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

Date: July 6, 2016  
Case No.: 2013.1049E  
Project Title: 950-974 Market Street Project  
Zoning: C-3-G (Downtown Commercial) Use District  
120-X Height and Bulk District  
Block/Lot: 0342/001, 002, 004, 014  
Project Sponsor: Michelle Lin, Mid Market Center, LLC – (415) 394-9018  
               Michelle@groupi.com  
Staff Contact: Melinda Hue – (415) 575-9041  
               Melinda.Hue@sfgov.org

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the environmental review document concerning the proposed project as 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 34,262-sf project site, at 950–974 Market Street, is located on the northwest corner of Market and Turk Streets, on the block bound by Market, Mason, Turk, and Taylor Streets in San Francisco’s Mid-Market district in the Downtown/Civic Center neighborhood. The project site currently contains a surface parking lot over a below-grade parking structure and four buildings that are either vacant or partially occupied with retail and office uses.

The Project Sponsor, Mid Market Center, LLC, proposes to demolish the existing buildings and parking structure, and construct an approximately 406,000-gross-square-foot (gsf) building containing 242 dwelling units, a 232-room hotel, and approximately 16,600 gsf of retail uses, in a 12-story, 120-foot-tall building. The proposed project would include a one-level plus mezzanine below-grade garage containing approximately 82 parking spaces, including two car-share spaces. The proposed project would also include 319 bicycle parking spaces. A new loading zone is proposed along the Turk Street frontage, to accommodate passenger drop-off/pick-up and valet services for hotel guests.

This Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration (PMND) supersedes the PMND published on January 20, 2016. The January 20, 2016 PMND analyzed the Mid-Market Arts and Arts Education Special Use and Special Height and Bulk District and a project that would utilize the density and height bonuses offered by such districts. The Planning Department has chosen not to seek approvals for the Mid-Market Arts and Arts Education Special Use and Special Height and Bulk District and the Project Sponsor has
submitted a revised project description that does not depend on such districts. Given that the project description had changed substantially, this new PMND was prepared.

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department’s Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (http://www.sf-planning.org/sfceedocs). Paper copies are also available at the Planning Information Center (PIC) counter on the ground 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 July 26, 2016, 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 $562 check payable to the San Francisco Planning Department. 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 $562.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on July 26, 2016. The appeal letter and check may also be presented in person at the 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 the 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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1 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.