

From: [Paul Guernonprez](#)
To: [BOS Legislation, \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Support of Appeal of CEQA Exemption Determination - 2651-2653 Octavia Street – File # 200284
Date: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:43:24 AM
Attachments: [BOS in support of Appeal File200284.pdf](#)

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To: SF Board of Supervisors

bos.legislation@sfgov.org

Re: Support of Appeal of CEQA Exemption Determination - 2651-2653 Octavia Street – File # 200284

July 22, 2020

I am writing as president of the 2634 Octavia HOA. We are concerned neighbors and community members in opposition of the vertical and horizontal additions to the property at 2651-2653 Octavia as they will negatively impact an historic and treasured neighborhood and city resource.

The historic Beaux-Arts library at 1801 Green Street underwent significant renovation in October 2012 to achieve LEED Gold certification with major infrastructure improvements as well improvements of the facility for public use. This was accomplished at great taxpayer expense in the amount of 8.5 million as well as significant private money contributions by residents in the neighborhood. The neighborhood supported the San Francisco Public Library stated goal to ensure that this library, one of the most important anchors of our neighborhood, has an environment that is a positive, healthy model of the larger community ecosystem as part of the SFPL/Green Stack strategy.

The building has new south facing high performance windows controlling solar heat exchange and a new photovoltaic system on the south facing roof providing 25% of the library's energy needs. The primary source of light into the building comes from the south facing windows and the proposed additions to 2651-2653 Octavia would obstruct the daylight needed to maintain interior light levels and low cost operation of the library. Light into the main reading room interior of the building would be undermined, rendering the solar panels and windows much less effective and potentially useless.

By compromising light into the main reading room, the proposed project would change the visitor experience to the library considerably. The grand scale of the library reading room is one of San Francisco's great neighborhood gems.

As neighborhood residents who frequent the library, appreciate the character it lends to the neighborhood and the city and want our next generations to have the same bright, safe and enlightening experiences we had in libraries growing up, the project would impact the library by:

1. Infringing on the natural light to the main reading room of the Library, as well as light to the staff office spaces, changing the experience of the library interior for its many daily users and numerous staff. The current configuration of 2651-2653 Octavia Street building already blocks some light into the east end of the Library. Blockage of sunlight to the heat controlling windows will alter the character of the

interior space permanently to the detriment of the public users.

2. Negatively impact the function of the solar panels and south facing heat controlling windows, which were funded with significant public investment, to make the Library more energy efficient. Together they provide 25% of the Library's energy and significantly reduce the building's operating cost. The proposed project would likely impact the energy cost to the Library, possibly impacting the Library's overall budget each year

3. The Library is open (in normal times!) six days a week and is a prime example of how a public space can provide immeasurable benefits to our community. These benefits extend well beyond loaning books, periodicals and other media to the public at no cost. The Library is also a community center for a diverse population ranging from infants to school-aged children to seniors, and everyone in between. There's an extraordinarily rich schedule of free programming for all ages, including story time, music and movement classes, technology instruction, crafting, film nights, and STEM courses. There are also ample free resources and services available to visitors including laptops, software, printers and private meeting space. Clearly, the Library is one of our best neighborhood examples of a public good and serves as a center for residents and visitors to the neighborhood.

I hope the BOS will think carefully before allowing renovations to a private residence that would have negative impact on an historic, treasured, community PUBLIC resource.

Thank you for your consideration.

Paul Guermonprez

President of the 2634 Octavia HOA

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