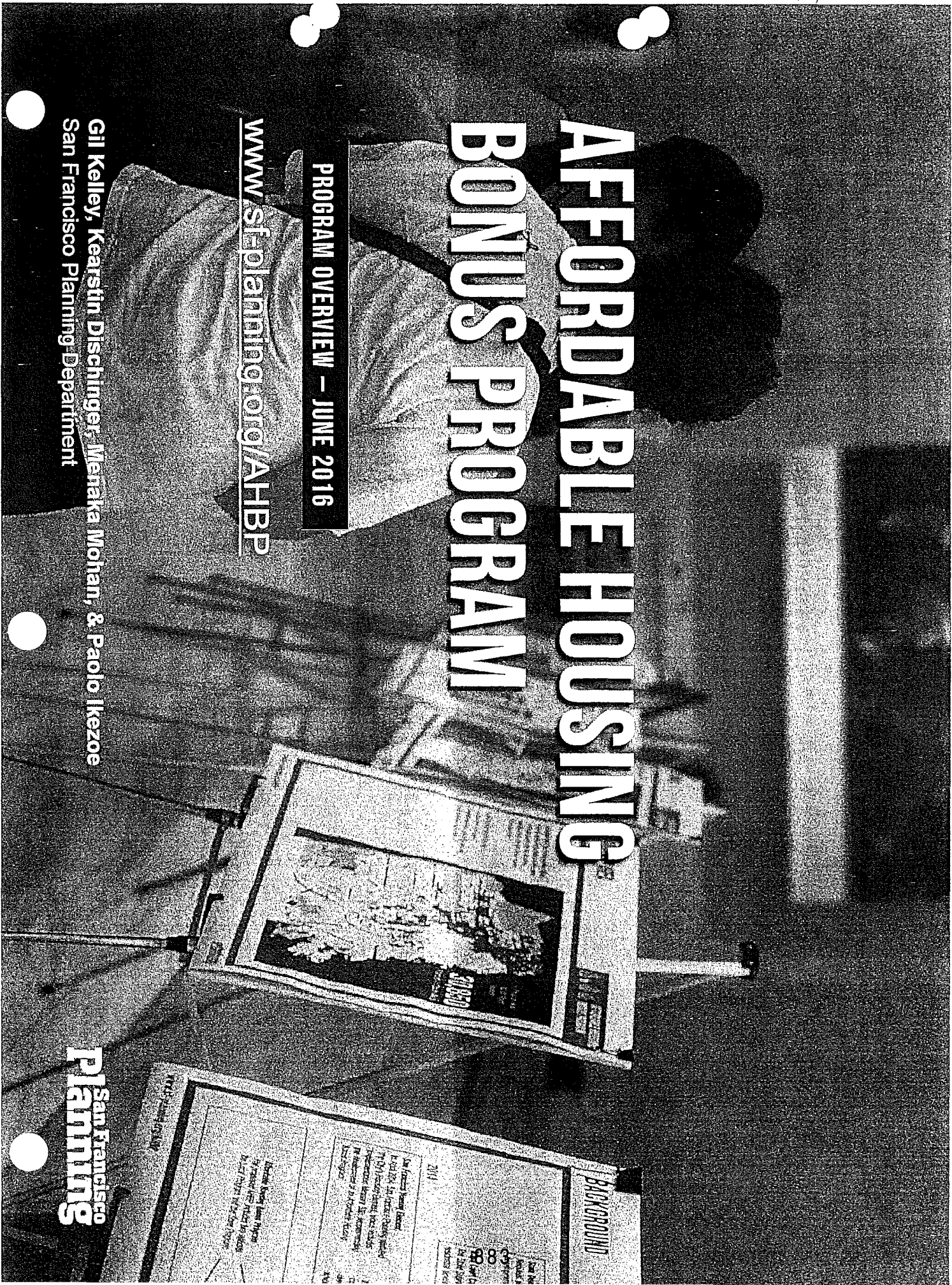
# AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW — JUNE 2016

[www.sfplanning.org/AHBP](http://www.sfplanning.org/AHBP)

Gil Kelley, Kearsstin Dischinger, Manaka Mohan, & Paolo Ikezoe  
San Francisco Planning Department

San Francisco  
Planning



# AGENDA

## The State of Housing Affordability

### Program Overview

- Mixed Income Housing
- 100% Affordable Housing

### Further Refinements anticipated for:

- Mixed Income Program

### Proposed Actions:

- General Plan Amendment
- 100% Affordable Housing Program

# THE STATE OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

## Some key facts:

- 43% of San Francisco households pay more than 30% of income on housing
- “Churn” of residents (in/out of City) is disproportionate v. income

## Key drivers:

- Reversal of decades of sprawl /attractiveness of urban core of regions
- High incomes of new technology workers
- Under-production of housing v job creation in SF and Region
- Erosion of rent control protections (almost 1/2 of housing supply)
- Other deductions from rental stock (short-term rentals; absentee owners, etc.)

# HIGH COSTS OF MARKET RATE HOUSING

**AVERAGE RENT FOR A ONE-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN SF: \$3,490\***

**AVERAGE RENT FOR A TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENT IN SF: \$4,630\***

<b>One-person Household</b>	<b>Affordable Monthly Rent</b>
Very-low income	\$900
Low-income	\$1,425
Moderate-income	\$2,125
Middle-income	\$2,500

<b>Two-three person Household</b>	<b>Affordable Monthly Rent</b>
Very-low income	\$1,000
Low-income	\$1,600
Moderate-income	\$2,400
Middle-income	\$2,800

\*as of 1/6/16

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS

## New Housing:

- Inclusionary requirements
- 100% Affordable Projects (tax credits)
- OCII (TIF supported; limited)
- (Arguably) increasing regional supply of market rate
- State density bonus

## Existing Housing:

- Rent control (eroding affordability)
- Enhanced tenant protections
- Acquisitions (Community land trust model)

# AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMS

Affordability Level	Existing Permanently Affordable Units	MOHCD/OCII Housing Pipeline (10 Years)	AHBP Affordable Units (20 Years)	Projected Total Affordable Units With MOHCD/OCII known pipeline and AHBP	
Very Low, Low and Moderate Income	36,259	7,187	2,000	45,446	86%
Low to Moderate 61%-120% AMI	3,286	959		4,245	8%
Middle Income	0	0	3,000	3,000	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,545</b>	<b>8,146</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>52,691</b>	<b>100%</b>

888

Ⓜ Roughly 13,180 of these units will service households earning 30% of the AMI or below.

Ⓜ Most of the existing units for 120% AMI and below are affordable to households earning no more than 80% AMI.



## PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

“To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, **the City may adopt** affordable housing policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described here.”

## AHBP GOALS

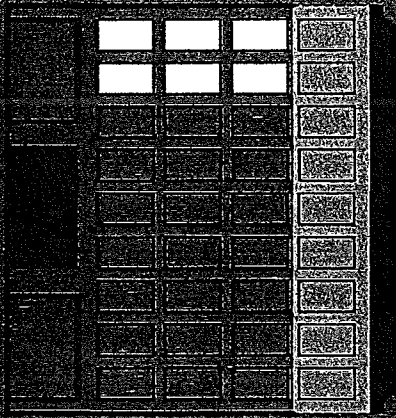
- More housing
- More affordable housing units
  - Up to 5,000 additional units
- NEW Middle-income housing program
- NO public subsidies

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



# AHBP OPTIONS

## AHBP STATE PROGRAM



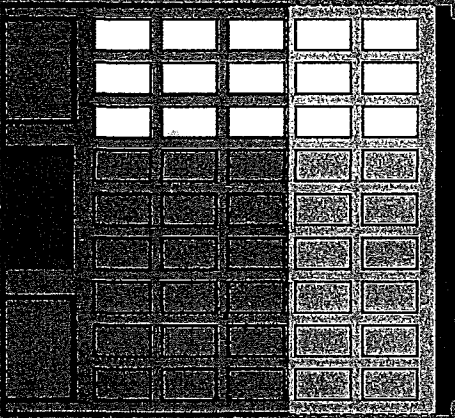
Bonus Height

Height Limit

**13-20%**

Permanently Affordable

## AHBP LOCAL PROGRAM



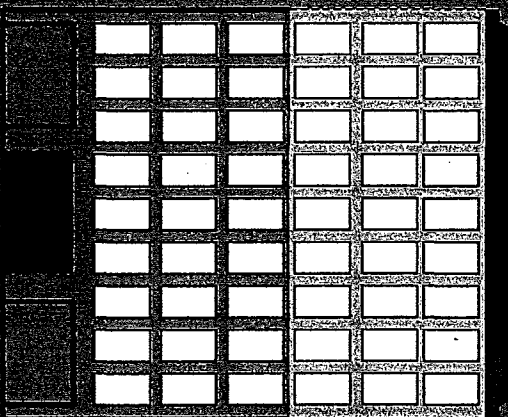
Bonus Height

Height Limit

**30%**

Permanently Affordable

## AHBP LOCAL PROGRAM



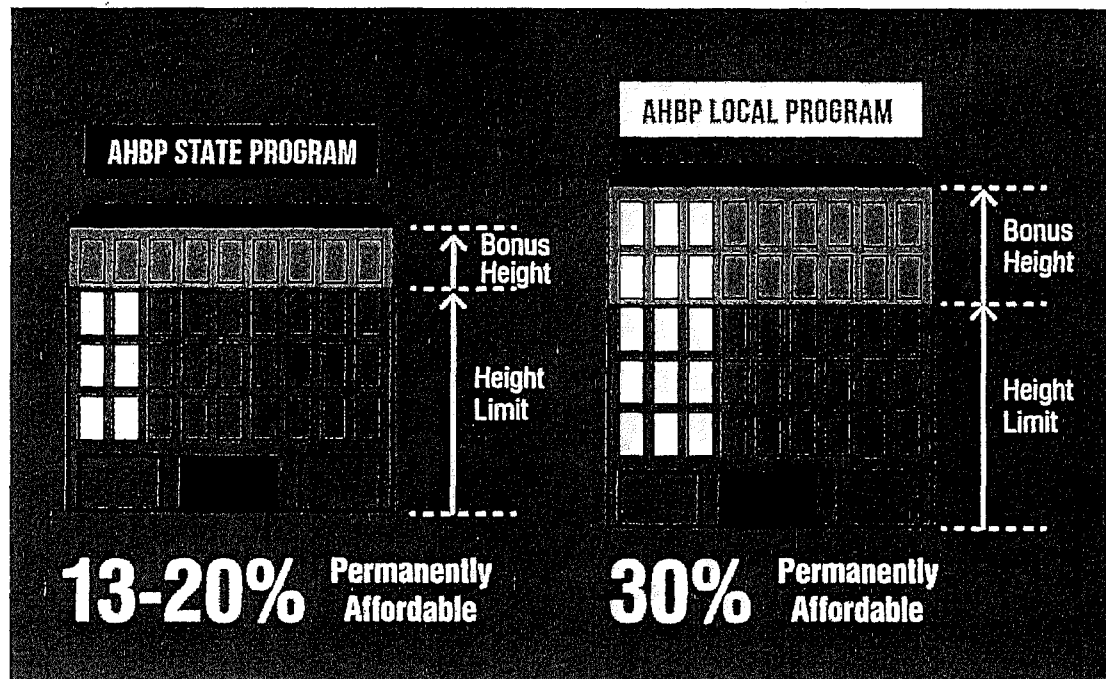
Bonus Height

Height Limit

**100%**

Permanently Affordable

# MIXED INCOME PROGRAMS



<p><b>Will receive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Up to 2 extra stories</li><li>• Up to 35% increase in density</li></ul>	<p><b>Will receive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 extra stories</li><li>• Form based density with 40% 2BR requirement</li></ul>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



# POSSIBLE UNDER CURRENT ZONING



Up to 8 homes in a 40' building are allowed under current zoning.

- MAXIMUM ALLOWED HEIGHT UNDER THE AHBP—WITH 30% AFFORDABLE HOMES
- CURRENT HEIGHT LIMIT

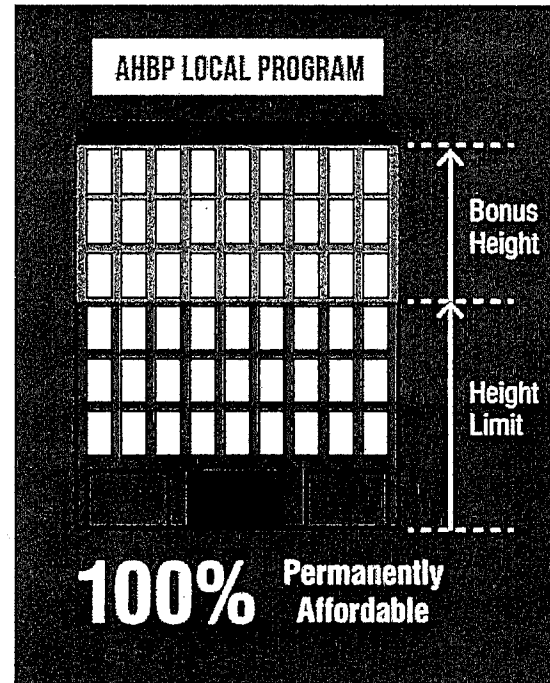
# POSSIBLE UNDER AHBP



Under the AHBP, 13 homes could be built in a 65' building.

- MAXIMUM ALLOWED HEIGHT UNDER THE AHBP—WITH 30% AFFORDABLE HOMES
- CURRENT HEIGHT LIMIT

# 100% AFFORDABLE — SUBSIDIZED HOUSING



**Will receive:**

- 3 extra stories
- Form based density

**Not in RH-1 or RH-2.**



**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS  
GENERAL PLAN  
AMENDMENTS**

- **No Modifications**

**COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**100% AFFORDABLE**  
**PROGRAM**

- **No Modifications**



# COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

## MIXED INCOME PROGRAM

- Several Recommendations

- Parcels with Residential Units or a Rent Control Unit **Not Eligible**
- Require a **Conditional Use Permit**
- Preserving Small Business and Neighborhood Commercial Corridors

**REFINEMENTS PROPOSED TODAY**

906

- Geography of Local Affordable Housing Bonus Program
- Establishing a small business relocation fee
- Neighborhood Specific AMI

**REFINEMENTS THAT BENEFIT  
FROM COORDINATION  
AND FURTHER STUDY**

106

# PROPOSED MIXED INCOME PROGRAM

- Today's changing context
  - Pending Charter Amendment & Raising the Inclusionary Requirement
  - Pending Controller's Office study
  - Requests for Changes from
    - Board of Supervisors
    - Stakeholders + Community,
    - Commissions



# PROPOSED ACTIONS

# GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT



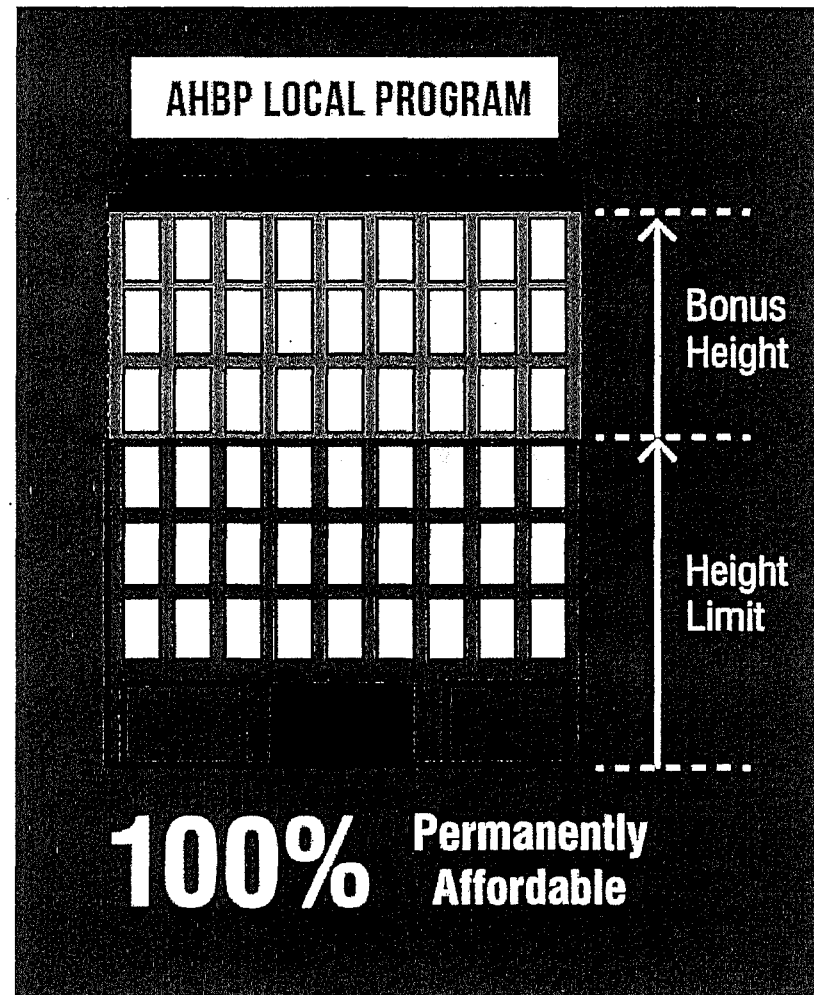
## PROPOSED GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT

“To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, **the City may adopt** affordable housing policies to permit heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described here.”

**100% AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING PROGRAM**

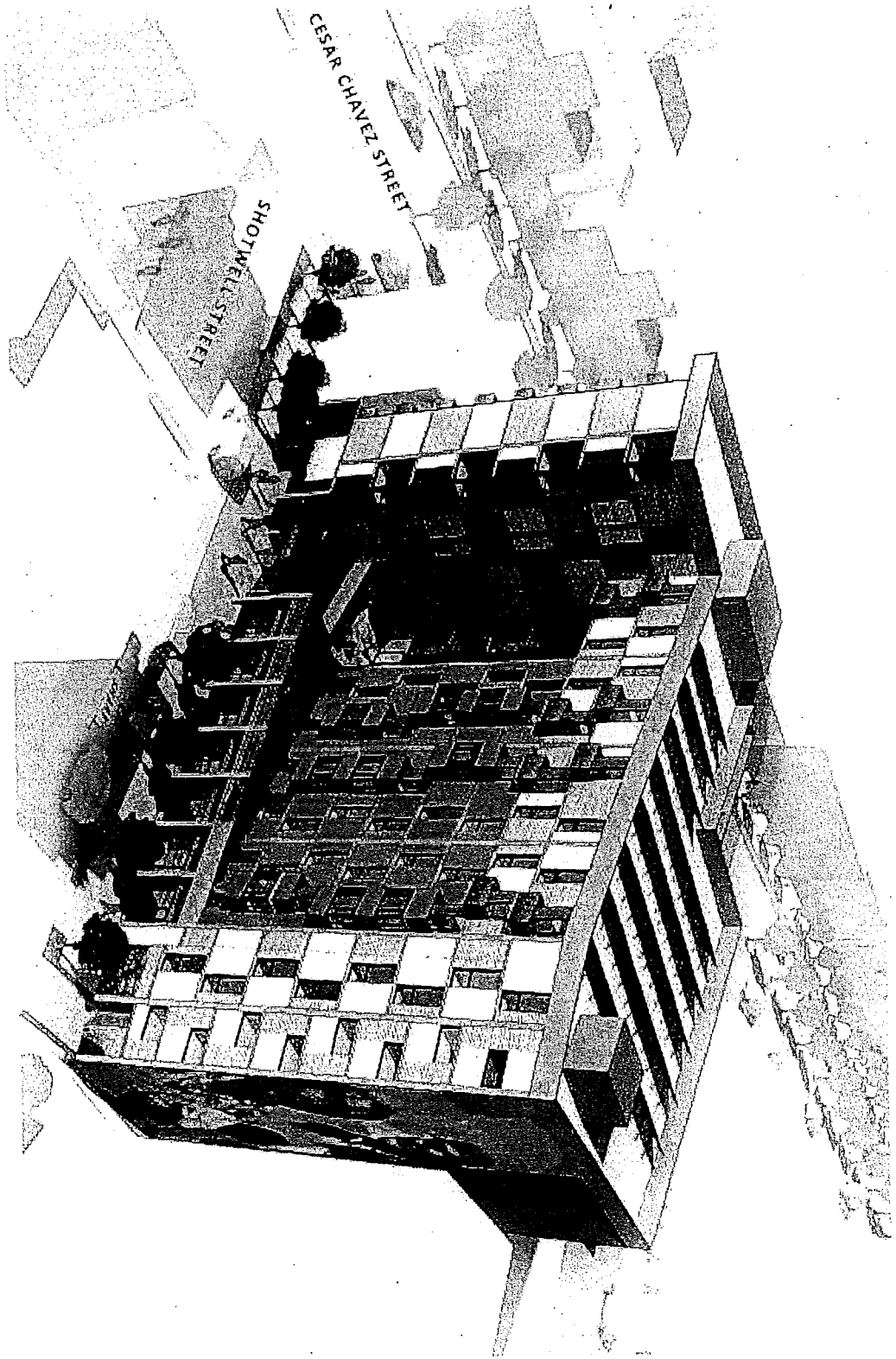
# AHBP – 100% AFFORDABLE

- Projects with **100 percent affordable units** will receive:
  - Up to three stories above existing height regulations
  - Density regulated by form

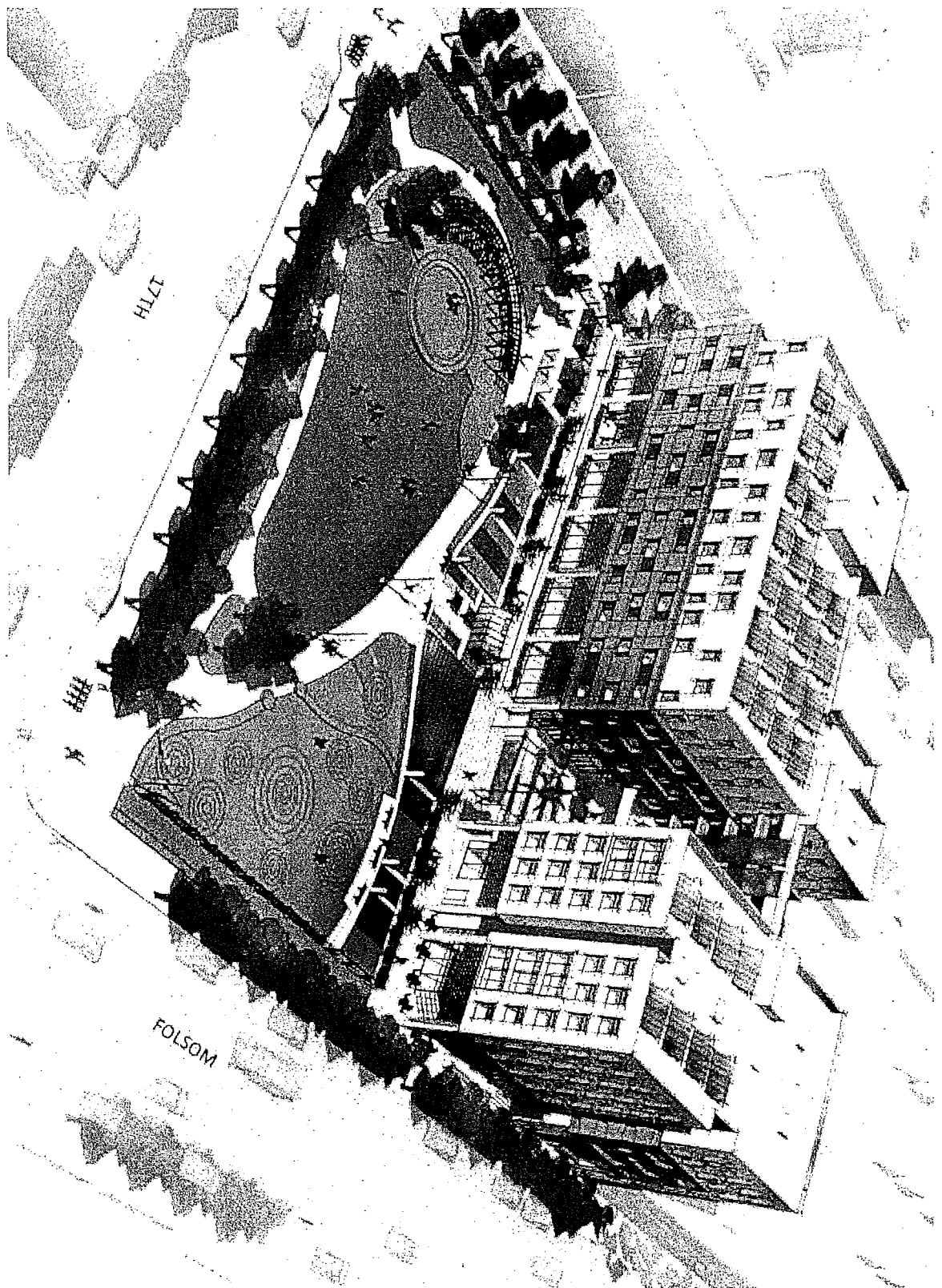


**MOHGD  
PRESENTATION**

# 1296 SHOTWELL -- 96 BMR UNITS FOR SENIORS



# 2070 FOLSOM – 134 BMR UNITS





**THANK YOU!**

**San Francisco  
Planning**





**KATHRYN R. DEVINCENZI**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
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BY HAND

June 13, 2016

San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
c/o Land Use and Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Malia Cohen  
The Honorable Aaron Peskin  
The Honorable Scott Wiener  
Room 250, City Hall  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Case Number 160347  
General Plan Amendment Affordable Housing Bonus Programs  
Hearing Date: June 13, 2016

The proposed general plan amendment is overly broad and intended to support all four versions of the new affordable housing programs but I understand that all four will probably not be advanced. The general plan amendment should be rejected in its current form and should be substantially revised and tailored to the compromise version or to the amended version of the ordinance that may ultimately be advanced.

For example, as stated in my February 25, 2016 letter to the Planning Commission which is attached, the Local AHBP conflicts with State law as it would use the unlawful standard of demonstrating to the satisfaction of the environmental review officer that a local project does not cause a significant impact. However, State law requires use of the fair argument standard to determine the significance of an environmental impact under CEQA.

In addition, the proposed general plan amendment would have potentially significant impacts that must be analyzed in an environmental impact report and is otherwise objectionable for the reasons set forth in my February 25, 2016 letter, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn R. Devincenzi

Attachment: February 25, 2015 letter to San Francisco Planning Commission

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BY HAND

February 25, 2016

President Fong and Commissioners  
San Francisco Planning Commission  
Room 400, City Hall  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Case Numbers 2014-001503GPA and 2014-001503PCA  
Affordable Housing Bonus Program General Plan Amendment and Planning Code  
Amendment  
Hearing Date: February 25, 2016

**1. The AHBP Conflicts with State Law As to the Legally Required Standard of Review and the Number and Types of Impacts Subject to CEQA Review.**

The proposed Local AHBP at page 11 provides that a Local project must “Demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Environmental Review Officer that the Local Project does not” (A) cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historic resource, (B) create a new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas and (C) alter wind in a manner that substantially affects public areas. However, the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code sections 21,000 *et seq.* (CEQA), requires that other potentially significant impacts be evaluated in an EIR such as impacts on noise, traffic, water supply, air quality, sewage treatment capacity, utilities, visual impacts, land use, and historic resources. Also, under CEQA an impact is deemed significant and must be studied in an EIR if there is a fair argument that a substantial adverse impact could result as to any of the matters set forth above. The satisfaction of the Environmental Review Officer is a subjective standard weaker than the fair argument standard required by CEQA and the limitations on impacts analyzed is contrary to State law. The same unlawful provisions are contained in to the 100 Percent Affordable Housing Bonus Program at page 18. Also, the proposal fails to comply with the CEQA requirement that if a project under the AHBP would rely upon environmental review conducted for a prior project, the prior project and environmental review document must be identified.

**2. The General Plan Amendments Would Have Potentially Significant Adverse Visual Effects and Other Impacts that Must Be Analyzed in an EIR Before They May Be Approved.**

The City would act at its own risk if it were to approve the proposed general plan amendment and Affordable Housing Bonus Program because they rely primarily on the adequacy

of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2009 Housing Element (FEIR), and the legal sufficiency of that EIR is now being considered by the California Court of Appeal and has not been finally decided.

The General Plan Amendments proposed in connection with the Affordable Housing Bonus Program and the proposed Affordable Housing Bonus Program could have potentially significant visual impacts and other impacts that were not considered in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the 2009 Housing Element or the environmental review for the 2014 Housing Element, which relied on the FEIR for the 2009 Housing Element. These impacts must be analyzed in an EIR before the proposed General Plan Amendments and Affordable Housing Bonus Program can be approved.

Housing Element Policy 11.3, "Ensure growth is accommodated without substantially and adversely impacting existing residential neighborhood character," previously stated "In existing residential neighborhoods, this means development projects should defer to the prevailing height and bulk of the area," but would be changed in the proposed amendment to state "while recognizing that the City may maintain neighborhood character while permitting larger overall building mass for projects including more affordable units on-site."

Housing Element Policy 11.5, "Ensure densities in established residential areas promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character," would also be weakened by the amendment that "Outside of RH-1 and RH-2 neighborhoods, the City may maintain neighborhood character while permitting larger overall building mass for projects including more affordable units on-site."

On page 4, lines 4-7, the proposed general plan amendment would change Table I-58 of the Housing Element (on page I.72) Generalized Permitted Housing Densities by Zoning Districts by adding language to the Table stating "To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit greater densities that are higher than shown here." But Table I-58 includes numerical average units per acre for RH-1 and RH-2 areas of 15 to 33 units that are not supposed to be affected by the proposed affordable housing program under consideration. Also, on page 3, lines 22-25 and page 4, lines 1-2, the proposed general plan amendments would add the same new language to a legend on Map 6 of the Housing Element (page I.70) which contains numerical density standards in average units per acre. Significant adverse visual and other impacts could result from these amendments for the reasons stated in the comments on the FEIR for the 2009 Housing Element which are incorporated herein by reference. Also, the Addendum fails to consider adverse impacts on RH-1 and RH-2 districts and provides no information indicating that adverse visual and other impacts on these areas would be insignificant.

Significant adverse impacts could also result from the proposed amendment to Policy 7.7

of the Housing Element to “provide development incentives for higher levels of affordability, including middle income households,” because the previous Housing Element policy language employed only incentives such as smaller units and low cost construction types.

The Housing Element EIR stated that the previous policy language would render the adverse visual and land use impacts from taller and bulkier buildings less than significant, but the proposed amendments would substantially change these policies so that the visual and land impacts from taller and bulkier buildings would be potentially significant and must be analyzed in an EIR. The Housing Element EIR also relied upon the Residential Design Guidelines to mitigate effects, but the City is now proposing new weakened specific design guidelines and weakened historic district design guidelines. In addition, adverse impacts on traffic, water supply, air quality, noise, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, city services and other physical conditions could result from these amendments for the reasons set forth in the comments on the FEIR for the 2009 Housing Element, which are incorporated by reference herein.

Objective 3 of the Urban Design Element calls for “Moderation of Major New Development to Complement the City Pattern, The Resources to be Conserved And The Neighborhood Environment,” but would be weakened by the new provision “...to encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit projects [sic] heights that are several stories taller and building mass that is larger than described here.” This change would also modify Map 4 for Height and Bulk Districts and Map 5 for Bulk of Buildings and refer to Affordable Housing Bonus Program Design Guidelines. The adverse visual and land use and other physical effects from these changes must be analyzed in an EIR.

The new policy that “To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit heights that are several stories taller than described here” would modify the Van Ness Avenue Plan and the Northeastern Waterfront Plan including Policy 10.26, “Restrict development south of Broadway to the Height and Bulk districts shown on Map 2” and Map 2. This change would also modify Policy 30.18 concerning heights no greater than 40 feet along the Embarcadero. This provision may conflict with the successful ballot initiative that requires voter approval for any increase in height limits on the Waterfront. Also, the same language would amend the Chinatown Area Plan and the Downtown Area Plan with the addition of language permitting “building mass that is larger than described here.”

The General Plan Land Use Index would also be modified to reflect the amendments set forth above. None of these changes to Housing Element policies, area plans or the Land Use Index can be lawfully passed without complying with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act that their potentially significant adverse visual and land use impacts be analyzed in an EIR.

Also, Housing Element Policy 11.4 is “Continue to utilize zoning districts which conform

to a generalized residential land use and density plan and the General Plan” and states that the City’s zoning districts conform to Map 6 and the accompanying table illustrating the land use and density patterns shown on the map. The Policy recognizes that the parameters contained in the Planning Code under each zoning district can help ensure that new housing does not overcrowd or adversely affect the prevailing character of existing neighborhoods and states that proposed zoning map amendments “should conform generally to these [sic] this map” and to the other objectives and policies of the General Plan. However the proposed general plan amendments at pages 3-4 would add to Map 6 and the accompanying Table I-58 the language “To encourage greater levels of affordability on-site, the City may adopt affordable housing policies to permit general densities that are higher than shown here.” The adverse impacts of such amendments were not analyzed in the FEIR for the Housing Element and must be analyzed in an EIR before the proposed AHBP could lawfully be approved.

The FEIR for the Housing Element clearly based its conclusions that impacts on land use and visual quality would be insignificant on the claim that Housing Element policies would not directly result in changes to zoning or height and bulk designations and new housing would be required to comply with the Planning Code, Residential Design Guidelines and urban Design Element. The FEIR also claimed that Housing Element Policies 11.3 and 11.5 “could reduce any potential impacts to character by directly or indirectly encouraging the preservation of neighborhood character” and also concluded that cumulative impacts on land use would be insignificant on the same basis. (FEIR pp. V.B-59-60, 50.)

Similarly, the FEIR for the Housing Element relied on existing zoning controls and Residential Design Guidelines as support for its conclusion that project and cumulative impacts on scenic vistas and visual character would be insignificant. FEIR pp. V.C-18, 23, 27-29. The EIR recognizes that “Promoting increased density could result in taller and bulkier buildings, thereby affecting the overall visual character of the area.” Yet the proposed AHBP materially changes the height and bulk regulations that were the basis for the finding that visual and land use impacts of Housing Element amendments would be less than significant. An EIR must be prepared in accordance with CEQA requirements to analyze the proposed changes to the General Plan, area plans and the proposed AHBP because they are substantial changes which could result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts on visual quality, scenic vistas and land use than were previously analyzed in the EIR for the Housing Element. Alternatives and mitigation measures which could reduce the new or more severe effects must also be analyzed.

**3. Areas Outside the Plan Areas Have Not Received a Planning Process Notifying Them That Their Neighborhoods Could Receive Increased Height, Bulk or Density.**

Furthermore, Housing Element Policy 1.4 is to “Ensure community based planning

processes are used to generate changes to land use controls,” but there was no community based planning process for the increases in height and bulk contained in the proposed AHBP. The neighborhood organizations were excluded from the Mayor’s Working Group that drafted the original proposal, and the neighborhoods not subject to Area Plans received no legitimate planning process notifying them of the possibility that construction in their neighborhoods would result in increased heights, bulk and density; one public meeting after the measure had been drafted and introduced was inadequate. Subjecting areas outside the plan areas to increased heights, bulk and density without a legitimate planning process would be inconsistent with 2014 Housing Element Policies.

**4. The AHBP Lacks Specifications As to Size Of Units, and the 30% Affordable Units Could Be Made Very Small So that the 70% Market Rate Units Can Be Made Larger and More Valuable.**

The AHBP needs to be amended to specify sizes of the affordable and middle income units to guarantee that they will not be very small. As now written, the affordable and middle income units can be very small, and the bulk of the project retained for the more lucrative 70% market rate units.

**5. Environmental Impacts Resulting from Incentives for Construction of Middle Income Housing Were Not Analyzed in the FEIR for the Housing Element.**

Housing Element Policy 7.7 recognizes that in the City “Affordable housing programs, including City subsidized affordable housing and inclusionary housing, are provided to households making 120% of median income or below.”

The AHBP adds a new affordable housing income category of 120-140% AMI which was not analyzed as affordable housing in the FEIR for the Housing Element. That FEIR considered the impacts of achieving the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) which limited the Moderate Income category to 120% of AMI and defined income of greater than 120% of AMI as Above Moderate, or middle income. That FEIR did not consider the impacts of incentivizing the construction of 15,000 new housing units for middle income persons by 2020, which is the goal of the AHBP. The impacts of incentivizing construction of such units could cause potentially significant impacts on visual quality, land use, water supply, sewage treatment capacity, utilities, noise and air quality that must be studied in an EIR before the proposed general plan amendments and AHBP can be adopted.

According to the Webinar, at 140% of AMI, a single person could earn \$100,000 and a family of four could earn \$143,000. Whether this income level should be given affordable housing benefits in these proposals should be subjected to widespread community debate.

**6. The State Density Bonus Law Applies As a Matter of Law, and None of The Proposed AHBP Alternatives Are Required by Law.**

The State Density Bonus Law applies as a matter of law, and the City concedes that it is implementing it on a project by project basis through Special Use District rezoning for affordable housing projects. The City claims the purpose for the State Density Bonus Program is to avoid project by project negotiations, but the City has been engaging in such through Special Use Districts.

The Baker report states that the Local Density Bonus Program would produce more affordable housing than is mandated by the State Density Bonus law, so there is no legal requirement that the Local Program be adopted or that housing production exceed the State standard. In addition to the two extra stories, the parking requirements are less in the Local program than the State program. Page 32 of the proposed AHBP ordinance states that the minimum parking ratios set forth in the State Density Bonus Law are greater than those allowed in San Francisco, so the State's minimum parking ratio requirement would not apply to the Individually Requested State Density Bonus Program. There should be community debate on whether the two-story bonus provided by the Local program should be enacted, since it is not legally required or whether there are alternatives to incentivize construction of middle income units that would not have such adverse visual and other impacts.

**7. The ABHP Should Be Amended to Prohibit Use of Affordable Units for Short-Term Rentals.**

Residents of affordable units should be prohibited from renting the affordable units as short-term rentals.

**8. Property Owners Should Not Be Allowed to Rent or Sell Affordable Units to Their Relatives.**

Relatives of property owners should not be allowed to occupy affordable housing units in properties owned by their relatives.

**9. The Incentives Provided by the Proposed Ordinance Would Degrade the Diverse Character of Neighborhood Commercial Districts.**

The incentives provided by the proposed AHBP ordinance would provide incentives for the demolition of older structures in Neighborhood Commercial Areas. Rents will be higher in the newly constructed structures, and independent businesses will be unable to afford them. Chain stores will proliferate in the new structures, adversely degrading the diverse character of our neighborhood commercial areas and displacing small businesses.

President Fong and Commissioners  
February 25, 2016  
Page 7

### Conclusion

The conflicts between State law and the provision of the proposed AHBP must be eliminated and its potentially significant impacts evaluated in an EIR under CEQA. Due to the lack of a planning process for residential neighborhoods and the manifold flaws in the proposals, the proposals should be rejected.

Very truly yours,



Kathryn R. Devincenzi

Attachments: Excerpts from Housing Element and FEIR for Housing Element





**FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**San Francisco 2004 and 2009  
Housing Element**

Volume I: Final EIR (Section I to V.G)

PLANNING DEPARTMENT  
CASE NO. 2007.1275E

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2008102033




SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

- V. **Quantified Objectives.** Estimates of the maximum number of units, by income level, to be constructed, rehabilitated, and conserved over the planning period of the element.<sup>6</sup>

The proposed Housing Elements are each organized into two main parts. Part I of each Housing Element consists of the Data and Needs Analysis section, which provides a statistical baseline for determining appropriate housing objectives, policies and implementation strategies. This section includes San Francisco population and employment trends, housing data, and inventories of land available for increased housing development. Part I also functions to provide a foundation for the proposed changes to the objectives and policies contained in Part II of each Housing Element. In order to have an adequate housing element, the document must contain an updated Data and Needs Analysis (Part I). Therefore, all housing element proposals analyzed in this EIR will include the most recent Data and Needs Analysis conducted for the 2009 Housing Element update.

### Regional Housing Need

As discussed above, the ABAG, in coordination with the HCD, determined the Bay Area's regional housing need based on regional trends, projected population job growth, and existing needs. The City's fair share of regional housing need is calculated for each established planning horizon. The housing needs determination effort seeks to alleviate a tight housing market stemming from forecasted household and employment growth as well as to allocate regional household and employment growth to jurisdictions with established or planned transit infrastructures. The RHNA determination includes production targets for housing to serve various household income categories. For more information on ABAG's calculation of the RHNA, see the ABAG website at [www.abag.ca.gov](http://www.abag.ca.gov).

San Francisco's fair share of the regional housing need for January 1999 through June 2006, the planning period for the 2004 Housing Element, was calculated as 20,372 units, or 2,717 units per year. The RHNA for the 2004 Housing Element is presented in Table IV-1. The 1996 through 2006 RHNA is not the basis for this EIR.

Table IV-1  
2004 Housing Element Regional Housing Needs Allocation

Household Income Category	Percentage of Area Median Income (AMI)	No. of Units	Percentage
Very Low	< 50%	5,244	25.7%
Low	50 – 79%	2,126	10.4%
Moderate	80 – 120%	5,639	27.7%
Above Moderate	> 120%	7,363	36.1%
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>20,372</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: City and County of San Francisco, Planning Department, Housing Element, May 2004, at page 80.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

The proposed 2009 Housing Element presents an updated calculation of San Francisco's fair share of the regional housing need. This updated calculation of San Francisco's share of the regional housing need is for January 2007 through June 2014 and shows a need for 31,193 housing units, or 4,159 units per year. The RHNA for the 2009 Housing Element is presented in Table IV-2.

**Table IV-2  
2009 Housing Element Regional Housing Needs Allocation**

Household Income Category	Percentage of AMI	No. of Units	Percentage
Extremely Low	< 30%	3,294	10.5%
Very Low	31 – 50%	3,295	10.6%
Low	51 – 80%	5,535	17.7%
Moderate	81 – 120%	6,754	21.7%
Above Moderate	> 120%	12,315	39.5%
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>31,193</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: City and County of San Francisco, Planning Department, Part I: Data and Needs Analysis, June 2010, at page 41.

#### 2004 Housing Element Court of Appeal Decision

Prior to 2004, the City last updated its Housing Element in 1990, when it adopted the 1990 Residence Element. The EIR prepared to evaluate the 1990 Residence Element concluded that reaching the housing goals in the 1990 Residence Element could be achieved without any significant adverse effects to the environment. According to the EIR, meeting the housing goals in the 1990 Residence Element would reduce traffic congestion and thus improve air quality because people who work in the City would have shorter commutes.

The City's 2004 Housing Element was adopted on May 13, 2004, and deemed in compliance with state housing element law by the HCD. The San Francisco Planning Department prepared an Initial Study for the 2004 Housing Element, which examined several new policies that were proposed for addition to the 2004 Housing Element. The Initial Study concluded that although proposed revisions were meant to promote increased housing production, no environmental impacts would result from the adoption of the 2004 Housing Element because the element did not specify any development, rezoning, or area plans. The Initial Study stated that any environmental impact analysis would be conducted in connection with the approval of any future development projects, area plans, or rezoning. The Planning Department then prepared a Negative Declaration, which concluded that revisions to the Housing Element would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Subsequent to adoption of the 2004 Housing Element, the California Court of Appeal found the Negative Declaration prepared for the 2004 Housing Element by the City to be inadequate and determined that an EIR should be prepared (per *San Franciscans for Livable Neighborhoods v. City and County of San Francisco* [June 22, 2007, A112987] [unpublished opinion]). In response to this directive, the Planning Department has prepared this EIR assessing the environmental impacts of the changes from the 1990 Residence Element to the 2004 Housing Element.

In 2000, almost 70 percent of all households in the City were comprised of one or two people and household sizes are expected to remain proportionally the same as previous decades; however, the proportion of single person households is growing. The 2008 ACS estimates the median household income at just under \$73,798 or about a 34 percent increase since 2000.

Table IV-4 presents employment growth in the City between 2000 and 2030. The number of jobs in the City decreased by 89,410 between 2000 and 2005 and approximately 195,010 jobs are expected between 2005 and 2030.

**Table IV-4  
San Francisco Employment Trends and Projections, 2000-2030**

	2000	2005	2030
Jobs	642,500	553,090	748,100
<i>Source: John Rahaim, Director of Planning, San Francisco Planning Department, correspondence with Michael P. Carlin, Deputy General Manager at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, July 9, 2009.</i>			

The median age within the City was estimated to be 40.4 years old in 2008, an increase from the median age of 36.5 in 2000. In 2000, residents 14 years and younger constituted only 12 percent of the City's population. The number of these residents is expected to grow, almost doubling to 184,700 in 2010 and making up 23 percent of the total population.

## F. APPROACH

As discussed above, the Court of Appeal mandated that the City prepare an EIR for the 2004 Housing Element. Since preparation for the 2004 Housing Element EIR began, the City also completed the proposed 2009 Housing Element, as required by state housing element law. Because the proposed 2009 Housing Element must also undergo environmental review under CEQA, this EIR evaluates both the 2004 and the proposed 2009 Housing Element in the same EIR. This subsection outlines the proposed Housing Elements that are evaluated in this EIR. This approach facilitates a streamlined process in which the potential environmental impacts of implementing both housing element options are analyzed at similar levels of detail, meeting the requirements of CEQA and the Planning Department's responsibilities under the court's decision.

### Proposed Housing Elements Analyzed in this EIR

As previously discussed, in order to be in compliance with state housing element law, a housing element must include an updated Data and Needs Analysis; therefore, each proposed Housing Element utilizes the most recent data on citywide housing found in the Draft 2009 Housing Element Part I Data and Needs Analysis. Further, in order to meet the project objectives of having a housing element that substantially complies with state housing element law, the proposed Housing Elements must meet the most recent regional housing needs assessment. Therefore, both project options will be analyzed for their ability to meet the 2007-2014 RHNA. This EIR analyzes the following two Housing Element proposals:

**Table IV-8  
Policies With Potential for Physical Environmental Impacts<sup>1</sup>**

Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy	2004 Housing Element	2009 Housing Element
<b>Policies that Direct Growth to Certain Areas of the City</b>		
<p>Policy 2.1: Set allowable densities in established residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character</p>	<p>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 neighborhood support.</p>	<p>Policy 1.1: Focus housing growth- and the infrastructure necessary to support that growth- according to community plans. Complete planning underway in key opportunity areas such as Treasure Island, Candlestick Park and Hunter's Point Shipyard.</p>
<p>Policy 2.2: 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 permanently affordable to lower income households.</p>	<p>Policy 1.2: Encourage housing development, particularly affordable housing, in neighborhood commercial areas without displacing existing jobs, particularly blue-collar jobs or discouraging new employment opportunities.</p>	<p>Policy 1.3: Work proactively to identify and secure opportunity sites for permanently affordable housing</p>
<p>Policy 1.2: Facilitate the conversion of underused industrial and commercial areas to residential use, giving preference to permanently affordable housing uses.</p>	<p>Policy 1.3: Identify opportunities for housing and mixed-use districts near downtown and former industrial portions of the City.</p>	<p>Policy 1.6: Consider greater flexibility in number and size of units within established building envelopes in community based planning processes, especially if it can increase the number of affordable units in multi-family structures.</p>
<p>Policy 1.4: Locate in-fill housing on appropriate sites in established neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Policy 1.4: Locate in-fill housing on appropriate sites in established residential neighborhoods.</p>	<p>Policy 1.7: Consider public health objectives when designating and promoting housing development sites.</p>
<p>Policy 12.5: Relate land use controls to the appropriate scale for new and existing residential areas.</p>	<p>Policy 1.6: Create incentives for the inclusion of housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, in new commercial development projects.</p>	<p>Policy 1.8: Promote mixed use development, and include housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, in new commercial, institutional or other single use development projects.</p>
	<p>Policy 11.6: Employ flexible land use controls in residential areas that can regulate inappropriately sized</p>	<p>Policy 4.6: Encourage an equitable distribution of growth according to infrastructure and site capacity.</p>

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**Table IV-8  
Policies With Potential for Physical Environmental Impacts<sup>1</sup>**

Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy	2004 Housing Element	2009 Housing Element
	development in new neighborhoods, in downtown areas and in other areas through a Better Neighborhoods type planning process while maximizing the opportunity for housing near transit.	
		Policy 10.3: Support state legislation and programs that promote environmentally favorable projects.
		Policy 12.1: Encourage new housing that relies on transit use and environmentally sustainable patterns of movement.
		Policy 12.2: Consider the proximity of quality of life elements, such as open space, child care and neighborhood serves, when development new housing units.
		Policy 13.1: Support "smart" regional growth that locates new housing close to jobs and transit.
		Policy 13.3: Promote sustainable land use patterns that integrate housing with transportation in order to increase transit, pedestrian and bicycle mode share.
<b>Policies that Promote Increased Density-Related Development Standards</b>		
Policy 2.1: Set allowable densities in established residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character.	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 neighborhood support.	Policy 1.4: Ensure community based planning processes are used to generate changes to land use controls.

**Table IV-8  
Policies With Potential for Physical Environmental Impacts<sup>1</sup>**

Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy	2004 Housing Element	2009 Housing Element
Policy 2.2: 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 permanently affordable to lower income households.	Policy 1.6: Create incentives for the inclusion of housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, in new commercial development projects.	Policy 1.10: Support new housing projects where households can easily rely on public transportation, walking and bicycling for the majority of daily trips.
Policy 1.3: Create incentives for the inclusion of housing, particularly permanently affordable housing, in new commercial development projects.	Policy 1.7: Encourage and support the construction of quality, new family housing.	Policy 1.6: Consider greater flexibility in number and size of units within established building envelopes in community based planning processes, especially if it can increase the number of affordable units in multi-family structures.
Policy 1.5: Allow new secondary units in areas where their effects can be dealt with and there is neighborhood support, especially if that housing is made permanently affordable to lower income households.	Policy 1.8: Allow new secondary units in areas where their effects can be dealt with and there is neighborhood support, especially if that housing is made permanently affordable to lower income households.	Policy 7.5: Encourage the production of affordable housing through process and zoning accommodations, and prioritize affordable housing in the review and approval processes.
Policy 7.3: Grant density bonuses for construction of affordable or senior housing.	Policy 4.4: Consider granting density bonuses and parking requirement exemptions for the construction of affordable housing or senior housing.	Policy 11.5: Ensure densities in established residential areas promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character.
Policy 2.3: Allow flexibility in the number and size of units within permitted volumes of larger multi unit structures, especially if the flexibility results in creation of a significant number of dwelling units that are permanently affordable to lower income households.	Policy 4.5: Allow greater flexibility in the number and size of units within established building envelopes, potentially increasing the number of affordable units in multi-family structures.	
Policy 12.5: Relate land use controls to the appropriate scale for new and existing residential areas.	Policy 11.6: Employ flexible land use controls in residential areas that can regulate inappropriately sized development in new neighborhoods, in downtown areas, and in other areas through a Better Neighborhoods type planning process while maximizing the opportunity for housing near transit.	

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**Table IV-8  
Policies With Potential for Physical Environmental Impacts<sup>1</sup>**

Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy	2004 Housing Element	2009 Housing Element
Policy 2.1: Set allowable densities in established residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character.	Policy 11.7: Where there is neighborhood support, reduce or remove minimum parking requirements for housing, increasing the amount of lot area available for housing units.	
	Policy 11.8: Strongly encourage project sponsors to take full advantage of allowable building densities in their housing developments while remaining consistent with neighborhood character.	
	Policy 11.9: Set allowable densities and parking standards in residential areas at levels that promote the City's overall housing objectives while respecting neighborhood scale and character.	
<p><sup>1</sup> The intent of this list is to list all policies of Housing Element Alternatives A, B, and C with the potential to have physical impacts on the environment. Any policies not listed here that also have physical impacts on the environment are likely to have substantially the same impacts as the policies included herein.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> The Housing Elements contain additional themes beyond what is presented in this table. However, those themes, which include (but are not limited to) Homelessness, Housing Condition, Seismic Safety, and Displacement, do not have associated policies that would result in potential environmental impacts.</p>		

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review conducted for those planning efforts will address the compatibility of those plans with the existing land use character.

As discussed previously, the 2009 Housing Element does not, overall citywide, promote increased residential densities more so than the 1990 Residence Element. The 2009 Housing Element promotes increased densities mostly as a strategy to be pursued during community planning processes. Any such community planning process would be required to undergo a separate environmental review pursuant to CEQA, and would be required to address the potential for the proposed land use controls of that community planning effort affect land use character. Furthermore, incremental increases in residential density in those areas that permit residential uses would not substantially change the existing land use character. Additionally, new residential uses would be required to be developed in accordance with the residential design guidelines or other applicable design guidelines, as well as Planning Code density requirements.

Although the 2009 Housing Element promotes housing in certain areas of the City, including within commercial developments and near transit, the proposed 2009 Housing Element would not change allowable land uses. As shown in Figures V.B-1 and V.B-2, much of the City is located in proximity to a variety of land uses including commercial districts and mixed use districts. Therefore, policies that promote additional residential development within mixed-use areas would not result in substantial changes to land use character.

Furthermore, new housing would need to comply with the previously discussed regulations, the governing land use plan, and the Urban Design Element of the General Plan. Finally, compliance with Chapter 35 of the City's Administrative Code further reduces any potential incompatibilities between residential and industrial uses. In addition, the following 2009 Housing Element policies could reduce any potential impacts to character by directly or indirectly encouraging the preservation of neighborhood character.

Similar to the 2004 Housing Element discussed above, overall, the 2009 Housing Element contains policies and measures that would increase the City's housing supply in a manner that does not present conflicts with existing land use character. The 2009 Housing Element would not result in changes to allowable land uses or height and bulk designations and future development would be required to comply with the previously discussed land use regulations. Therefore, the 2009 Housing Element would have a *less than significant* impact with respect to conflicts with existing land use character.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The geographic context for the cumulative impacts associated with land use issues is the City and County of San Francisco. Cumulative impacts occur when impacts from a proposed project that are significant or less than significant combine with similar impacts from other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects in a similar geographic area. Changes to the existing land use environment in the area could occur through the conversion of vacant land and low density uses to higher density uses, or through conversion of existing land use (e.g., from commercial to residential). However, it is assumed that future development would be consistent with policies in the adopted General Plan as well as zoning

requirements. Any new development is also anticipated to require CEQA review and design review, as well as other state and local regulations such as San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 35, which would reduce potential land use conflicts. For this reason, cumulative impacts to land uses as a result of incompatible uses and changes to land use character would be *less than significant*. The contribution of the Housing Elements to such cumulative land use impacts is less than significant and is thus not cumulatively considerable because overall the Housing Elements promote compatibility with the surrounding land uses. This cumulative impact would be *less than significant*.

It is also anticipated that any new development will be reviewed for consistency with adopted land use plans and policies by the City, such as CEQA, the Planning Code, and the California Subdivision Map Act, all of which require findings of plan and policy consistency prior to approval of entitlements for development. For this reason, cumulative impacts associated with inconsistencies of future development with adopted plans and policies would be *less than significant*. In addition, the contribution of the Housing Elements to such cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*. As a result, the proposed Housing Elements would not contribute to any impacts associated with plan or policy inconsistency. This is considered to be a *less than significant* cumulative impact.

## **MITIGATION AND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES**

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures are warranted by the proposed Housing Elements.

### **Improvement Measures**

No improvement measures are warranted by the proposed Housing Elements.

Overall, the 2004 Housing Element includes policies that would maintain consistency with existing neighborhood and land use character though the encouragement of in-fill development in a manner that does not present conflicts with the existing character of the vicinity. Furthermore, the 2004 Housing Element would not directly result in changes to zoning or height and bulk designations. New housing would be required to comply with the previously discussed regulations, the governing land use plan, the City's Residential Design Guidelines, and the Urban Design Element of the General Plan, which is concerned with the physical character and environment of the City with respect to development and preservation. Finally, Chapter 35 of the City's Administrative Code further reduces incompatibilities between residential and industrial uses. Therefore, the 2004 Housing Element would have a *less than significant* impact with respect to conflicts with existing land use character.

*2009 Housing Element Analysis*

Implementation of the 2009 Housing Element could result in impacts related to existing character if new housing is out of scale with development in an existing neighborhood or if new development is so different it would change the existing character of an area. The following 2009 Housing Element policies promote residential development in certain areas of the City and promote increased residential densities. The potential for these policies to affect land use character is addressed below.

Impact	2009 Housing Element	Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy
Direct growth to certain areas of the City.	Policy 1.1: Focus housing growth- and the infrastructure necessary to support that growth- according to community plans. Complete planning underway in key opportunity areas such as Treasure Island, Candlestick Park and Hunters Point Shipyard.	Implementation Measure 1.1.2: Pursuit of housing development opportunities in neighborhood and area plans.
	Policy 1.3: Work proactively to identify and secure opportunity sites for permanently affordable housing.	Policy 1.1: Promote development of permanently affordable housing on surplus, underused and vacant public lands.
	Policy 1.6: Consider greater flexibility in the number and size of units within established building envelopes in community based planning processes, especially if it can increase the number of affordable units in multi-family structures.	Policy 2.5: Allow flexibility in the number and size of units within permitted volumes of larger multi-unit structures, especially if the flexibility results in creation of a significant number of dwelling units that are permanently affordable to lower income households.

Impact	2004 Housing Element	Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy
	residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood scale and character where there is neighborhood support.	
	Policy 11.8: Strongly encourage project sponsors to take full advantage of allowable building densities in their housing developments while remaining consistent with neighborhood character.	Policy 12.5: Relate land use controls to the appropriate scale for new and existing residential area.

As shown above, 2004 Housing Element Policy 2.1 and corresponding 1990 Residence Policy 3.1 are the same. 2004 Policy 2.4 clarifies that sound existing housing should be retained in commercial and industrial areas, while 1990 Residence Element Policy 3.6 generally states that conversion of housing should be restricted. Preserving existing housing units is a strategy to ensure that the City meets its housing needs, and therefore reduces development pressure which might otherwise result in new construction that could potentially affect a scenic vista. Furthermore, the 2004 Housing Element includes policies that advocate for residential development that maintains existing neighborhood scale and character and would be expected to also reduce the potential for new construction that is substantially larger than the existing neighborhood scale; thereby reducing the potential for such new construction to affect a scenic vista.

As discussed above, the existing land use plan for the City that includes allowable height and bulk districts is intended to reflect the City's scenic vistas and are meant to accommodate development at the maximum height and bulk limits without adversely affecting the scenic vista points identified in the General Plan and depicted in Figure V.C-2. Given that the proposed 2004 Housing Element would not modify allowable building height and bulk, the 2004 Housing Element policies would not directly or indirectly result in new development that could affect a scenic vista. Furthermore, new development would be required to comply with the Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan, including policies 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9, as listed in the beginning of this section. These policies are designed to guide new development such that it minimizes impacts on the City's environment, including potential impacts to scenic resources. Additionally, new development would be required to comply with City's Planning Code requirements for height and bulk of buildings as well as the Residential Design Guidelines. Overall, the 2004 Housing Element would have a *less than significant* impact with respect to an adverse effect on a scenic vista because it would not change allowable height and bulk designations which are intended to accommodate maximum development without adversely affecting the City's scenic vistas, as identified in General Plan.

Impact	2009 Housing Element	Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy
	Policy 11.3: Ensure growth is accommodated without substantially and adversely impacting existing residential neighborhood character.	
	Policy 11.5: Ensure densities in established residential areas promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character.	Policy 2.1: Set allowable densities in established residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character.

As shown above, both the 1990 Residence Element and the 2009 Housing Element recognize the need for the preservation of existing housing. 2009 Housing Element Policy 2.2 would, overall, encourage retention of existing housing. Compared to 1990 Residence Element Policies 3.1 and 3.2, 2009 Housing Element Policy 2.2 provides a stipulation that unit merging can occur in cases where the merger supports the need for family housing. 2009 Housing Element Policy 2.4 advocates for continued maintenance of units occupied by those who cannot afford regular maintenance, seniors, and for those properties neglected or abandoned. This policy further ensures that existing housing is retained. However, this policy does not represent a substantial policy shift from 1990 Residence Element Objective 5 and Policies 5.1 and 5.2. 2009 Housing Element Policy 2.5 encourages the improved seismic stability of the existing housing stock. This policy does not represent a substantial policy shift from 1990 Residence Element Objective 4 and Policy 4.3. The 2009 Housing Element also includes policies similar to the 1990 Residence Element that would ensure that new development fits within the existing neighborhood character. Neighborhood character can consist of many factors, including overall scale of the neighborhood. Overall, the 2009 Housing Element does not promote increased density more so than the 1990 Residence Element.

The existing land use plan for the City that includes allowable height and bulk districts is intended to reflect the City's scenic vistas and are meant to accommodate development at the maximum height and bulk limits without adversely affecting the scenic vista points identified in the General Plan. Given that the proposed 2009 Housing Element would not modify allowable building height and bulk, the 2009 Housing Element policies would not directly or indirectly result in new development that could affect a scenic vista. Furthermore, new development would be required to comply with the Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan, including policies 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, and 3.9, as listed in the beginning of this section. These policies are designed to guide new development such that it minimizes impacts on the City's environment, including potential impacts to scenic vistas. Additionally, new development would be required to comply with City's Planning Code requirements for height and bulk of buildings as well as the Residential Design Guidelines. Therefore, the 2009 Housing Element would have a *less than significant* impact with respect to adverse affects to scenic vistas.

Impact	2004 Housing Element	Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy
	Policy 11.9: Set allowable densities and parking standards in residential areas at levels that promote the City's overall housing objectives while respecting neighborhood scale and character.	Policy 2.1: Set allowable densities in established residential areas at levels which will promote compatibility with prevailing neighborhood character.

As shown above, the 2004 Housing Element and the 1990 Residence Element both promote infill housing in established residential neighborhoods, promoting residential development that is compatible with surround land uses. The 2004 Housing Element policies 11.1, 11.8, and 11.9 address new housing with respect to neighborhood scale and character, reflecting the desire for new development contributes positively to existing neighborhood character.

Although the 2004 Housing Element includes policies that promote increased density for new development which could result in taller and bulkier buildings that may affect visual character, the 2004 Housing Element also promotes consistency with neighborhood character and encourages infill residential development. In order to result in a significant impact on visual character, the project would need to result in a substantial, demonstrable adverse effect. Visual character and design issues are, for the most part, subjective. The 2004 Housing Element does not contain policies that would directly or indirectly result in a demonstrable adverse impact. New residential development would be required to comply with the previously discussed regulations, including height and bulk regulation in the Planning Code and Section 311 of the San Francisco Planning Code, the Residential Design Guidelines, and the Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan. Therefore, the 2004 Housing Element would have a *less than significant* impact with respect to degradation of existing visual character.

#### *2009 Housing Element Analysis*

As discussed under Impact AE-1, the 1990 Residence Element promotes increased density on a broader, citywide, scale to a greater extent than the 2009 Housing Element. Some policies in the 2009 Housing Element could promote density near for affordable housing projects and as a strategy to be pursued through community planning processes. Promoting increased density could result in taller and bulkier buildings, thereby affecting the overall visual character of the area. Nonetheless, the 2009 Housing Element, when compared to the 1990 Residence Element, does not aggressively promote density more so than the 1990 Residence Element. Therefore, when taken as a whole, the 2009 Housing Element would have less of a potential to result in impacts related to neighborhood character as a result of promoting increased density for new development.

Section V.A (Land Use and Land Use Planning) addresses the potential for the 2009 Housing Element to introduce land uses that could result in changes to land use character. The analysis in this section found that the 2009 Housing Element policies that direct growth to certain areas of the City (including predominately commercial and industrial areas) would have a less than significant impact on land use

character because the 2009 Housing Element would not change allowable land uses or increase allowable building height and bulk. Similarly, as the 2009 Housing Element would not result in changes to the physical land use controls or to allowable uses, the 2009 Housing Element would not be expected to result in substantial changes to the City’s existing visual character. Additionally, the following 2009 Housing Element policy would further consider neighborhood character when developing new housing, thereby reducing the potential for new development to degrade the existing visual character.

Impact	2009 Housing Element	Corresponding 1990 Residence Element Policy
Respect existing neighborhood character.	Policy 11.1: Promote the construction and rehabilitation of well-designed housing that emphasizes beauty, flexibility, and innovative design, and respects existing neighborhood character.	Policy 12.4: Promote construction of well designed housing that conserves existing neighborhood character.

As shown above, the differences between 2009 Housing Element Policy 11.1 and 1990 Residence Element Policy 12.4 are not significant and would not represent a shift in policy. 1990 Residence Element Policy 12.4 provides guidelines for development that are intended to preserve neighborhood character. The 2009 Housing Element recognizes the diversity in architectural styles throughout the City. 2009 Housing Element Policy 11.1 would ensure that future development would be consistent with existing neighborhood character. Moreover, as with the 2004 Housing Element, there would be no direct or indirect substantial adverse change to visual character attributable to the 2009 Housing Element policies.

Overall, the 2009 Housing Element would promote measures that would increase the housing supply in a manner that does not present conflicts with existing visual character. Development associated with new residential units would be required to comply with the previously discussed regulations and requirements. Therefore, the 2009 Housing Element would have a *less than significant* impact with respect to degradation of existing visual character.

***Impact AE-4: The proposed Housing Elements would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area or which would substantially impact other people or properties. (Less than Significant)***

Implementation of the 2004 Housing Element and 2009 Housing Element could result in impacts related to light and glare if new housing would introduce new sources of light or glare that are unusual for an urban area. New housing could introduce new sources of light and glare if reflective glass or if bright, decorative or security lighting is used. However, for infill development that would replace open parking lots or yards, softer lighting that generates less glare than the present security lighting would typically be used. Additionally, residential exterior lighting tends to be focused on specific areas, rather than lighting a wide area such as a surface parking lot or undeveloped parcels. City Resolution 9212 prohibits the use of highly reflective or mirrored glass in new construction. New development would be required to comply

with this resolution; thus, impacts related to glare would be *less than significant* under both the 2004 and 2009 Housing Elements.

### **Cumulative Impacts**

The geographic context for cumulative aesthetic impacts is the entire City of San Francisco. Cumulative impacts occur when impacts that are significant or less than significant from a proposed project combine with similar impacts from other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable projects in a similar geographic area. This would include the demolition of existing structures or new construction in the project area or immediately adjacent to the project boundaries resulting from past, present and reasonably foreseeable future projects combining with similar impacts from the 2004 Housing Element and 2009 Housing Element. The cumulative effect of development within the City could contribute to impacts related to aesthetics. As discussed throughout this EIR, growth would occur regardless of implementation of the proposed Housing Elements. Furthermore, any new development within the City would be subject, on a project-by-project basis, to independent CEQA review as well as policies in the San Francisco General Plan, governing area plans, design guidelines, planning codes and zoning maps (including development standards), and other applicable land use plans that are intended to reduce impacts to aesthetics. The 2004 Housing Element and 2009 Housing Element policies would not directly or indirectly affect aesthetics. New development could affect such resources, but would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. In addition, the 2004 Housing Element and 2009 Housing Element are public policy documents and would not result in direct significant impacts.

Changes to the existing visual environment in the City could occur through an increase in residential density and building heights proposed by new housing construction. New construction encouraged to be developed to maximum allowable densities and to the full building envelope, could result in increases to the height of the building that previously occupied the lot, or in the case of a vacant lot, add new elements to the site. New housing could block or obstruct views, damage scenic resources, degrade visual character, or introduce light and glare. However, it is assumed that future housing development would be consistent with the relevant sections of the San Francisco Planning Code, Urban Design Element of the San Francisco General Plan, and Planning Commission Resolution 9212. For this reason, cumulative impacts on aesthetics would be *less than significant*. The Housing Elements would not contribute to cumulative aesthetics impacts because they would not directly result in new construction; therefore, cumulative impacts would be *less than significant*.

## **MITIGATION AND IMPROVEMENT MEASURES**

### **Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures are warranted by the proposed Housing Elements.

### **Improvement Measures**

No improvement measures are warranted by the proposed Housing Elements.





# HOUSING ELEMENT



## PART I: DATA AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

# Housing Needs

This section examines the type, amount and affordability of new housing construction needed in San Francisco, as determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments, through June 2014. It is based, in part, on the data presented in the preceding Sections

## A. REGIONAL HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), in coordination with the California State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), determine the Bay Area's regional housing need based on regional trends, projected job growth and existing needs. San Francisco's fair share of the regional housing need for January 2007 through June 2014 was calculated as 31,190 units, or about 4,160 units per year (Table I-39). This goal seeks to alleviate a tight housing market stemming from forecast household and employment growth as well as allocating regional household and employment growth to jurisdictions with established or planned transit infrastructures. More important, the regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) determination includes production targets addressing housing needs of a range of household income categories. A total of about 18,880 units or 61% of the RHNA target must be affordable to households making 120% of the area media income (AMI) or less.

Regional Housing  
Needs Assessment for  
San Francisco,  
2007-June 2014

Income Category	Units	Percentage	Units
Extremely Low ( ≤ 30% AMI )	3,294	10.5%	439
Very Low ( 31 - 50% AMI )	3,295	10.6%	439
Low ( 51 - 80% AMI )	5,535	17.7%	738
Moderate ( 81 - 120% AMI )	6,754	21.7%	901
Above Moderate ( over 120% AMI )	12,315	39.5%	1,642
Middle ( 120% - 150% AMI )	3,325	10.7%	443
Market ( over 150% AMI )	8,996	28.9%	1,199
<b>TOTAL UNITS</b>	<b>31,193</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4,159</b>

SOURCE: ABAG Planning Department

The Department of Housing and Urban Development determines the annual area median income (AMI) for the San Francisco Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the counties of San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo. For 2008, the area median income for a single person household was over \$66,000 and \$94,300 for a household of four people (Table I-40)

Income Category (Percentage of Area Median Income (AMI))	1 Person	2 Person	3 Person	4 Person	5 Person
Extremely Low (< 30% of AMI)	\$19,800	\$22,650	\$25,450	\$28,300	\$30,500
Very low (50% of AMI)	\$33,000	\$37,750	\$42,450	\$47,150	\$50,950
Low (80% of AMI)	\$52,800	\$60,350	\$67,900	\$75,450	\$81,500
Median (100% of AMI)	\$66,000	\$75,450	\$84,850	\$94,300	\$101,850
Moderate (120% of AMI)	\$79,200	\$90,550	\$101,800	\$113,150	\$122,200

Table I-40  
Household Income  
Standards by Household  
Size, 2008

SOURCE: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The median income in San Francisco, however, is lower than the area median income. This is due in part to higher median incomes in San Mateo and Marin counties and the concentrations of lower-income families in the City. For example, in 2007, Marin County's median household income of \$83,732 and San Mateo's \$94,517 were quite higher than the City's median household income of \$68,023.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 40% of all San Francisco households make less than 80% of the San Francisco PMSA area median income, and fall under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s low and very low income categories (Table I-41).

Category	Very Low (50% of median)	Low (80% of median)	Moderate (100% of median)	Above Moderate (120% of median)
All SF Households	27.8%	14.1%	14.8%	43.2%
Median Income for SF, 2007	\$68,023			

Income Distribution,  
San Francisco, 2007

SOURCE: Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

In order to account for this income variance, the Mayor's Office of Housing publishes a local AMI standard (Table I-42). San Francisco's Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program regulates housing assistance based on the San Francisco Area Median Income (SFAMI).

<sup>1</sup> Figures are in 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars

Annual Household Income Category	Household Size	Average Unit Size	Maximum Annual Income	Monthly Housing Expense	Maximum Purchase Price
<b>Extremely Low Income</b> (30% of HUD Area Median Income)	1	Studio	\$19,800	\$545	\$50,000
	2	1 Bedroom	\$22,650	\$623	\$57,000
	3	2 Bedroom	\$25,450	\$700	\$64,000
	4	3 Bedroom	\$28,300	\$778	\$72,000
	5	4 Bedroom	\$30,550	\$840	\$78,000
<b>Very Low Income</b> (50% of HUD Area Median Income)	1	Studio	\$33,000	\$908	\$84,000
	2	1 Bedroom	\$37,750	\$1,038	\$97,000
	3	2 Bedroom	\$42,450	\$1,167	\$109,000
	4	3 Bedroom	\$47,150	\$1,297	\$121,000
	5	4 Bedroom	\$50,950	\$1,401	\$131,000
<b>Low Income</b> (80% of HUD Area Median Income)	1	Studio	\$52,800	\$1,452	\$133,674
	2	1 Bedroom	\$60,350	\$1,660	\$154,752
	3	2 Bedroom	\$67,900	\$1,867	\$176,035
	4	3 Bedroom	\$75,450	\$2,075	\$197,113
	5	4 Bedroom	\$81,500	\$2,241	\$213,070
<b>Median Income</b> (100% of HUD Area Median Income)	1	Studio	\$66,000	\$1,815	\$181,193
	2	1 Bedroom	\$75,450	\$2,075	\$209,030
	3	2 Bedroom	\$84,850	\$2,333	\$237,072
	4	3 Bedroom	\$94,300	\$2,593	\$265,114
	5	4 Bedroom	\$101,850	\$2,801	\$286,397
<b>Moderate Income</b> (120% of HUD Area Median Income)	1	Studio	\$79,200	\$2,178	\$228,711
	2	1 Bedroom	\$90,550	\$2,490	\$263,308
	3	2 Bedroom	\$101,800	\$2,800	\$298,109
	4	3 Bedroom	\$113,150	\$3,112	\$335,115
	5	4 Bedroom	\$122,200	\$3,361	\$359,723

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Affordable Housing Guidelines, San Francisco, 2008**

Notes: Incomes are based on the 2008 Area Median Income (AMI) limits for the San Francisco HUD Metro FMR Area (HMFMA). Monthly housing expenses are calculated based on 13% of gross monthly income (+MR = Fair Market Rent). Maximum purchase price is the affordable price from San Francisco's Inclusionary Housing Program and incorporates monthly fees and taxes into sales price.



# 2014 HOUSING ELEMENT



# Housing Needs

This section examines the type, amount and affordability of new housing construction needed in San Francisco, as determined by the Association of Bay Area Governments, through June 2022. It is based, in part, on the data presented in the preceding Sections.

## A. REGIONAL HOUSING NEED ASSESSMENT

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), in coordination with the California State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), determine the Bay Area's regional housing need based on regional trends, projected job growth and existing needs. San Francisco's fair share of the regional housing need for January 2015 through June 2022 was calculated as 28,870 units, or about 3,850 units per year (Table I-38). This goal seeks to alleviate a tight housing market stemming from forecast household and employment growth as well as allocating regional household and employment growth to jurisdictions with established or planned transit infrastructures. More important, the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) determination includes production targets addressing housing needs of a range of household income categories. A total of about 17,610 units or 61% of the RHNA target must be affordable to households making 120% of the area media income (AMI) or less.

Regional Housing Needs Assessment for San Francisco, 2015–June 2022

Income Category	Units	Percentage	Total Units
Very Low ( 0–50% AMI )	6,234	21.6%	831
Low ( 51–80% AMI )	4,639	16.1%	619
Moderate (81–120% AMI )	5,460	18.9%	728
Above Moderate ( over 120% AMI )	12,536	43.4%	1,671
<b>TOTAL UNITS</b>	<b>28,869</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>3,849</b>

SOURCE: ABAG, Planning Department

The Department of Housing and Urban Development determines the annual area median income (AMI) for the San Francisco Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the counties of San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo. In 2014, the area median income for a single person household was almost \$68,000 and \$97,100 for a household of four people.

Income Categories (Percentage of Area Median Income (AMI))	Household Income by Number of Persons				
	1	2	3	4	5+
Very Low ( 0–50% AMI )	\$20,400	\$23,300	\$26,200	\$29,150	\$31,450
Low ( 51–80% AMI )	\$48,225	\$55,175	\$62,075	\$68,925	\$74,450
Moderate (81–120% AMI )	\$71,350	\$81,575	\$91,775	\$101,950	\$110,100
Above Moderate ( over 120% AMI )	\$98,550	\$112,675	\$126,725	\$140,800	\$152,050

Household Income Standards by Household Size, 2014

SOURCE: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

The median income in San Francisco, however, is lower than the area median income. This is due in part to higher median incomes in San Mateo and Marin counties and the concentrations of lower-income families in the city. For example, in 2012, Marin County’s median household income of \$90,962 and San Mateo’s \$87,751 were quite higher than the city’s median household income of \$73,802.<sup>1</sup> Roughly 43% of all San Francisco households make less than 80% of the San Francisco PMSA area median income, and fall under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)’s low and very low income categories (Table I-40).

Category	Very Low (0-50% AMI)	Low (51-80% AMI)	Moderate (81-120% AMI)	Above Moderate (over 120% AMI)
All SF Households	27.9%	14.8%	18.8%	38.5%
Median Income for SF, 2012	\$73,802			

Income Distribution, San Francisco, 2012

SOURCE: Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey

In order to account for this income variance, the Mayor’s Office of Housing publishes a local AMI standard (Table I-41). San Francisco’s Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program regulates housing assistance based on the San Francisco Area Median Income (SFAMI).

<sup>1</sup> Figures cited are in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars.

Household Income Category	Household Size	Average Unit Size	Minimum Annual Median	Monthly Housing Expense	Maximum Purchase Price
<b>Low Income</b> <i>(70% of HUD Area Median Income)</i>	1	Studio	\$47,550	\$1,308	\$162,631
	2	1 Bedroom	\$54,400	\$1,496	\$188,062
	3	2 Bedroom	\$61,200	\$1,683	\$213,721
	4	3 Bedroom	\$67,950	\$1,869	\$239,380
	5	4 Bedroom	\$73,400	\$2,019	\$258,449
<b>Median Income</b> <i>(90% of HUD Area Median Income)</i>	1	Studio	\$61,150	\$1,682	\$226,943
	2	1 Bedroom	\$69,950	\$1,924	\$261,692
	3	2 Bedroom	\$78,650	\$2,163	\$296,669
	4	3 Bedroom	\$87,400	\$2,404	\$331,418
	5	4 Bedroom	\$94,350	\$2,595	\$357,758
<b>Moderate Income</b> <i>(110% of HUD Area Median Income)</i>	1	Studio	\$74,750	\$2,056	\$291,483
	2	1 Bedroom	\$85,450	\$2,350	\$335,322
	3	2 Bedroom	\$96,150	\$2,644	\$379,389
	4	3 Bedroom	\$106,800	\$2,937	\$423,228
	5	4 Bedroom	\$116,350	\$3,172	\$457,295
<b>Moderate Income</b> <i>(120% of HUD Area Median Income)</i>	1	Studio	\$81,550	\$2,243	
	2	1 Bedroom	\$93,250	\$2,564	
	3	2 Bedroom	\$104,900	\$2,885	
	4	3 Bedroom	\$116,500	\$3,204	
	5	4 Bedroom	\$125,800	\$3,460	
<b>Moderate Income</b> <i>(150% of HUD Area Median Income)</i>	1	Studio	\$101,950	\$2,804	
	2	1 Bedroom	\$116,550	\$3,205	
	3	2 Bedroom	\$131,100	\$3,605	
	4	3 Bedroom	\$145,650	\$4,005	
	5	4 Bedroom	\$157,300	\$4,326	

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

**Homeownership Affordable  
Housing Guidelines, San  
Francisco, 2014**

Note: Incomes are based on the 2012 Area Median Income (AMI) limits for the San Francisco HUD Metro FMR Area (HMFA). Monthly housing expenses are calculated based on 33% of gross monthly income. (FMR = Fair Market Rents) Maximum purchase price is the affordable price from San Francisco's Inclusionary Housing Program and incorporates monthly fees and taxes into sales price.



**Planning Department**

**Planning Commission - October 15, 2015 -  
Minutes**

Meeting Date:

Location:

United States

**SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes**

Commission Chambers, Room 400  
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**Thursday, October 15, 2015**

**3:00 p.m.**

**Regular Meeting**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Richards

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:** Hillis, Moore

**THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT FONG AT 3:06 P.M.**

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** John Rahaim – Planning Director, Wayne Farrens, Maia Small, Menaka Mohan, and Jonas P. Ionin – Commission Secretary

**SPEAKER KEY:**

+ indicates a speaker in support of an item;

- indicates a speaker in opposition to an item; and

= indicates a neutral speaker or a speaker who did not indicate support or opposition

**A. CONSIDERATION OF ITEMS PROPOSED FOR CONTINUANCE**

The Commission will consider a request for continuance to a later date. The Commission may choose to continue the item to the date proposed below, to continue the item to another date, or to hear the item on this calendar.

1. 2011.0671X (R.)  
SUCRE: (415) 575-9108)

1395 11ND STREET/790 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE - located on the north side of 22<sup>nd</sup> Street at Texas Street and on the west side of Pennsylvania Avenue between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Streets, LotS 011 & 013 in Assessor's Block 4167 – Request for a **Large Project Authorization (LPA)**, pursuant to Planning Code Section 329, for the new construction of a three-story industrial building (measuring approximately 47,575 gross square feet) on Pennsylvania Avenue, and a four-to-eight-story

(respectively measuring 40-ft from existing grade on Pennsylvania Avenue, and 33-ft above curb height along Missouri Street) residential building (approximately 297,159 gross square feet) on 22nd Street with 250 dwelling units, 213 off-street parking spaces, four car-share parking spaces, 138 Class 1 bicycle parking spaces, and 15 Class 2 bicycle parking spaces. The project includes private and common open space, as well as a publically-accessible open space via a new stairway and landscaping along 22nd Street between Missouri and Texas Streets. Under the Large Project Authorization, the project is seeking exceptions to the requirements for: rear yard (Planning Code Section 134), dwelling unit exposure (Planning Code Section 140), and off-street parking (Planning Code Section 151.1). The subject property is located within the UMU (Urban Mixed-Use) Zoning District, PDR-1-G (Production, Distribution and Repair-General) Zoning Districts, and 40-X Height and Bulk District. This action constitutes the Approval Action for the project for the purposes of CEQA, pursuant to Section 31.04(h) of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

**(Proposed for Continuance to November 12, 2015)**

SPEAKERS: None  
ACTION: Continued to November 12, 2015  
AYES: Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Richards  
ABSENT: Hillis, Moore

2. 2015-006712PCA (K)  
HADDADAN: (415) 575-9068

CU REQUIREMENT FOR RESIDENTIAL MERGERS - Ordinance amending the Planning Code to require conditional use authorization for all residential mergers and to require compliance with landscaping and permeable surfaces requirements for building additions and residential mergers, and affirming the Planning Department's California Environmental Quality Act determination; and making Planning Code, Section 302, findings, and making findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1

**(Proposed for Continuance to December 10, 2015)**

SPEAKERS: None  
ACTION: Continued to December 10, 2015  
AYES: Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Richards  
ABSENT: Hillis, Moore

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR**

All matters listed hereunder constitute a Consent Calendar, are considered to be routine by the Planning Commission, and may be acted upon by a single roll call vote of the Commission. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the Commission, the public, or staff so requests, in which event the matter shall be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered as a separate item at this or a future hearing

3. 2015-008251CUA (W.  
FARRENS: (415) 575-9172)

2120 GREENWICH STREET - north side of Greenwich Street between Fillmore and Webster Streets; Lot 005 in Assessor's Block 0509 - Request for **Conditional Use Authorization** pursuant to Planning Code Sections 303 and 725.44 to allow the transfer of a State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Type 47 License from 1919 Union Street (a restaurant dba "American Cupcake") to 2120 Greenwich Street (a restaurant dba "Mina Test Kitchen"), within the Union Street NCD (Neighborhood Commercial District) and 40-X Height and Bulk District. This action constitutes the Approval Action for the project for the purposes of CEQA, pursuant to Section 31.04(h) of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

Preliminary Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

SPEAKERS: None  
ACTION: Approved with Conditions  
AYES: Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Richards  
ABSENT: Hillis, Moore

**C. COMMISSION MATTERS**

4. Consideration of Adoption:
- Draft Minutes for September 3, 2015
  - Draft Minutes for October 1, 2015

SPEAKERS: None  
ACTION: Adopted

AYES: Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Richards

ABSENT: Hillis, Moore

5. Commission Comments/Questions

- Inquiries/Announcements. Without discussion, at this time Commissioners may make announcements or inquiries of staff regarding various matters of interest to the Commissioner(s).
- Future Meetings/Agendas. At this time, the Commission may discuss and take action to set the date of a Special Meeting and/or determine those items that could be placed on the agenda of the next meeting and other future meetings of the Planning Commission.

**Commissioner Antonini:**

Thank you. I thought that presentation by the member of the Rent Board was extremely informative last week, I have some comments, but first I have a question, they mentioned that the owners are allowed to raise residential rates, an amount not to exceed 60% of the CPI of the San Francisco Bay Area per year. Is that cumulative or is it use it or loses it?

**Commissioner Richards:**

You could bank it.

**Commissioner Antonini:**

You can you bank it, OK. Because that is important that it be done, because I have a commercial building, is not a residential building, and we stayed with that kind of a formula and it's kept the market rates very -- no quite exactly that formula is closer than the CPI. The other thing that was really interesting is, when you look at the chart of the evictions and we're hearing a lot about it now, I don't remember quite as much comment during the period in 1999-2000, but actually there are a lot more during that period per year, in the range of 2,700 to 2,800, still a lot this year, at the 2200 range. Although, if you look at the chart for the long period of time, almost every year there are 1,400 on average or more than that, probably. So what also was very interesting to me is find out that 75% of the evictions were for fault such as non-payment of rent, which is probably something that is going to happen no matter what conditions we have, because if you don't pay the rent, you are going to get evicted. There might be a tendency for owners to try to evict people a little quicker, when there are a lot more renters around to take the spot. Anyway, it's really good to put things in perspective and see historical perspective on an issue that is really hot right now, but you have to kind of take it into the context of 20 years to realize what the situation is. I thought it was extremely good and very informative.

**D. DEPARTMENT MATTERS**

6. Director's Announcements

**Director Rahaim:**

Thank you, Jonas. Commissioners, I just wanted to let you know that I spent this last weekend in Cambridge, a meeting that I attend every year with my counterparts in the 30 largest cities in the country. There were several -- well, several points of discussion, but I will say that the most common theme that all cities are addressing, are issues of equity and affordable housing, in ways that were surprising to me and in places that were surprising to me. Even in my hometown of Detroit, which has experienced severe economic distress, and where it just came out of bankruptcy, the concerns concurrently in the city is, as areas are being improved, the equity issues that the city's current residents are facing and the type of rent reinvestment that is happening, so it was pretty interesting for me to hear that all of us are dealing with this issue, in cities across the economic spectrum and it was a theme that came up repeatedly in the three days' of meetings that we had. That concludes my comments.

7. Review of Past Events at the Board of Supervisors, Board of Appeals and Historic Preservation Commission

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

No Report

**BOARD OF APPEALS:**

No Report

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION:**

No Report

**E. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – 15 MINUTES**

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission except agenda items. With respect to agenda items, your opportunity to address the Commission will be afforded when the item is reached in the meeting. Each member of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes.

**SPEAKERS:** (M) Speaker – UDAT, public hearing re: Urban design

**F. REGULAR CALENDAR**

The Commission Hearing Procedures provide for presentations by staff; followed by the project sponsor team; followed by public comment for and against the proposal. Please be advised that the project sponsor team includes: the sponsor(s) or their designee, lawyers, architects, engineers, expeditors, and/or other advisors.

(M.

SMALL: (415) 575-9160

- 8. MARKET STREET HUB - **Informational Presentation** - related to the opportunity to study a portion of the *Market Octavia Area Plan*, known as the *Market Street Hub*.

Preliminary Recommendation: None – Informational

SPEAKERS: None

ACTION: None - Informational

- 9. 2014-001503GPA (M.

MOHAN: (415) 575-9141)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING BONUS - **General Plan Amendment** to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Preliminary Recommendation: Adopt a Resolution to Initiate

SPEAKERS: + Jeff Buckley, MOH – Introduction

= (M) Speaker – Rushed process without public hearing

= Tess Welburn – 240 sites, other questions, developer incentives needed/

= Jean Barrish – More affordable housing, slow the process  
down

= Barbara Graham – Lack of public outreach

+ Kristy Wong – Move the project along

= Paul Werner – More granular analysis

ACTION: Adopted a Resolution to Initiate, and directed staff to provide an information presentation on November 5<sup>th</sup>, scheduling potential adoption hearing for December 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

ABSENT: Moore

RESOLUTION: 19494

10. 2015-009771PCA  
MOHAN: (415) 575-9141)

(M.

CHILD CARE IN LIEU FEE INCREASE AND APPLICATION - Planning Code Amendment to increase the Child Care In Lieu Fee for office and hotel development projects of up to \$1.57 per gross square foot and apply the Fee to projects of 25,000 or more gross square feet; to impose a tiered Child Care Fee for residential development projects of up to \$1.83 per gross square feet; to allow developers the option to provide onsite Small Family Daycare Homes in lieu of the fee; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act, and making findings of consistency with the General Plan and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1.

Preliminary Recommendation: Adopt a Recommendation for Approval with Modifications

SPEAKERS: + Supervisor Yee – Ordinance introduction

- Sally Johnson – Poor response

+ Rosie Kennedy – Young parent on one concern is childcare

ACTION: Adopted a Resolution recommending approval with modifications as amended to split the DCCU section into a separate piece of legislation

AYES: Fong, Wu, Antonini, Johnson, Richards

ABSENT: Hillis, Moore



RESOLUTION: 19495

11. 2015-005741CUA (W.  
FARRENS: (415) 575-9172)

2453-2455 FILLMORE STREET (AKA 2401 JACKSON STREET) - southwest corner of Fillmore and Jackson Streets; Lots 038 and 039 in Assessor's Block 0606 - Request for **Conditional Use Authorization** pursuant to Planning Code Sections 186.1, 303 and 303.1 to allow a change of operator (from "Tully's Coffee" to "Blue Bottle Coffee") and physical expansion of a nonconforming Formula Retail Limited Restaurant use (into the adjacent retail space currently dba "Juicy News") within the Upper Fillmore NCD (Neighborhood Commercial District) and 40-X Height and Bulk District. This action constitutes the Approval Action for the project for the purposes of CEQA, pursuant to Section 31.04(h) of the San Francisco Administrative Code.

Preliminary Recommendation: Approve with Conditions

SPEAKERS: + Jim Abrams – Project presentation  
= Sally Johnson –  
- Paul Werner – Precedence setting decision

ACTION: Approved with Conditions

AYES: Fong, Antonini, Johnson, Richards

ABSENT: Wu, Hillis, Moore

MOTION: 19496

#### G. PUBLIC COMMENT

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of interest to the public that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission except agenda items. With respect to agenda items, your opportunity to address the Commission will be afforded when the item is reached in the meeting with one exception. When the agenda item has already been reviewed in a public hearing at which members of the public were allowed to testify and the Commission has closed the public hearing, your opportunity to address the Commission must be exercised during the Public Comment portion of the Calendar. Each member of the public may address the Commission for up to three minutes.

Planning Commission - October 15, 2015 - Minutes | Planning Department

The Brown Act forbids a commission from taking action or discussing any item not appearing on the posted agenda, including those items raised at public comment. In response to public comment, the commission is limited to:

- (1) responding to statements made or questions posed by members of the public; or
- (2) requesting staff to report back on a matter at a subsequent meeting; or
- (3) directing staff to place the item on a future agenda. (Government Code Section 54954.2 (a))

ADJOURNMENT- 6:10 P.M.

ADOPTED: November 5, 2015



**SPUR**

San Francisco | San Jose | Oakland

June 7, 2016

Land Use & Transportation Committee  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

RE: **Affordable Housing Bonus Program**  
Files No. 150969 and 160347

Dear Supervisors Cohen, Peskin and Wiener:

Thank you for the opportunity to share support for the Affordable Housing Bonus Program. SPUR urges you to support the bonus program for many reasons: It will increase the overall supply of housing (both affordable and market-rate), it will encourage higher densities at appropriate locations near transit, it will create a much-needed middle-income housing program, and it will improve the feasibility of certain vacant and underutilized sites. All without public subsidy.

We applaud the Planning Department and Supervisor Katy Tang's open ears and willingness to make amendments in response to concerns about residential and commercial displacement, and we urge you to recommend the full program for approval. We understand that there is a competing proposal that would offer incentives only to 100 percent affordable projects. We are concerned by the limited applicability of a proposal like that. It would not address the state's required density bonus program — which was the impetus behind creating a local bonus program in the first place. It would be likely to create hundreds of affordable units rather than tens of thousands of them. And it would not take advantage of the available levers to encourage the construction of more affordable housing *without public subsidy*.

We urge you to approve the mayor and Supervisor Tang's full Affordable Housing Bonus Program. Like all housing affordability solutions, this program is not a magic bullet but a smart tool that could make a difference. Ultimately San Francisco is accountable for meeting the state's density bonus requirement, and pairing ambitious affordability targets with incentives to make them possible is one right way to grow the city's supply of housing, both affordable and market-rate.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Kristy Wang  
Community Planning Policy Director

Cc: Supervisor Katy Tang  
SPUR Board of Directors

SAN FRANCISCO  
654 Mission Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 781-8726

SAN JOSE  
76 South First Street  
San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 638-0083

OAKLAND  
1544 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 827-1900

spur.org

## Ausberry, Andrea

---

**From:** Kristy Wang <kwang@spur.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2016 11:10 AM  
**To:** Peskin, Aaron (BOS); Cohen, Malia (BOS); Wiener, Scott  
**Cc:** Bruss, Andrea (BOS); Angulo, Sunny (BOS); Fryman, Ann (BOS); Tang, Katy (BOS); Dischinger, Kearstin (CPC); Rodgers, AnMarie (CPC); Buckley, Jeff (MYR); Ausberry, Andrea  
**Subject:** SPUR Supports the Affordable Housing Bonus Program  
**Attachments:** SPUR Supports AHBP.pdf

Dear Supervisors Cohen, Peskin and Wiener:

Thank you for the opportunity to share SPUR's support for the Affordable Housing Bonus Program.

This program will increase the overall supply of housing (both affordable and market-rate), it will encourage higher densities at appropriate locations near transit, it will create a much-needed middle-income housing program, and it will improve the feasibility of certain vacant and underutilized sites. All without public subsidy.

We applaud the Planning Department and Supervisor Katy Tang's open ears and willingness to make amendments in response to concerns about residential and commercial displacement, and we urge you to recommend the full program for approval in order to make the biggest dent in our affordability crisis.

Like all housing affordability solutions, this program is not a magic bullet but a smart tool that could make a difference. Ultimately San Francisco is accountable for meeting the state's density bonus requirement, and pairing ambitious affordability targets with incentives to make them possible is one right way to grow the city's supply of housing, both affordable and market-rate.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Best,

Kristy Wang

Kristy Wang, LEED AP  
Community Planning Policy Director  
SPUR • Ideas + Action for a Better City  
15) 644-4884  
(415) 425-8460 m  
[kwang@spur.org](mailto:kwang@spur.org)

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San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
Fax No. 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

April 27, 2016

Planning Commission  
Attn: Jonas Ionin  
1650 Mission Street, Ste. 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Commissioners:

On April 19, 2016, Planning Commission introduced the following legislation:

**File No. 160347**

Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

The proposed ordinance is being transmitted pursuant to Planning Code, Section 302(b), for public hearing and recommendation. The ordinance is pending before the Land Use and Transportation Committee and will be scheduled for hearing upon receipt of your response.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Ausberry".

By: Andrea Ausberry, Assistant Clerk  
Land Use and Transportation Committee

c: John Rahaim, Director of Planning  
Aaron Starr, Acting Manager of Legislative Affairs  
Scott Sanchez, Zoning Administrator  
Sarah Jones, Chief, Major Environmental Analysis

AnMarie Rodgers, Legislative Affairs  
Jeanie Poling, Environmental Planning  
Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning



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Fax No. 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. 554-5227

April 27, 2016

File No. 160347

Sarah Jones  
Environmental Review Officer  
Planning Department  
1650 Mission Street, Ste. 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103

Dear Ms. Jones:

On April 19, 2016, the Planning Commission introduced the following proposed legislation:

**File No. 160347**

Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

This legislation is being transmitted to you for environmental review.

Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. Ausberry".

By: Andrea Ausberry, Assistant Clerk  
Land Use and Transportation Committee

Attachment

c: Joy Navarrete, Environmental Planning  
Jeanie Poling, Environmental Planning

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert Collins, Acting Executive Director, Rent Board  
Olson Lee, Director, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community  
Development  
Tiffany Bohee, Executive Director, Office of Community Investment and  
Infrastructure

FROM: Andrea Ausberry, Assistant Clerk  
Land Use and Transportation Committee

DATE: April 27, 2016

SUBJECT: LEGISLATION INTRODUCED

---

The Board of Supervisors' Land Use and Transportation Committee has received the following proposed legislation, introduced by the Planning Commission on April 19, 2016.

**File No. 160347**

Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

If you have comments or reports to be included with the file, please forward them to me at the Board of Supervisors, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102 or by email at: [andrea.ausberry@sfgov.org](mailto:andrea.ausberry@sfgov.org)

c: Sophie Hayward, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development  
Eugene Flannery, Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development  
Natasha Jones, Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure  
Claudia Guerra, Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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Tel. No. 554-5184  
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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Land Use and Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing to consider the following proposal and said public hearing will be held as follows, at which time all interested parties may attend and be heard:

**Date:** Monday, June 13, 2016

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** Committee Room 263, located at City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA

**Subject:** File No. 160347. Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

In accordance with Administrative Code, Section 67.7-1, persons who are unable to attend the hearing on this matter may submit written comments to the City prior to the time the hearing begins. These comments will be made as part of the official public record in this matter, and shall be brought to the attention of the members of the Committee. Written comments should be addressed to Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102. Information relating to this matter is available in the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Agenda information relating to this matter will be available for public review on Friday, June 10, 2016.

*Peggy Nevin*  
for Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board

DATED: June 1, 2016

PUBLISHED/MAILED/POSTED: June 3, 2016

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No 554-5184  
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## NOTIFICACIÓN DE AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA

### JUNTA DE SUPERVISORES DE LA CIUDAD Y CONDADO DE SAN FRANCISCO COMITÉ DE USO DE TERRENOS Y TRANSPORTE

SE NOTIFICA POR LA PRESENTE que el Comité de Uso de Terrenos y Transporte celebrará una audiencia pública para considerar la siguiente propuesta y dicha audiencia pública se celebrará de la siguiente manera, en tal momento que todos los interesados podrán asistir y ser escuchados:

**Fecha:** Lunes, 13 de junio de 2016

**Hora:** 1:30 p.m.

**Lugar:** Cámara Legislativa, Sala 263 del Ayuntamiento  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA

**Asunto:** Expediente Núm. 160347. Ordenanza que enmienda el Plan General para realizar cambios conformes en cuanto a la legislación que crea el Programa de Bonificación para Viviendas Asequibles mediante la enmienda del Elemento de Vivienda, el Elemento de Diseño Urbano, el Plan de Área de la Avenida Van Ness, el Plan del Área de Chinatown, el Plan del Área del Centro, el Plan del Área de la Costa de la Bahía al Noreste; realiza conclusiones, incluso las conclusiones coherentes con el Plan General, y las ocho políticas prioritarias de la Sección 101.1 del Código de Planificación; y afirma la determinación del Departamento de Planificación según la Ley de Calidad Medioambiental de California.

*Peggy Nevins*  
for Angela Calvillo,  
Secretaria de la Junta

FECHADO/ENVIADO/ANUNCIADO: 3 de junio de 2016

BOARD of SUPERVISORS



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San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No 554-5184  
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公聽會通知

三藩市市及縣市參事委員會  
土地使用與交通運輸委員會

- 日期: 2016年6月13日星期一
- 時間: 下午1時30分
- 地點: 市政廳，立法會議廳 263 室，1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102
- 議題: 檔案號碼 160347。該項條例修訂總體計劃旨在通過修訂房屋元素、城市設計元素、Van Ness街區規劃、華埠區規劃、市中心區規劃，以及 Waterfront 東北部區規劃，作出符合創建「可負擔房屋獎勵計劃」(Affordable Housing Bonus Program) 相關立法的變更; 作出有關裁斷，包括與總體計劃及規劃法第101.1條的八項優先政策相一致的裁斷; 並依據「加州環境質量法」(California Environmental Quality Act) 明確規劃局的決定。

*Reggy Revilla*  
for Angela Calvillo  
市參事委員會書記

公佈/郵寄/張貼: 2016年6月3日

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06/03/2016

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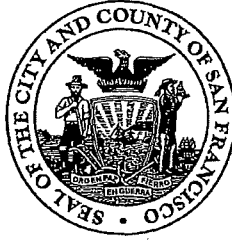
CNS 2888699

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE JUNE 13, 2016 - 1:30 PM COMMITTEE ROOM 263 , CITY HALL 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Land Use and Transportation Committee will hold a public hearing to consider the following proposal and said public hearing will be held as follows, at which time all interested parties may attend and be heard: File No. 160347. Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act in accordance with Administrative Code, Section 57.7-1, persons who are unable to attend the hearing on this matter may submit written comments to the City prior to the time the hearing begins. These comments will be made as part of the official public record in this matter, and shall be brought to the attention of the members of the Committee. Written comments should be addressed to Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board, City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102. Information relating to this matter is available in the Office of the Clerk of the Board. Agenda information relating to this matter will be available for public review on Friday, June 10, 2016. Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board

*emad*



BOARD of SUPERVISORS



City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco 94102-4689  
Tel. No. 554-5184  
Fax No. 554-5163  
TDD/TTY No. 544-5227

**PROOF OF MAILING**

Legislative File No. 160347

Description of Items:

Ordinance amending the General Plan to make conforming changes in association with legislation creating the Affordable Housing Bonus Program by amending the Housing Element, Urban Design Element, Van Ness Avenue Area Plan, Chinatown Area Plan, Downtown Area Plan, and Northeastern Waterfront Area Plan; making findings, including findings of consistency with the General Plan, and the eight priority policies of Planning Code, Section 101.1; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

I, Andrea Ausberry, an employee of the City and County of San Francisco e-mailed the above described document(s).

Date: 6/3/16

Time: 2:33 pm

USPS Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailbox/Mailslot Pick-Up Times (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Count: \_\_\_\_\_

Email (if applicable): 888 minus duplicate emails 645

Signature:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Ausberry".

Instructions: Upon completion, original must be filed in the above referenced file.

