



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

General Plan Referral

Date: November 5, 2015
Case No. 2015-013598GPR
SFPUC Central Shops Relocation and Land Transfer Project
(1975 Galvez Avenue, 555 Selby Street, 450 Toland Street)

Block/Lot No.: 5250/016
Project Sponsor: Yinlan Zhang
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
525 Golden Gate Avenue, 6th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Applicant: Same as Above

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Recommendation: Finding the project, on balance, is in conformity with the General Plan, with three main areas for further enhancing the Bayview Hunters Point Area Plan

Recommended By: 
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project involves the relocation of the City's General Services Administration (GSA)'s Central Fleet Maintenance Shop (Central Shops) from 1800 Jerrold Avenue, to help meet the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's need for additional space to support its adjacent Southeast Water Pollution Control Plan (SEP). The two entities have agreed to a jurisdictional transfer of the 1800 Jerrold Street to the SFPUC and the relocation of Central Shops to two sites: 1975 Galvez / 555 Selby Street (to be purchased) and a 10-year lease of 450 Toland Street by GSA using SFPUC funds.

The project at 1975 Galvez / 555 Selby Street will include the demolition of existing structures and the development of a new building for GSA's heavy equipment repair. The lease of Toland Street will include improvements to existing structures to use for GSA's lighter equipment repair. Public Works has prepared a preliminary design that prescribes the limits of the proposed Central Shops in terms of maximum dimensions, bulk, height, and usable

space. Once the purchase agreements, construction agreements, and lease have been approved by the Board of Supervisors, a developer engaged by GSA would carry out the design and construction without exceeding the limits.

The submittal is for a General Plan Referral to recommend whether the Project is in conformity with the General Plan, pursuant to Section 4.105 of the Charter, and Section 2A.52 and 2A.53 of the Administrative Code.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The project was determined to be categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 on 10/28/15 (Planning Record No. 2015-004781ENV).

GENERAL PLAN COMPLIANCE AND BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Project is the City's proposed jurisdictional transfer, lease, and redevelopment of three total sites to be used as its Central Shops. The Project is consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 from the City's General Plan, as well as other specific policies, all of which are described in the body of this letter. It is also mainly on balance and in conformity with the Bayview Hunters Point Area Plan. Several of its key objectives and policies are highlighted below, some of which are set to be met by the current Project and some of which will require further attention in the next stages of the project development. The entire Area Plan may be accessed on the Planning Department website:

http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/general_plan/Bayview_Hunters_Point.htm#BHP_LUS_1_5

CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL PLAN, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ELEMENT

http://www.sf-planning.org/ftp/General_Plan/I2_Commerce_and_Industry.htm#CAI_IND_4_10

POLICY 2.1: Seek to retain existing commercial and industrial activity and to attract new such activity to the city.

The proposed project is retaining its current industrial use and employment numbers as it relocates within the same neighborhood PDR zone, which is called for in the General Plan. The Plan seeks for new development to help achieve better transportation access, parking, room for expansion, security and a pleasant neighborhood environment for employees to work in.

POLICY 4.7: Improve public and private transportation to and from industrial areas.

It is important that industrial job centers are accessible by a wide range of suitable employees via public transportation services. Currently many industrial areas are inadequately served by public transportation

routes and transit times from surrounding residential areas are prohibitive. Improved transit service would reduce pressure for private vehicle ownership and parking problems around the project.

POLICY 4.10: Enhance the working environment within industrial areas.

Public efforts to enhance the environment of industrial areas should also be pursued to influence the attractiveness and appeal of industrial neighborhoods. The promotion of a limited number of small retail areas, restaurants, small parks, and pleasant sidewalks would serve to improve the environment of many dreary industrial areas. The current development at 555 Selby provides an outdoor seating and dining area for employees with potted plants and trees, all of which should be considered along with the new facility.

POLICY 6.1: Encourage emission reduction through energy conservation to improve air quality.

Any form of energy consumption ranging from using electricity to operating an automobile uses energy which, in the process of generation or consumption, usually creates some air pollution. Encouraging conservation of energy facilitates improvements in air quality. The Bayview Hunters Point neighborhood, especially along the I-280 corridor has some of the poorest air quality and highest rates of asthma and other respiratory health impacts in the city. New development should seek ways to help improve local air quality issues. Given this, as well as the building's sizeable flat roof and location alongside the I-280 gateway corridor into San Francisco make it a key opportunity for the inclusion of a living roof. The Planning Department's Living Roof Program <<http://www.sf-planning.org/livingroof>> supports new development in achieving a long list of co benefits, including energy efficiency, stormwater management, air quality improvements, ecological benefits, and usable open space.

BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT AREA PLAN

INDUSTRIAL LAND USE

Policy 1.5: Encourage a wider variety of light industrial uses throughout the Bayview by maintaining the newly established Production, Distribution and Repair zoning, by more efficient use of industrial space, and by more attractive building design.

Policy 8.1: Maintain industrial zones for production, distribution, and repair activities in the Northern Gateway, South Basin, Oakinba, and India Basin Industrial Park subdistricts.

The Project helps maintain PDR and related industrial uses in the Bayview. It relocates and maintains its current range and intensity of light industrial uses, mainly the repair and maintenance of City vehicles, including lighter vehicles (police, fire-related automobiles and pick-up trucks) and heavier service vehicles (dump trucks, fire engines, street cleaning). The new locations are adjacent to and in close proximity to other complementary light industrial uses in a larger PDR zone.

MOBILITY

Policy 4.2: Develop the necessary improvements in public transit to move people efficiently and comfortably between different neighborhoods of Bayview Hunters Point, to and from Candlestick Park Point, and to and from Downtown and other parts of the region.

Policy 4.5: Create a comprehensive system for pedestrian and bicycle circulation.

Policy 11.2: Increase awareness and use of the pedestrian/bicycle trail system that links subareas in Bayview Hunters Point with the rest of the City.

The Plan encourages the City to continue to refine and give special attention to the bicycle and pedestrian needs of Bayview Hunters Point. Special attention should be given to pedestrian and bicycle linkages across physical barriers created by elevated highways, rail corridors, and large lots. Given the topography and existing built environment conditions, bicycling is often a convenient alternative to walking. The project should support the development of safe bicycle routes that connect to Project to the existing surrounding bicycle routes on Evans, Oakdale, and Barneveld. There may be an opportunity to extend the City's Bicycle Plan through the area with the use of abandoned rail lines. The Project should also consider enhanced pedestrian connections to proximate MUNI service.

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Policy 17.1: Promote the Bayview as an area for implementing energy conservation and alternative energy supply initiatives.

Policy 17.2: Strengthen linkages between district energy planning efforts and overall community development goals and objectives.

Policy 18.3: Promote effective energy management practices in new and existing commercial and industrial facilities to increase energy efficiency and maintain the economic viability of businesses.

Per the Area Plan, every attempt should be made to integrate energy planning with other community goals and revitalization efforts. Especially within the industrial / PDR sectors, which use substantial amounts of electricity for lighting, air conditioning, industrial operations such as welding and painting. The greatest energy savings can be achieved through improved design, management and maintenance of lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. The ideal time to address energy use in existing buildings, for example, is during major rehabilitation. Energy efficiency can help minimize operating costs, reduce GHG emissions to improve air quality, and upgrade existing public facilities by implementing energy saving programs and capital improvements, thereby expanding the power of tax dollars and improving the comfort and aesthetics of facilities. Onsite renewable electricity production is a priority of the City and State, and the Project site location and building design are ideal for hosting

significant rooftop solar (Photo Voltaic, PV) use. Furthermore, conservation and renewable energy technologies can also provide opportunities for addressing job training and employment needs. Community talents, resources and businesses can be brought together in a coordinated effort to both establish new job opportunities and train workers in skills that will help bring about community energy savings.

PROPOSITION M FINDINGS – PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1

Planning Code Section 101.1 establishes Eight Priority Policies and requires review of discretionary approvals and permits for consistency with said policies. The Project, demolition and replacement of the Chinese Recreation Center, is found to be consistent with the Eight Priority Policies as set forth in Planning Code Section 101.1 for the following reasons:

Eight Priority Policies Findings

The proposed project is found to be consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 in that:

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

There are no existing neighborhood-serving retail uses within the proposed project area and the project would not affect any existing neighborhood-serving retail uses. The proposed project would be carried out on PDR-zoned land in an industrial area of the Bayview neighborhood, consistent with the character of other surrounding PDR zoned uses.

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

The proposed project would not affect existing housing, as it is located on PDR zoned land surrounded by other PDR zoned land, where Residential use is prohibited. The project is designed in context with its industrial neighborhood, similar to other proximate, large, utilitarian, warehouse structures in the area. The project would be subject to Civic Design Review at the Arts Commission, which will ensure the neighborhood character is conserved and protected.

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

The proposed project is located in a PDR-zoned area, which does not permit residential uses. Retaining space for the storage and maintenance of the City's vehicle fleet and the wastewater treatment plant in its current neighborhood helps maintain space for new affordable housing to be constructed in other more appropriate areas.

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

The proposed project would not generate additional commuter traffic as the project would not expand the use of Central Shops but would simply relocate the use to sites nearby. The project is located on the route of the MUNI bus number 23. The project would implement a traffic control plan during construction to ensure that the MUNI transit service is not affected. After construction there would be adequate off-street parking to serve the Central Shops employees during work hours. Because the project is located in an area of the City zoned for production, distribution and repair where residential uses are not permitted, neighborhood parking is not an issue. As discussed above, the project would also need to ensure safe bicycle and pedestrian access.

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 residential employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced.

The proposed project maintains industrial uses in the current neighborhood, as zoned, and does not include commercial office space. The Central Shops would relocate and maintain current employees in the production, distribution and repair sector, supporting the City's diverse economic base.

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

The proposed project would be constructed in compliance with the City's building codes and seismic safety requirements. The new Central Shops facility would allow GSA to better serve the City's emergency services vehicles, including fire trucks, ambulances, and police cars, and ensure they are ready for use during an earthquake or other emergency response.

7. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

The proposed project would not affect designated landmarks or architecturally significant buildings. None of the industrial warehouse buildings that would be demolished or renovated are considered eligible for designation as a City landmark building.

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

The proposed project would not affect any existing parks or open space. It is located in a PDR-zoned area with no parks or open space in its vicinity. As mentioned above, the project would be encouraged to provide outdoor space for its employees and those from the surrounding area.

RECOMMENDATION:

Finding the Project, on balance, in-conformity with the General Plan