



Supplemental Memorandum

DATE: July 23, 2020
TO: Angela Calvillo, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
FROM: Lisa Gibson, Environmental Review Officer - (415) 575-9032
Kei Zushi - kei.zushi@sfgov.org; (415) 575-9038
RE: Board of Supervisors File No. 200284
Planning Record No. 2018-011022APL
Appeal of Categorical Exemption for 2651-2653 Octavia Street
HEARING DATE: July 28, 2020

After the planning department provided its appeal response to the Clerk of the Board on July 20, 2020, two of the appellants and nine community members submitted comment letters. This supplemental memorandum provides the department's response to these letters. As explained below, the department determined that none of these letters provides any new information that changes the conclusion of the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response or that demonstrates that the department erred in issuing the September 5, 2019 categorical exemption for the 2651-2653 Octavia Street project under CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, or San Francisco administrative code chapter 31.

On July 22, 2020, Ms. Maureen Holt, one of the appellants, submitted to the Clerk of the Board an email containing six photographs showing shadows on the south-facing windows of the Golden Gate Valley Library (library) and the existing solar panels on the library's roof. These photographs do not provide any information that changes the conclusion of the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response. As discussed below and more fully in the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response, the department is not required under CEQA to analyze the proposed project's shadow effects on these solar panels or the library building.

Between July 21, 2020 and July 23, 2020, Ms. Elizabeth Reily, one of the appellants, Diana Mitchell, Tracy Newstadt, Ann Bouse, Janet Bailey, Maggie Chang, Donatella Dina, Katherine Reilly, Elysse Bell, and William K Reilly submitted comment letters to the Clerk of the Board in support of the appeal of the 2651-2653 Octavia Street categorical exemption (supplemental letters). These supplemental letters raise issues that are substantially similar to those included in the appellant's March 6, 2020 appeal letter and do not provide any new information that changes the conclusion of the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response, as explained below.

Sunlight into Interior Space of Golden Gate Valley Library

The supplemental letters state that the proposed project would change the users' and the library staff's experience of the library and alter the character of the library's interior space permanently to the detriment of the library users by blocking sunlight into the heat controlling windows. Similar issues

were raised in the appellant's March 6, 2020 appeal letter. As discussed in the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response (pp.6-7), the department is not required under CEQA to analyze the changes caused by the proposed project in the amount of sunlight allowed into the interior space of the library.

Shadow on Solar Panels on Golden Gate Valley Library

The supplemental letters suggest that the proposed project would negatively impact the function of the solar panels located on the library's roof, potentially increasing the library's energy cost. The same concern was raised in the appellant's March 6, 2020 appeal letter. As discussed in the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response (pp.6-7), the department is not required under CEQA to analyze shading of solar panels or shadow effects on buildings.

Golden Gate Valley Library's Benefits to Community

The supplemental letters state that the library provides various immeasurable social and community benefits. However, these letters do not provide any evidence that the proposed project would result in a significant environmental impact under CEQA. As discussed in the department's July 20, 2020 appeal response, there is no evidence in the record that the 2651-2653 Octavia Street project could result in a significant impact under CEQA.

Conclusion

Based on the above information, neither the aforementioned photographs, nor the supplemental letters, provide any new information demonstrating that the department erred in issuing the September 5, 2019 categorical exemption for the proposed project at 2651-2653 Octavia Street under CEQA. There is no evidence in record that the proposed project could result in a significant impact under CEQA. Thus, the department's September 5, 2019 categorical exemption determination complies with the requirements of CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and San Francisco administrative code chapter 31.