




GENERAL PLAN REFERRAL

June 1, 2021

Case No.: 2021-004866GPR
Block/Lot No.: 7299/005 Thornton Hall, roof (San Francisco State University)
Project Sponsor: Department of Emergency Management and Department of Technology, City and County of San Francisco
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Recommended By: 
Rich Hillis, Director of Planning

Recommendation: Finding the project, on balance, is **in conformity** with the General Plan

Project Description

The City currently owns and operates two 800MHz Radio Communications systems that are used by 20 City Departments and several outside agencies. The first is the Citywide Emergency Radio System (CERS), which is used by Police, Fire, Sheriff, and other Emergency Management agencies for first responders in the field to communicate with each other and to the dispatch centers. The second systems, the Public Service Emergency Radio System (PERS), is used by Public Works, Water Department, and other public service agencies for their daily operations. There are approximately 10,000 radios that operate on the systems citywide, and over 100,000 push to talks that occur daily on average. The current systems are 18 years old, and out of manufacturer support from the vendor.

The City is replacing the current systems, and combine into one upgraded network. The City is currently working with Motorola Solutions, Inc., to implement the project, and will enter into a contract with Motorola to design, install, configure, and test the new system, which will consist of ten radio communications sites and one primary dispatch site, designed to provide 800MHz radio coverage throughout the City and into San Mateo County.

This General Plan Referral is for the radio communication site at Thornton Hall, San Francisco State University.

General

San Francisco State University (SFSU) is an existing radio communications site for the City's 800MHz Citywide Emergency Radio System. The City leases space from SFSU in Thornton Hall, and currently operates fifteen radio antenna mounted on the roof of the 10-story building. This project will reduce the number of antennas installed at this location. The City is working with SFSU on the necessary approvals and permits required to replace the antennas. The City will revise the current lease with SFSU to reflect the changes in the equipment.

Work to Be Done

Legacy electronic equipment and batteries inside the radio room will be replaced with new, more efficient, equipment occupying less space. Three Land Mobile Radio (LMR) omnidirectional whip antennas (15' long, 3" diameter, blue in color) will be installed on existing rooftop mounts. The existing 12 LMR panel antennas mounted on face of the building comers will be removed. One LMR whip antenna will be removed and not replaced. Two microwave dish antennas (2' and 4' diameter) will be removed and replaced with two new microwave dish antennas of smaller characteristics (2'and 3' diameter, low-profile). Cabling from the equipment room to the antennas will follow the path of the existing antenna cables through Thornton Hall to the roof and are not visible from the public right of way. Antenna will be mounted approximately 150-160' above ground level. The City's vendor, Motorola, will provide all professional services related to the radio system implementation.

Environmental Review

The proposed project is a real estate transaction only and is not defined as a project under CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378 and 15060(c)(2) because it would not result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

General Plan Compliance and Basis for Recommendation

As described below, the proposed avigation easement to CCSF is consistent with the Eight Priority Policies of Planning Code Section 101.1 and is, on balance, in conformity with the Objectives and Policies of the General Plan.

Note: General Plan Objectives are shown in **BOLD UPPER CASE** font; Policies are in **Bold** font; staff comments are in *italic* font.

COMMUNITY SAFETY ELEMENT

OBJECTIVE 2

BE PREPARED FOR THE ONSET OF DISASTER BY PROVIDING PUBLIC EDUCATION AND TRAINING ABOUT EARTHQUAKES AND OTHER NATURAL AND MAN-MADE DISASTERS, BY READYING THE CITY'S INFRASTRUCTURE, AND BY ENSURING THE NECESSARY COORDINATION IS IN PLACE FOR A READY RESPONSE.

Policy 2.14

Support the Emergency Operations Center and continue maintenance of alternative operations centers in the case of an emergency.

The Emergency Operations Center serves as the central command of communication and direction. The project will support effective communication by consolidating fragmented communications systems and upgrading the technology, which will ensure that first responders in the field are able to communicate with each other and to dispatch centers.

POLICY 2.15

Utilize advancing technology to enhance communication capabilities in preparation for all phases of a disaster, particularly in the high-contact period immediately following a disaster.

This policy supports “continuing advances in technology and information systems [that] will enable information to be more widely, quickly, and reliably accessible.” The project will upgrade an 18-year old system, which directly aligns with this policy.

Planning Code Section 101 Findings

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

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

The Project would have no impact, adverse or otherwise, to existing and future neighborhood-serving uses and opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such 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 Project would not have a negative effect on housing or neighborhood character in San Francisco County.

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

The Project would not impact the City’s supply of affordable housing.

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

The Project would not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets

or neighborhood parking in San Francisco County.

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;

The Project would not cause displacement of the industrial or service sectors due to office development, and future opportunities for resident employment or ownership in these sectors would not be impaired.

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

The Project would achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake. The locations of the City's emergency cell towers is planned to work together to ensure complete coverage over the City - - to lose one of them decreases the efficacy of the system.

7. That the landmarks and historic buildings be preserved;

The Project is proposed on an existing building that is not historic, landmarks and other historic buildings, if any, are preserved.

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

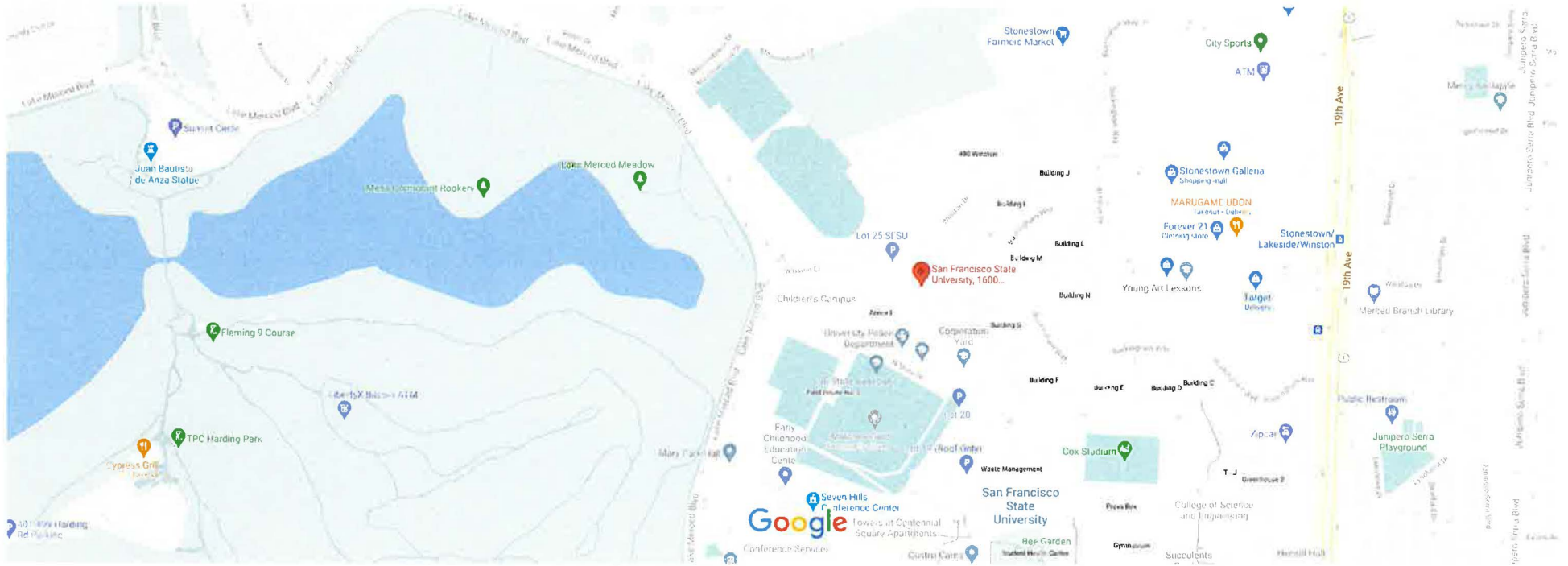
The Project would not have an adverse effect on the City's parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas.

Recommendation: Finding the project, on balance, is in conformity with the General Plan

Attachments:

Map of the Project Site

Google Maps San Francisco State University



Map data ©2021 Google 200 ft



San Francisco State University