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

Date: April 26, 2017
Case No.: 2013.1383ENV
Project Title: 3516 and 3526 Folsom Street
Zoning: RH-1 (Residential-House, Single Family) Use District
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 5626/013 and 5626/014
Project Sponsor: Fabien Lannoye, Bluorange Designs 415-626-8868
Staff Contact: Justin Horner – (415) 575-9023
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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 project site is located on the block bounded by Bernal Heights Boulevard to the north, Gates Street to the west, Powhattan Avenue to the south and Folsom Street to the east. The project site is located along the west side of an approximately 145-foot-long unimproved segment of Folsom Street, north of Chapman Street that ends at the Bernal Heights Community Garden. This unimproved right-of-way is known as a “paper street.” Undeveloped land along this unimproved segment of Folsom Street has been subdivided into six lots, three on each side of Folsom Street. PG&E Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline 109 (PG&E Pipeline 109) runs along Folsom Street adjacent to the project site. The project site is at a slope of 28%.

The proposed project involves the construction of two single-family residences on two of the vacant lots along the west side of the unimproved portion of Folsom Street, and the construction of the connecting segment of Folsom Street to provide vehicle and pedestrian access to the project site. Each single-family home would be 27 feet tall, two stories over-garage with two off-street vehicle parking spaces accessed from a twelve-foot-wide garage door.

The 3516 Folsom Street building would be approximately 2,230 square feet in size with a side yard along its north property line. The 3526 Folsom Street building would be approximately 2,210 square feet in size with a side yard along its south property line. The proposed buildings would include roof decks and a full fire protection sprinkler system. The proposed buildings would be supported by a shallow building foundation using a mat slab with spread footings.

The proposed Folsom Street extension improvements would include an approximately 20-foot-wide road with an approximately 10-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side of the street, adjacent to the proposed
residences. The proposed sidewalk would be stepped, would incorporate landscaping that would perform storm water retention, and would provide public access to Bernal Heights Boulevard/Bernal Heights Park (along the west side of the Bernal Heights Community Garden). The proposed project would not create direct vehicular access to Bernal Heights Boulevard as the Folsom Street extension would terminate at the Bernal Heights Community Garden. Construction of the street extension would require the removal of the existing vegetation within the public right-of-way on the “paper street.” An existing driveway utilized by both the 3574 Folsom Street and 3577 Folsom Street buildings would also be removed; however, the extension would provide access to the two existing residences.

The proposed project would include the installation of new street trees (subject to approval from PG&E) and street lighting on the west side of the street. No on-street parking would be provided along the Folsom Street extension. In addition to providing utilities for the proposed residences, the project sponsor would install utilities for the four vacant lots located on the “paper street” segment of Folsom Street (one on the west side and three on the east side). No residences are proposed at this time on those lots; the proposed connections would be provided to minimize disruption in the case of future development. Construction would continue for approximately 12 months and would require excavation of up to approximately 10 feet below the existing ground surface.

The PMND is available to view or download from the Planning Department’s Negative Declarations and EIRs web page (http://www.sf-planning.org/sfceqadocs). 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 Tuesday, May 16th, 2017, 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 $578 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: Lisa M. Gibson, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 or emailed to lisa.gibson@sfgov.org. The letter must be accompanied by a check in the amount of $578.00 payable to the San Francisco Planning Department, and must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 16th, 2017. 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.

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.
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.