



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Notice of Availability of and Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

*Date:* May 27, 2015  
*Case No.:* 2013.0850E  
*Project Title:* 501 Tunnel Avenue (West Wing) Project  
*Zoning:* M-1 (Light Industrial) and M-2 (Heavy Industrial) Districts  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 4991/008  
*Project Sponsor:* Recology  
*Project Contact:* John Glaub, (415) 715-6203  
*Staff Contact:* Tania Sheyner – (415) 575-9127  
Tania.Sheyner@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**

### To Whom It May Concern:

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the environmental review document concerning the proposed project described below. The document is a preliminary mitigated negative declaration (PMND), containing information about the possible environmental effects of the proposed project. The PMND documents the determination of the Planning Department that the proposed project could not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Preparation of a mitigated negative declaration does not indicate a decision by the City to carry out or not to carry out the proposed project.

### Project Description:

The approximately 93,998-square-foot (sf) project site is located approximately 340 feet southeast of the Lathrop Avenue/Tocoloma Avenue intersection in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood in San Francisco. The site is within Recology San Francisco's Solid Waste Transfer and Recycling Center facility, which is the City's permitted facility for resource recovery, solid waste transfer, and construction and demolition debris recycling. The project site is adjacent to the existing transfer station to the west and is currently undeveloped.

The proposed project would construct a new building that would serve as an addition to the existing transfer station and would accommodate additional waste processing activities and equipment. The proposed structure would serve as a testing facility for different combinations of equipment to extract useable resources from municipal solid waste, which otherwise is sent directly to landfill. The proposed building would provide approximately 14,000 square feet of space, including approximately 11,500 square feet on the main level and approximately 2,500 square feet on the lower level. The new structure would abut against the west side of the existing transfer station building and would be approximately 35 feet wide along the northern side and approximately 115 feet wide along the southern side. It would be approximately 40 feet in height, per the Planning Department's height definition, which is defined as the existing grade measured to the midpoint of a sloped roof. The proposed project would also include retaining walls and pavement improvements on the site. The largest retaining wall would be comprised

of three segments, totaling approximately 90 feet in length and ranging from 2 feet to 7 feet in height. The two smaller retaining walls, at the northwest and southwest building corners, would be roughly 16 feet long by 3 feet high and 30 long by 4 feet high, respectively.

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department's Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (<http://tinyurl.com/sfceqadocs>). Paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

If you have questions concerning environmental review of the proposed project, contact the Planning Department staff contact listed above. Within 20 calendar days following publication of the PMND (i.e., by 5:00 p.m. on **June 17, 2015**), any person may:

- 1) Review the PMND as an informational item and take no action;
- 2) Make recommendations for amending the text of the document. The text of the PMND may be amended to clarify or correct statements and may be expanded to include additional relevant issues or to cover issues in greater depth. This may be done **without** the appeal described below; **OR**
- 3) Appeal the determination of no significant effect on the environment to the Planning Commission in a letter which specifies the grounds for such appeal, accompanied by a \$547 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department.<sup>1</sup> An appeal requires the Planning Commission to determine whether or not an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared based upon whether or not the proposed project could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. Send the appeal letter to the Planning Department, Attention: Sarah B. Jones, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103. **The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of \$547.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on June 17, 2015.** The appeal letter and check may also be presented in person at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the first floor of 1660 Mission Street, San Francisco.

In the absence of an appeal, the mitigated negative declaration shall be made final, subject to necessary modifications, after 20 days from the date of publication of the PMND. If the PMND is appealed, the final mitigated negative declaration (FMND) may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors. The first approval action, as identified in the Initial Study, would establish the start of the 30-day appeal period for FMND pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Section 31.16(h).

Members of the public are not required to provide personal identifying information when they communicate with the Commission or the Department. All written or oral communications, including submitted personal contact information, may be made available to the public for inspection and copying upon request and may appear on the Department's website or in other public documents.

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<sup>1</sup> Upon review by the Planning Department, the appeal fee may be reimbursed for neighborhood organizations that have been in existence for a minimum of 24 months.