



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Planning Commission Motion 18628

*Hearing Date:* May 24, 2012  
*Case No.:* **2007.0558E and 2008.0789E**  
*Project Address:* **Transit Center District Plan and Transit Tower**  
*Zoning:* P; C-3-O; C-3-O(SD); C-3-S; TB-DTR  
Various Height and Bulk Districts  
*Block/Lot:* Multiple; 3720/001(Transit Tower)  
*Project Sponsor:* San Francisco Planning Department and Transbay Joint Powers Authority  
*Staff Contact:* Sarah Jones – (415) 575-9034  
Sarah.b.jones@sfgov.org

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

Reception:  
**415.558.6378**

Fax:  
**415.558.6409**

Planning  
Information:  
**415.558.6377**

ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATED TO THE CERTIFICATION OF A FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR A PROPOSED AREA PLAN AND ASSOCIATED REZONING OF 145 ACRES ROUGHLY BOUNDED BY MARKET STREET, STEUART STREET, FOLSOM STREET, AND A LINE EAST OF THIRD STREET, AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF AN OFFICE TOWER UP TO 1,070 FEET TALL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF MISSION STREET BETWEEN FREMONT STREET AND FIRST STREET.

MOVED, that the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") hereby CERTIFIES the Final Environmental Impact Report identified as Case No. 2007.0558E and 2008.0789E, Transit Center District Plan and Transit Tower (hereinafter "Project") (State Clearinghouse No. 2008072073), based upon the following findings:

1. The City and County of San Francisco, acting through the Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") fulfilled all procedural requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, hereinafter "CEQA"), the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Admin. Code Title 14, Section 15000 *et seq.*, hereinafter "CEQA Guidelines") and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code (hereinafter "Chapter 31").
  - A. The Department determined that an Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "EIR") was required and provided public notice of that determination by publication in a newspaper of general circulation on July 20, 2008.
  - B. On September 28, 2011, the Department published the Draft Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "DEIR") and provided public notice in a newspaper of general circulation of the availability of the DEIR for public review and comment and of the date and time of the Planning Commission public hearing on the DEIR; this notice was mailed to the Department's list of persons requesting such notice.
  - C. Notices of availability of the DEIR and of the date and time of the public hearing were posted in the project area by Department staff on September 28, 2011.

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- D. On September 28, 2011, copies of the DEIR were mailed or otherwise delivered to a list of persons requesting it, to those noted on the distribution list in the DEIR, to adjacent property owners, and to government agencies, the latter both directly and through the State Clearinghouse.
  - E. Notice of Completion was filed with the State Secretary of Resources via the State Clearinghouse on September 28, 2011.
2. The Commission held a duly advertised public hearing on said DEIR on November 3, 2011 at which opportunity for public comment was given, and public comment was received on the DEIR. The period for acceptance of written comments ended on November 28, 2011.
  3. The Department prepared responses to comments on environmental issues received at the public hearing and in writing during the 61-day public review period for the DEIR, prepared revisions to the text of the DEIR in response to comments received or based on additional information that became available during the public review period, addressed changes to the proposed project, and corrected errors in the DEIR. This material was presented in a Draft Comments and Responses document, published on May 10, 2012, distributed to the Commission and all parties who commented on the DEIR, and made available to others upon request at the Department.
  4. A Final Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "FEIR") has been prepared by the Department, consisting of the DEIR, any consultations and comments received during the review process, any additional information that became available, and the Comments and Responses document all as required by law.
  5. Project EIR files have been made available for review by the Commission and the public. These files are available for public review at the Department at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, and are part of the record before the Commission.
  6. On May 24, 2012, the Commission reviewed and considered the FEIR and hereby does find that the contents of said report and the procedures through which the FEIR was prepared, publicized, and reviewed comply with the provisions of CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code.
  7. The Planning Commission hereby does find that the FEIR concerning File No. 2007.0558E and 2008.0789E, Transit Center District Plan and Transit Tower, reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City and County of San Francisco, is adequate, accurate and objective, and that the Comments and Responses document contains no significant revisions to the DEIR, and hereby does CERTIFY THE COMPLETION of said FEIR in compliance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines.
  8. The Commission, in certifying the completion of said FEIR, hereby does find that the project described in the EIR, including both the Transit Center District Plan and Transit Tower:
    - A. Will have a significant project-specific effect on the environment by altering public views of the Plan area from key long-range vantage points (visual); changing zoning controls in the Plan area in a manner that could result in adverse impacts to historic resources through demolition or substantial alteration (cultural resources); resulting in traffic growth that would adversely affect

local intersection operation (transportation); causing a substantial increase in transit demand that could not be accommodated by adjacent capacity (transportation); resulting in a substantial increase in transit delays (transportation); creating a volume of pedestrian activity that would cause pedestrian level of service to deteriorate (transportation); resulting in development that would create potentially hazardous conditions for pedestrians and bicyclists (transportation); resulting in a loading demand that could not be accommodated within on-site or on-street loading areas (transportation); resulting in construction activity that would result in disruption of circulation (transportation); creating noise levels in excess of standards and introducing sensitive receptors in areas with high noise levels (noise); exposing sensitive receptors to high levels of particulate matter and toxic air contaminants (air quality); resulting in construction-period emissions of criteria air pollutants and dust (air quality); creating shadow that could adversely affect the use of various parks and open spaces (shadow); and

- B. Will have a significant cumulative effect on the environment in that it would, in combination with other reasonably foreseeable probable future projects, alter the visual character of greater Downtown and alter public views of and through Downtown (visual resources); adversely affect historical resources (cultural resources); contribute to congested conditions at the Fourth/Harrison and First/Harrison freeway on-ramps (transportation); result in cumulative noise impacts (noise); result in cumulative air quality impacts (air quality); and create new shadow that would adversely affect the use of various parks and open spaces (shadow).

- 9. The Planning Commission reviewed and considered the information contained in the FEIR prior to approving the Project.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion was ADOPTED by the Planning Commission at its regular meeting of May 24, 2012.

Linda Avery  
Commission Secretary

AYES: ANTONINI, BORDEN, FONG, WU

NOES: MOORE

ABSENT: MIGUEL

RECUSED: SUGAYA

ADOPTED: May 24, 2012

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