Initial Study – Community Plan Evaluation

Case No.: 2013.1339E
Project Address: 645-647 Valencia Street
Zoning: Valencia St Neighborhood Commercial Transit (Valencia Street NCT), Mission Alcohol Beverage Special Use Subdistrict, Fringe Financial Service Restricted Use District, 55-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 3576/062
Lot Size: 2,800 square feet
Plan Area: Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan (Mission Plan Area)
Project Sponsor: Dennis Ring, 647 Valencia Street LLC, (415)-298-5133
Staff Contact: Tania Sheyner, (415) 575-9127, Tania.Sheyner@sfgov.org

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Location

The 2,800-square-foot (sf) project site (Assessor’s Block 3576, Lot 062) is located at the southeast corner of Valencia and Sycamore Streets, in the City’s Mission District, on a block bounded by Valencia Street to the west, Sycamore Street to the north, Lexington Street to the east, and 18th Street to the south (see Figure 1: Project Location). The site, which is rectangular in shape, has frontages along two streets—a 35-foot frontage along Valencia Street and an 80-foot frontage along Sycamore Street. It is bordered by an existing residential building to the east and a vacant building and commercial buildings to the south.

The site does not provide off-street parking, and there are no curb cuts. There is a metered loading zone along the Valencia Street frontage. Pedestrian sidewalks are on both street frontages, with one street tree on the Valencia Street frontage. Valencia Street has an existing 12-foot-wide sidewalk, and Sycamore Street has an existing 6-foot-wide sidewalk. The project site, and surrounding area, is relatively flat.

Project Characteristics

The project site is currently occupied by a two-story, approximately 5,300 gross-square-foot (gsf) commercial building that contains a bar/music venue, the Elbo Room. The existing building on the site was constructed in 1915.

The proposed project would be an addition/alteration that would preserve the façade of the existing two-story building and construct a three-story addition above the existing structure. The resulting building would have approximately 10,500 gsf of mixed-use space, with ground-floor commercial use and parking, and seven residential units above. The building would be a total of five stories with an overall height of 55 feet (approximately 60 feet to the top of the elevator overrun).

The ground floor would include approximately 600 gsf of commercial space, 1,200 gsf of off-street parking composed of four vehicle parking spaces, and seven Class I bicycle parking spaces (in addition, three Class 2 bicycle parking space would be provided on the Valencia Street sidewalk). Parking would be for residential uses only, with access from a new 10-foot-wide curb cut on Sycamore Street.
645-647 VALENCIA STREET PROJECT
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FIGURE 1: PROJECT SITE LOCATION
The ground floor would also contain the residential lobby and mechanical areas. Residential entries would be at approximately the building mid-point along Sycamore Street, at the southwest corner along Valencia Street, and through the ground-level garage. Commercial access would be at the corner of Valencia and Sycamore Streets (see Figure 2: First Floor Plan).

The building would contain seven dwelling units on floors two through five, totaling approximately 8,500 gsf. The residential units would range from approximately 440 to 1,330 sf in size, and would include one studio, three one-bedroom, two two-bedroom, and one three-bedroom unit. Open space for residents would be provided by private residential decks on floors three and four (for a total of approximately 880 sf of space), and by a rooftop deck at the fifth floor (approximately 650 sf of space), serving unit number seven. No publicly accessible open space would be provided. Floors three and four would be set back approximately 15 feet from Valencia Street and would accommodate the outdoor deck space; the fifth floor would be set back an additional 13 feet and would accommodate the rooftop deck. See Figures 3 through 8 for detailed project plans.

As noted previously under Project Location, Valencia Street has an existing 14-foot-10 inch wide sidewalk, and Sycamore Street has an existing 6-foot-6 inch wide sidewalk. The proposed project would provide six new street trees—two along Valencia Street and four along Sycamore Street.

Project Construction

Construction would occur in separate phases, including exterior and interior demolition (preserving the existing two-story commercial structure façade), site preparation, and proposed additions and alterations. Project construction is anticipated to begin by the end of 2016, and would last 16 months.

The proposed project would preserve 55.4 percent of the interior structures and 83 percent of the exterior façade of the existing building, in compliance with Planning Code Section 1005(f), which requires that no more than 25 percent of the surface of external walls and 75 percent of internal structures be removed for preservation purposes. Prior to removal, existing building materials would be characterized to abate any potential hazards, including asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint.

The proposed (altered) building would be constructed on an approximately 2-foot-thick mat slab. The foundation would use poured-in-place piles, requiring pre-drilled holes, but would not require pile driving. The excavation for the foundation would require removing approximately 300 cubic yards of material. Excavation is anticipated to a depth of approximately 3 feet below ground surface (bgs), with a maximum of 7.6 feet bgs at elevator pits and car pits.

Project Setting

As noted previously, the project site is at the corner of Valencia and Sycamore Streets in the city’s Mission District. In the project vicinity, Valencia Street is a two-way arterial roadway, running north to south with one traffic lane in each direction. Sycamore Street operates as a one-way city street, running east to west. Street parking is available on both curbs along Valencia Street, and on the north side of Sycamore Street. Valencia Street also provides a Class II (designated and independent) bicycle lane in both directions. No bicycle lanes are located along Sycamore Street.

Surrounding land uses primarily consist of commercial and residential buildings, generally ranging from two to five stories in height. The San Francisco Police Department Mission Police Station is directly west across Valencia Street from the proposed project site. Along the western side of Valencia Street, the Mission Police Station occupies approximately the northern half of the block between 17th and 18th Streets.
FIGURE 2: FIRST FLOOR PLAN

VAN ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE 1
(6'-2" MIN. HEADROOM)

VALENCIA ST.
SYCAMORE ST.

10'-0"
25'-0"
ELEVATOR SHAFT
(2-HR SHAFT)

GARAGE
OPENING
(2-HR EXIT LOBBY R-2 OCCUPANCY)

COMMON STAIR # 1
COMMON STAIR # 2

COMMERCIAL OCCUPANCY
(07/21)

6' X 6' ADA BATHROOM

RESIDENTIAL LOBBY
(2-HR OCCUPANCY R-2)

ELEVATOR SHAFT
(2-HR SHAFT)

TRASH

GAS CLOSET

7 CLASS 1 BIKE PARKING SPACES
6'-0"

MAIL U-OCCUPANCY
1171 SQ. FT

PROVIDE (N) WOOD WINDOWS @ HISTORIC BRICK OPENINGS

M-OCCUPANCY
517 SQ FT

HC BATH

PROPOSED BLDG @ 657 VALENCIA
3576/061

SOURCE: KERMAN MORRIS ARCHITECTS

FIGURE NOT TO SCALE
NORTH

645-647 VALENCIA STREET PROJECT
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FIGURE 2: FIRST FLOOR PLAN
645-647 VALENCIA STREET PROJECT
Case No. 2013.1339 E

FIGURE 3: SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SOURCE: KERMAN MORRIS ARCHITECTS

FIGURE NOT TO SCALE
NORTH

645-647 VALENCIA STREET PROJECT
Case No. 2013.1339 E

FIGURE 3: SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SOURCE: KERMAN MORRIS ARCHITECTS

FIGURE NOT TO SCALE
NORTH
UNIT-7
3 BEDROOM/ 2 BATH
785 SQ. FT UPPER LEVEL, TOTAL SQ. FT= 1313
DINING/ LIVING

PRIVATE DECK UNIT
#7

SOLID 42" PARAPET/ HANDRAIL, TYP.

PROPOSED BLDG @ 657 VALENCIA

SUBJECT TO ALLEY REGS S.261.1(d)(2)

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FIGURE 6: FIFTH FLOOR PLAN
FIGURE 7: SYCAMORE STREET ELEVATION

FIRST FLOOR
SECOND FLOOR
THIRD FLOOR
FOURTH FLOOR
FIFTH FLOOR

RETAIL ENTRANCE

STUCCO FINISH AT PROPOSED ADDITION; TYP.

OPENING TO REMAIN

(F) BRICK FACADE

(N) WINDOW ON (E) STUCCO WALL, TYP.

NEW ADDITION

EXISTING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN

(E) WINDOW TO REMAIN

(N) CONSTRUCTION ELEVATOR TOWER

(E) STUCCO FACADE, PAINT

(N) WINDOW ON (E) STUCCO WALL, TYP.

NEW ADDITION

EXISTING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN

(E) OPENING TO REMAIN

(E) WINDOWS TO REMAIN

NEW ADDITION

EXISTING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN

(E) OPENING TO REMAIN

NEW ADDITION

EXISTING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN

(E) WINDOW TO REMAIN

NORTH

SOURCE: KERMAN MORRIS ARCHITECTS
645-647 VALENCIA STREET PROJECT

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FIGURE 8: VALENCIA STREET ELEVATION
The remaining portion of the block along the western side of Valencia Street, between 17th and 18th Streets, is occupied by three- and four-story residential and mixed-use residential buildings. The eastern side of Valencia Street south of the 645–647 Valencia Street building, between 17th and 18th Streets, is occupied by three-story mixed-use residential and retail/commercial buildings. The adjacent property to the south of the proposed project site, which contains an existing one-story building at 657 Valencia Street, is proposed to be demolished and redeveloped with a five-story residential building with restaurant uses on the ground floor. North of the project site, across Sycamore Street, is a single-story thrift shop and a five-story mixed-use residential/retail building. With the exception of the thrift shop across from the northern site frontage, Sycamore Street is occupied by three- and four-story residential buildings on both sides of the street. Entertainment venues, such as bars and music venues, are located in areas surrounding the site; however, with the exception of the Elbo Room located on the project site, none are in the immediate vicinity (within the same block of the project site). No sensitive uses, such as schools and daycares, are located in the immediate vicinity of the site. The project site and surrounding uses along Valencia Street are zoned as Valencia Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit (Valencia Street NCT) Zoning District, and are within a 55-X height and bulk district. Other areas in the project vicinity east and west of Valencia Street are zoned as Residential Transit Oriented - Mission.

The proposed project site is located near public transit, including the 16th Street and Mission Street Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station, located approximately 0.2 mile northeast. Several San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (Muni) bus routes also operate in the area, including the 33-Ashbury/18th along 18th Street and Mission Street, 22-Fillmore along 16th Street, 14-Mission and 14R-Mission Rapid along Mission Street, 49-Van Ness/Mission along Mission Street, and the 55-16th Street along 16th Street.

The nearest parks include the Mission Playground and Pool, approximately 0.2 mile south on Valencia Street; Dearborn Community Garden, approximately 0.1 mile west; Kid Power Park, approximately 0.12 mile northeast; and Dolores Park, approximately 0.3 mile southwest.

**PROJECT APPROVALS**

The proposed 645-647 Valencia Street Project would require the following approvals:

**Actions by the Planning Department and/or Commission**

- Rear Yard Modification approval by the Zoning Administrator per Planning Code Section 134(e), for open space to be configured in residential decks and a rooftop deck rather than a rear yard;
- Open Space Variance approval by the Zoning Administrator per Planning Code Section 135, for units that do not comply with the minimum 80-sf private area/unit or 107-sf common open space per unit required; and
- Street Frontage Variance approval by the Zoning Administrator per Planning Code Section 145.1, for allowance of parking within the first 25 feet of the building frontage.

**Actions by other City Departments**

- Approval of the site permit by the Planning Department and Department of Building Inspection;
- Approval of grading and building permits by the Planning Department and Department of Building Inspection for demolition, construction, and grading;
- Department of Public Works approval for modifications to public sidewalks, street trees, and the curb cut; and
• San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency approval for the proposed curb cut for new parking access.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

This initial study evaluates whether the environmental impacts of the proposed project are addressed in the programmatic environmental impact report for the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans (Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR). The initial study considers whether the proposed project would result in significant impacts that: (1) are peculiar to the project or project site; (2) were not identified as significant project-level, cumulative, or off-site effects in the PEIR; or (3) are previously identified significant effects, which as a result of substantial new information that was not known at the time that the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR was certified, are determined to have a more severe adverse impact than discussed in the PEIR. Such impacts, if any, will be evaluated in a project-specific focused mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. If no such impacts are identified, no additional environmental review shall be required for the project beyond that provided in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR and this project-specific initial study in accordance with CEQA section 21083.3 and CEQA Guidelines section 15183.

Mitigation measures identified in the PEIR are discussed under each topic area, and measures that are applicable to the proposed project are provided under the Mitigation Measures section at the end of this checklist.

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR identified significant impacts related to land use, transportation, cultural resources, shadow, noise, air quality, and hazardous materials. Additionally, the PEIR identified significant cumulative impacts related to land use, transportation, and cultural resources. Mitigation measures were identified for the above impacts and reduced all impacts to less-than-significant except for those related to land use (cumulative impacts on Production, Distribution, and Repair (PDR) use), transportation (program-level and cumulative traffic impacts at nine intersections; program-level and cumulative transit impacts on seven Muni lines), cultural resources (cumulative impacts from demolition of historical resources), and shadow (program-level impacts on parks).

The proposed project would include an addition/alteration to the existing two-story commercial building, resulting in a five-story mixed-use building measuring approximately 10,500 gsf in size. The building would contain approximately 600 gsf of commercial space, four vehicle parking spaces, and seven Class I bicycle parking spaces on the ground floor (in addition, three Class 2 bicycle parking space would be provided on the Valencia Street sidewalk), and seven residential units on floors two through five. Residential units would range from approximately 670 to 1,400 sf, with an overall total of 8,700 gsf of residential space. The proposed building would be 55 feet tall (approximately 60 feet to the top of the elevator overrun), and would preserve the existing exterior walls and finishes. As discussed below in this initial study, the proposed project would not result in new, significant environmental effects, or effects of greater severity than were already analyzed and disclosed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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**CHANGES IN THE REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT**

Since the certification of the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR in 2008, several new policies, regulations, statutes, and funding measures have been adopted, passed, or are underway that affect the physical environment and/or environmental review methodology for projects in the Eastern Neighborhoods plan areas.

As discussed in each topic area referenced below, these policies, regulations, statutes, and funding measures have implemented or will implement mitigation measures or further reduce less-than-significant impacts identified in the PEIR. These include:

- State legislation amending CEQA to eliminate consideration of aesthetics and parking impacts for infill projects in transit priority areas, effective January 2014.
- State legislation amending CEQA and San Francisco Planning Commission resolution replacing level of service (LOS) analysis of automobile delay with vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis, effective March 2016 (see “CEQA Section 21099” heading below).
- The adoption of 2016 interim controls in the Mission District requiring additional information and analysis regarding housing affordability, displacement, loss of PDR and other analyses, effective January 14, 2016 through April 14, 2017.
- San Francisco ordinance establishing Noise Regulations Related to Residential Uses near Places of Entertainment effective June 2015 (see initial study Noise section).
- San Francisco ordinances establishing Construction Dust Control, effective July 2008, and Enhanced Ventilation Required for Urban Infill Sensitive Use Developments, amended December 2014 (see initial study Air Quality section).
- San Francisco Clean and Safe Parks Bond passage in November 2012 and San Francisco Recreation and Open Space Element of the General Plan adoption in April 2014 (see initial study Recreation section).
- Urban Water Management Plan adoption in 2011 and Sewer System Improvement Program process (see initial study Utilities and Service Systems section).
- Article 22A of the Health Code amendments effective August 2013 (see initial study Hazardous Materials section).

**Aesthetics and Parking**

In accordance with CEQA Section 21099—Modernization of Transportation Analysis for Transit Oriented Projects—aesthetics and parking shall not be considered in determining if a project has the potential to result in significant environmental effects, provided the project meets all of the following three criteria:

a) The project is in a transit priority area;

b) The project is on an infill site; and

c) The project is residential, mixed-use residential, or an employment center.
The proposed project meets each of the above three criteria and thus, this checklist does not consider aesthetics or parking in determining the significance of project impacts under CEQA. Project elevations are included in the project description.

Automobile Delay and Vehicle Miles Traveled

In addition, CEQA Section 21099(b)(1) requires that the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) develop revisions to the CEQA Guidelines establishing criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects that “promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses.” CEQA Section 21099(b)(2) states that upon certification of the revised guidelines for determining transportation impacts pursuant to Section 21099(b)(1), automobile delay, as described solely by level of service or similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion shall not be considered a significant impact on the environment under CEQA.

In January 2016, OPR published for public review and comment a Revised Proposal on Updates to the CEQA Guidelines on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA recommending that transportation impacts for projects be measured using a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metric. On March 3, 2016, in anticipation of the future certification of the revised CEQA Guidelines, the San Francisco Planning Commission adopted OPR’s recommendation to use the VMT metric instead of automobile delay to evaluate the transportation impacts of projects (Resolution 19579). (Note: the VMT metric does not apply to the analysis of project impacts on non-automobile modes of travel such as transit, walking, and bicycling.) Therefore, impacts and mitigation measures from the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR associated with automobile delay are not discussed in this checklist, including PEIR Mitigation Measures E-1: Traffic Signal Installation, E-2: Intelligent Traffic Management, E-3: Enhanced Funding, and E-4: Intelligent Traffic Management. Instead, a VMT analysis is provided in the Transportation section.

### Topics:

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1. **LAND USE AND LAND USE PLANNING—Would the project:**

   a) Physically divide an established community? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

   b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

   c) Have a substantial impact upon the existing character of the vicinity? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

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2 San Francisco Planning Department. Eligibility Checklist: CEQA Section 21099 – Modernization of Transportation Analysis for 645-647 Valencia Street, September 28, 2016. This document (and all other documents cited in this report, unless otherwise noted), is available for review at the San Francisco Planning Department, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 400 as part of Case File No. 2013.1339E.

3 This document is available online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/s_sb743.php.
The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that adoption of the rezoning and area plans would result in an unavoidable significant impact on land use due to the cumulative loss of PDR. The proposed project would not remove any existing PDR uses since none exist on the project site, and would therefore, not contribute to any impact related to loss of PDR uses that was identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR. In addition, the project site was zoned Neighborhood Commercial District (NCD) prior to the rezoning of Eastern Neighborhoods, which encouraged ground-level neighborhood-serving commercial uses with housing above and did not encourage PDR uses. Thus, the rezoning of the project site did not contribute to the significant impact identified in the EIR.

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that implementation of the area plans would not create any new physical barriers in the Eastern Neighborhoods because the rezoning and area plans do not provide for any new major roadways, such as freeways that would disrupt or divide the plan area or individual neighborhoods or subareas.

The Citywide Planning and Current Planning divisions of the planning department have determined that the proposed project is permitted in the Valencia Street Neighborhood Commercial Transit District and is consistent with the applicable zoning, 55-X Height and Bulk District, Mission Area Plan, and other applicable San Francisco plans and policies such as the San Francisco General Plan. Specifically, the proposed project would not exceed the applicable 55-foot height limit, except for certain rooftop features such as open space features, mechanical screens, and stair and elevator penthouses as allowable by the Planning Code (approximately 60 feet to the top of the elevator overrun). It would also meet applicable FAR requirements and the requirement that at least 40 percent of all dwelling units contain two or more bedrooms, or 30 percent of all dwelling units contain three or more bedrooms in the Valencia Street NCT District.

The proposed project would also be consistent with the height, bulk, density, and land uses as envisioned in the Mission Area Plan. Specifically, it would be consistent with Objective 1.2, which calls for maximizing development potential in keeping with neighborhood character (the project would provide 7 dwelling units) and would be consistent with Objective 8.2 by retaining the existing facade in an attempt to maintain the character of the district, supporting the plan’s objective to protect, preserve, and reuse historic resources.

Because the proposed project is consistent with the development density established in the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR related to land use and land use planning, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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4 San Francisco Planning Department, Community Plan Exemption Eligibility Determination, Citywide Planning and Policy Analysis, 645-647 Valencia Street, July 26, 2016.

5 San Francisco Planning Department, Community Plan Exemption Eligibility Determination, Current Planning Analysis, 645-647 Valencia Street, July 24, 2016.
2. POPULATION AND HOUSING—Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing units or create demand for additional housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

One of the objectives of the Eastern Neighborhoods area plans is to identify appropriate locations for housing in the City’s industrially zoned land to meet the citywide demand for additional housing. The PEIR assessed how the rezoning actions would affect housing supply and location options for businesses in the Eastern Neighborhoods and compared these outcomes to what would otherwise be expected without the rezoning, assuming a continuation of development trends and ad hoc land use changes (such as allowing housing within industrial zones through conditional use authorization on a case-by-case basis, site-specific rezoning to permit housing, and other similar case-by-case approaches). The PEIR concluded that adoption of the rezoning and area plans “would induce substantial growth and concentration of population in San Francisco.” The PEIR states that the increase in population expected to occur as a result of the proposed rezoning and adoption of the areas plans would not, in itself, result in adverse physical effects, and would serve to advance key City policy objectives, such as providing housing in appropriate locations next to Downtown and other employment generators and furthering the City’s transit first policies. It was anticipated that the rezoning would result in an increase in both housing development and population in all of the area plan neighborhoods. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that the anticipated increase in population and density would not directly result in significant adverse physical effects on the environment. However, the PEIR identifies significant cumulative impacts on the physical environment that would result indirectly from growth afforded under the rezoning and area plans, including impacts on land use, traffic and transportation, air quality, noise, public services, utilities, and recreational resources. The PEIR contains detailed analyses of these secondary effects under each of the relevant resource topics, and identifies mitigation measures to address significant impacts.

The PEIR determined that implementation of the rezoning and area plans would not have a significant impact from the direct displacement of existing residents, and that each of the rezoning options considered in the PEIR would result in less displacement as a result of unmet housing demand than would be expected under the No-Project scenario because the addition of new housing would provide some relief to housing market pressure without directly displacing existing residents. However, the PEIR also noted that residential displacement is not solely a function of housing supply, and that adoption of the rezoning and area plans could result in indirect, secondary effects on neighborhood character through gentrification that could displace some residents. The PEIR discloses that the rezoned districts could transition to higher-value housing, which could result in gentrification and displacement of lower-income
households, and states moreover that lower-income residents of the Eastern Neighborhoods, who also disproportionately live in crowded conditions and in rental units, are among the most vulnerable to displacement resulting from neighborhood change.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15131 and 15064(e), economic and social effects such as gentrification and displacement are only considered under CEQA where these effects would cause substantial adverse physical impacts on the environment. Only where economic or social effects have resulted in adverse physical changes in the environment, such as “blight” or “urban decay” have courts upheld environmental analysis that consider such effects. But without such a connection to an adverse physical change, consideration of social or economic impacts “shall not be considered a significant effect” per CEQA Guidelines 15382. While the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR disclosed that adoption of the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans could contribute to gentrification and displacement, it did not determine that these potential socio-economic effects would result in significant adverse physical impacts on the environment.

The proposed project would result in a five-story mixed-use building that would include seven new residential units and approximately 600 gsf of commercial space. This has the potential to introduce a residential population of approximately 16 people and a daytime worker population of approximately three people to the project site. The proposed commercial component of the project is not anticipated to create a substantial demand for increased housing as it would not be of sufficient size to generate such demand. Moreover, the addition of these new housing units would be a negligible increase in comparison to the anticipated 800 to 2,100 new unit increase in the Mission plan area forecasted in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

The proposed project site currently contains a single two-story building that houses the Elbo Room bar/music venue. Because no residential uses exist on the project site, no residential displacement would occur as a result of the proposed project. A small number of employees would be displaced from the current site during project construction. However, repurposing new commercial space and adding new housing would provide potential new employment and residences for those temporarily displaced. These direct effects of the proposed project on population and housing would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts on population and housing beyond those identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR. The project’s contribution to indirect effects of population growth identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR on land use, traffic and transportation, air quality, noise, public services, utilities, and recreational resources are evaluated under each of those topics in this initial study below.

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<td>3. CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES—Would the project:</td>
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a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5, including those resources listed in Article 10 or Article 11 of the San Francisco Planning Code?
Historic Architectural Resources

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.5(a)(1) and 15064.5(a)(2), historical resources are buildings or structures that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the California Register of Historical Resources or are identified in a local register of historical resources, such as Articles 10 and 11 of the San Francisco Planning Code. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that future development facilitated through the changes in use districts and height limits under the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plans could have substantial adverse changes on the significance of both individual historical resources and on historical districts within the Plan Areas. The PEIR determined that approximately 32 percent of the known or potential historical resources in the Plan Areas could potentially be affected under the preferred alternative. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR found this impact to be significant and unavoidable. This impact was addressed in a Statement of Overriding Considerations with findings and adopted as part of the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans approval on January 19, 2009.

The proposed project would remove the current bar and music venue, the Elbo Room, while retaining the existing exterior façade, and would construct a three-story addition to the existing building. The Historic Resources Evaluation (HRE) completed for the proposed project evaluated the existing property for eligibility under the California Register of Historic Places. The HRE determined that the existing building does not meet the level of significance necessary to be individually listed under the California Register under any of the four criteria of evaluation. The evaluation criteria include (1) Events or Patterns of Events, (2) Important Person(s), (3) Design and Construction, and (4) Information Potential. The HRE determined that the property is not locally registered or designated as a historically significant site, it has not been identified as significant in a previous historic resource survey, and the building is not a strong example of style or type. As discussed in the HRE, the building is associated with an important person, Elizabeth “Rikki” Streicher, who was active in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community. Streicher, as discussed further in the following paragraphs, owned Amelia’s Bar, an LGBTQ business at the 645 Valencia Street site. However, the HRE found that the 645 Valencia Street building is not the best or most closely associated resource to convey her significance because the building most strongly associated with her is the structure that housed Maud’s (at 937 Cole Street).

Although the HRE found that building is not eligible for listing in the California Register, the Historic Resource Evaluation Response (HRER) prepared by San Francisco Planning Department staff found that

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the existing 645 Valencia Street building is an individually-eligible historic resource for the purposes of CEQA for listing in the California Register of Historical resource under Criterion A (Events) and Criterion B (Persons) under Theme 7 – “Building LGBTQ Communities (1960s to 1990s). This finding is based on the staff’s review of the HRE discussed above as well as the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco, which was adopted after the HRE was issued. As discussed in these documents, the building was found eligible based on its association with the LGBTQ context as Amelia’s Bar, which operated at the site between 1978 and 1991 under the ownership of Rikki Streicher. Streicher was an influential and successful lesbian businesswoman and a leader in San Francisco’s gay rights movement, operating Amelia’s as a prominent social gathering space for the LGBTQ community during that time period. The period of significance ranges from 1978 to 1991, which coincides with a portion of the life span of Amelia’s.

As noted in the HRER, the Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco described the 645-647 Valencia Street buildings and Amelia’s as follows:

Amelia’s, a bar owned by lesbian businesswoman Rikki Streicher, opened at 647 Valencia in 1978. Amelia’s offered dancing and hosted community events in its second floor space. Amelia’s differed from Streicher’s first lesbian bar, Maud’s, because it offered dancing in a second floor space that was also used for community gatherings. Fundraisers hosted by Amelia’s supported a broad range of community issues, such as the Gay Games, the AIDS/ARC Vigil, the Women’s Blood Drive Mobile, and African American lesbian candidate Pat Norman’s 1986 campaign for the Board of Supervisors. Amelia’s “was a place to come and get dressed up, not any old bar. [It] became a place to be seen and be proud,” said Joan Crittenden, one of the nightclub’s original managers, who also worked at Maud’s. Amelia’s was “less cliquey” than Maud’s, according to patron Evie Blackwood, and drew a more interracial crowd. Amelia’s also fielded teams in the lesbian softball league and sent a team to the 1988 Gay World Series in Dallas. Page Hodel got her start as an important Bay Area DJ and dance club organizer at Amelia’s. Hodel liked to “throw huge parties” and rented an empty storefront for her birthday party one year that drew 600 people. “The next morning I got a call from…Amelia’s,” Hodel said. “The owner said, ‘I don’t know what you are doing over there, but we were empty all night. How about you come here and play your records?’” Hodel’s ongoing nights at Amelia’s were so popular the bar reportedly had to hire a bouncer to keep the crowds within fire code limits.9

Although Planning Department staff found the existing building to be an individually-eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical resources, the staff found that the proposed project would not cause a significant adverse impact upon a historic resource such that the significance of a historic resource would be materially impaired. Overall, the project complies with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards


9 Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson, Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco (October 2015) Pg. 176
for Rehabilitation, including, but not limited to, Rehabilitation Standard No. 2, No. 3, and No. 9. As discussed in the HRER, the proposed façade removal would not fall within the demolition criteria outlined in Article 10 of the San Francisco Planning Code, and the project would retain the majority of the existing character-defining features. Further, the Department found that the proposed alterations, including the three-story vertical addition, would not conflict with the historic character of the existing historic resource. The proposed façade alterations would introduce compatible fenestration, which would be consistent with the existing historic windows on the second floor. On the ground floor, the project would retain important aspects of craftsmanship, including the jack-arch window headers. The new three-story vertical addition would be sufficiently setback from the primary facade, would be partially obscured by the tall parapet, and would meet the massing requirements of the Planning Code. The project would provide new construction, which would be clearly differentiated from the existing historic building and would be largely located on the rear portion of the subject lot. Finally, the project would restore aspects of the historic building by reintroducing two windows on the ground floor of the Valencia Street facade, as based upon historic documentation. The project would maintain the important aspects on the exterior, including the brick base and wall covering, stucco cladding, wood-sash windows and tabbed parapet.

Furthermore, the proposed project would be designed and constructed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, and thus, project effects would remain less-than-significant level under CEQA. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to the significant historic resource impact identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR, and no historic resource mitigation measures would apply to the proposed project.

For these reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts on historic architectural resources that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

Archeological Resources

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that implementation of the Area Plan could result in significant impacts on archeological resources and identified three mitigation measures that would reduce these potential impacts to a less than significant level. Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure J-1 applies to properties for which a final archeological research design and treatment plan is on file at the Northwest Information Center and the Planning Department. Mitigation Measure J-2 applies to properties for which no archeological assessment report has been prepared or for which the archeological documentation is incomplete or inadequate to serve as an evaluation of potential effects on archeological resources under CEQA. Mitigation Measure J-3, which applies to properties in the Mission Dolores Archeological District, requires that a specific archeological testing program be conducted by a qualified archeological consultant with expertise in California prehistoric and urban historical archeology.

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10 Rehabilitation standard no. 2 is “The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided”; rehabilitation standard no. 3 is “Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or architectural elements from other buildings, shall not be undertaken”; and rehabilitation standard no. 9 is “New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.”
The project site is a property with no previous archaeological study, and thus, would be subject to PEIR Mitigation Measure J-2. Therefore, a Preliminary Archeological Report (PAR) was completed by the San Francisco Planning Department in July of 2015.\(^{11}\) Based on their assessment, the archeologist determined that the proposed project would have no effect on archiological resources at the site. Therefore, the project has complied with Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure J-2 and no further archiological analysis or review is required.

For these reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts on archeological resources that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

\(^{11}\) Dean, Randall. San Francisco Planning Department, Archaeological Review Log.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topics:</th>
<th>Significant Impact Peculiar to Project or Project Site</th>
<th>Significant Impact not Identified in PEIR</th>
<th>Significant Impact due to Substantial New Information</th>
<th>No Significant Impact not Previously Identified in PEIR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION—Would the project:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels, obstructions to flight, or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) Result in inadequate emergency access?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
need to be conducted for future development projects under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans.

Accordingly, the planning department conducted project-level analysis of the pedestrian, bicycle, loading, and construction traffic impacts of the proposed project. Based on this project-level review, the department determined that the proposed project would not have significant impacts that are peculiar to the project or the project site.

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR anticipated that growth resulting from the zoning changes could result in significant impacts on transit ridership, and identified seven transportation mitigation measures, which are described further below in the Transit sub-section. Even with mitigation, however, it was anticipated that the significant adverse cumulative impacts on transit lines could not be reduced to a less than significant level. Thus, these impacts were found to be significant and unavoidable.

As discussed above under “SB 743,” in response to state legislation that called for removing automobile delay from CEQA analysis, the Planning Commission adopted resolution 19579 replacing automobile delay with a VMT metric for analyzing transportation impacts of a project. Therefore, impacts and mitigation measures from the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR associated with automobile delay are not discussed in this checklist.

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR did not evaluate VMT or the potential for induced automobile travel. The VMT analysis presented below evaluates the project’s transportation effects using the VMT metric.

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan area, or in the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, the Initial Study topic 4c is not applicable.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis

Many factors affect travel behavior. These factors include density, diversity of land uses, design of the transportation network, access to regional destinations, distance to high-quality transit, development scale, demographics, and transportation demand management. Typically, low-density development at great distance from other land uses, located in areas with poor access to non-private vehicular modes of travel, generate more automobile travel compared to development located in urban areas, where a higher density, mix of land uses, and travel options other than private vehicles are available.

Given these travel behavior factors, San Francisco has a lower VMT ratio than the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area region. In addition, some areas of the City have lower VMT ratios than other areas of the City. These areas of the City can be expressed geographically through transportation analysis zones. Transportation analysis zones are used in transportation planning models for transportation analysis and other planning purposes. The zones vary in size from single city blocks in the downtown core, multiple blocks in outer neighborhoods, to even larger zones in historically industrial areas like the Hunters Point Shipyard.

The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Transportation Authority) uses the San Francisco Chained Activity Model Process (SF-CHAMP) to estimate VMT by private automobiles and taxis for different land use types. Travel behavior in SF-CHAMP is calibrated based on observed behavior from the California Household Travel Survey 2010-2012, Census data regarding automobile ownership rates.

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12 Planning Department, Transportation Study Determination Request and Response, Case No. 2013.1339E, 645 Valencia Street, May 24, 2016.
and county-to-county worker flows, and observed vehicle counts and transit boardings. SF-CHAMP uses a synthetic population, which is a set of individual actors that represents the Bay Area’s actual population, who make simulated travel decisions for a complete day. The Transportation Authority uses tour-based analysis for residential uses, which examines the entire chain of trips over the course of a day, not just trips to and from the project. For retail uses, the Transportation Authority uses trip-based analysis, which counts VMT from individual trips to and from the project (as opposed to entire chain of trips). A trip-based approach, as opposed to a tour-based approach, is necessary for retail projects because a tour is likely to consist of trips stopping in multiple locations, and the summarizing of tour VMT to each location would over-estimate VMT.  

For residential development, the existing regional average daily VMT per capita is 17.2.  

For retail development, regional average daily retail VMT per employee is 14.9. Average daily VMT for both land uses is projected to decrease in future 2040 cumulative conditions. Refer to Table 1: Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled, which includes transportation analysis zone (TAZ) 205, in which the project site is located.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Existing Bay Area Regional Average</th>
<th>Existing Bay Area Regional Average minus 15%</th>
<th>Cumulative 2040 Bay Area Regional Average</th>
<th>Cumulative 2040 Bay Area Regional Average minus 15%</th>
<th>TAZ 205</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Households (Residential)</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment (Retail)</td>
<td>14.9</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>12.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A project would have a significant effect on the environment if it would cause substantial additional VMT. The State Office of Planning and Research’s (OPR) Revised Proposal on Updates to the CEQA Guidelines on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA ("proposed transportation impact guidelines") recommends screening criteria to identify types, characteristics, or locations of projects that would not result in significant impacts to VMT. If a project meets one of the three screening criteria provided (Map-Based Screening, Small Projects, and Proximity to Transit Stations), it is presumed that VMT impacts would be less than significant for the project and a detailed VMT analysis is not required. Map-Based Screening is used to determine if a project site is located within a transportation analysis zone that exhibits low levels of VMT; Small Projects are projects that would generate fewer than 100 vehicle trips.

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13 To state another way: a tour-based assessment of VMT at a retail site would consider the VMT for all trips in the tour, for any tour with a stop at the retail site. If a single tour stops at two retail locations, for example, a coffee shop on the way to work and a restaurant on the way back home, then both retail locations would be allotted the total tour VMT. A trip-based approach allows us to apportion all retail-related VMT to retail sites without double-counting.


15 Includes the VMT generated by the households in the development and averaged across the household population to determine VMT per capita.

16 Retail travel is not explicitly captured in SF-CHAMP, rather, there is a generic “Other” purpose which includes retail shopping, medical appointments, visiting friends or family, and all other non-work, non-school tours. The retail efficiency metric captures all of the “Other” purpose travel generated by Bay Area households. The denominator of employment (including retail; cultural, institutional, and educational; and medical employment; school enrollment, and number of households) represents the size, or attraction, of the zone for this type of “Other” purpose travel.
per day; and the Proximity to Transit Stations criterion includes projects that are within 0.5 mile of an existing major transit stop, have a floor area ratio of greater than or equal to 0.75, have vehicle parking that is less than or equal to that required or allowed by the Planning Code without conditional use authorization, and are consistent with the applicable Sustainable Communities Strategy.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis - Residential**

As mentioned previously, existing average daily household VMT per capita is 5.1 for TAZ 205. This is 70 percent below the existing regional average daily VMT per capita of 17.2. Given that the project site is located in an area where existing VMT is more than 15 percent below the existing regional average, the proposed project’s residential uses would not result in substantial additional VMT and impacts would be less than significant. Furthermore, the project site meets the Proximity to Transit Stations screening criterion, which also indicates that the proposed project’s residential uses would not cause substantial additional VMT.

San Francisco 2040 cumulative conditions were projected using a SF-CHAMP model run, using the same methodology as outlined for existing conditions, but includes residential and job growth estimates and reasonably foreseeable transportation investments through 2040. Projected 2040 average daily household VMT per capita is 4.5 for TAZ 205, the transportation analysis zone in which the project site is located. This is 72 percent below the projected 2040 regional average daily VMT per capita of 16.1. Given that the project site is located in an area where VMT is greater than 15 percent below the projected 2040 regional average, the proposed project’s residential uses would not result in substantial additional VMT. Therefore, the proposed project’s residential uses would not contribute considerably to any substantial cumulative increase in VMT.

**Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis - Retail**

As mentioned previously, existing average daily VMT per employee is 8.7 for TAZ 205. This is 42 percent below the existing regional average daily VMT per employee of 14.9. Given that the project site is located in an area where existing VMT is more than 15 percent below the existing regional average, the proposed project’s retail/commercial uses would not result in substantial additional VMT and impacts would be less than significant. Furthermore, the project site meets the Proximity to Transit Stations screening criterion, which also indicates that the proposed project’s retail/commercial uses would not cause substantial additional VMT.

Projected 2040 average daily VMT per employee is 9.3 for the TAZ 205. This is 36 percent below the projected 2040 regional average daily VMT per capita of 14.6. Given that the project site is located in an area where VMT is greater than 15 percent below the projected 2040 regional average, the proposed project’s retail/commercial uses would not result in substantial additional VMT. Therefore, the proposed project’s retail/commercial uses would not contribute considerably to any substantial cumulative increase in VMT.

Based on the above, as the proposed project would meet one or more of the previously listed screening criteria, it would not cause substantial additional VMT and impacts would be less than significant.

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17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.
Trip Generation

The proposed project would contain seven residential units, four vehicle parking spaces, seven Class I bicycle parking spaces in the ground-floor garage and three Class II bicycle parking spaces on the Valencia Street sidewalk, and approximately 600 gsf of commercial space on the ground floor.

The proposed project would generate a nominal increase in the number of residents in the area, creating a negligible increase in trip generation to and from the site. Similarly, the small amount of commercial space would not create a noticeable increase in commercial trips to and from the site. Therefore, the Planning Department determined that the proposed project would have a negligible increase in trip generation to and from the site, including during the p.m. peak hour, and the generation of localized trip counts were not determined to be necessary.

Transit

Mitigation Measures E-5 through E-11 in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR were adopted as part of the Plan with uncertain feasibility to address significant transit impacts. These measures are not applicable to the proposed project, as they are plan-level mitigations to be implemented by City and County agencies. In compliance with a portion of Mitigation Measure E-5: Enhanced Transit Funding, the City adopted impact fees for development in Eastern Neighborhoods that goes towards funding transit and complete streets. In addition, San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved amendments to the San Francisco Planning Code, referred to as the Transportation Sustainability Fee (Ordinance 200-154, effective December 25, 2015). The fee updated, expanded, and replaced the prior Transit Impact Development Fee, which is in compliance with portions of Mitigation Measure E-5: Enhanced Transit Funding. However, per San Francisco Planning Code Section 411A, projects containing fewer than 20 residential units are not subject to this fee. The proposed project would develop seven units, and would not be subject to the Transportation Sustainability Fee. The City is also currently conducting outreach regarding Mitigation Measures E-5: Enhanced Transit Funding and Mitigation Measure E-11: Transportation Demand Management. Both the Transportation Sustainability Fee and the transportation demand management efforts are part of the Transportation Sustainability Program. In compliance with all or portions of Mitigation Measure E-6: Transit Corridor Improvements, Mitigation Measure E-7: Transit Accessibility, Mitigation Measure E-9: Rider Improvements, and Mitigation Measure E-10: Transit Enhancement, the SFMTA is implementing the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP), which was approved by the SFMTA Board of Directors in March 2014. The TEP (now called Muni Forward) includes system-wide review, evaluation, and recommendations to improve service and increase transportation efficiency. Examples of transit priority and pedestrian safety improvements within the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area as part of Muni Forward include the 14 Mission Rapid Transit Project, the 22 Fillmore Extension along 16th Street to Mission Bay (expected construction between 2017 and 2020), and the Travel Time Reduction Project on Route 9 San Bruno (initiation in 2015). In addition, Muni Forward includes service improvements to various routes with the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area; for instance the implemented new Route 55 on 16th Street.

Mitigation Measure E-7 also identifies implementing recommendations of the Bicycle Plan and Better Streets Plan. As part of the San Francisco Bicycle Plan, adopted in 2009, a series of minor, near-term, and

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19 Two additional files were created at the Board of Supervisors for TSF regarding hospitals and health services, grandfathering, and additional fees for larger projects: see Board file nos. 151121 and 151257.
20 http://tsp.sfplanning.org
long-term bicycle facility improvements are planned within the Eastern Neighborhoods, including along 2nd Street, 5th Street, 17th Street, Townsend Street, Illinois Street, and Cesar Chavez Boulevard. The San Francisco Better Streets Plan, adopted in 2010, describes a vision for the future of San Francisco’s pedestrian realm and calls for streets that work for all users. The Better Streets Plan requirements were codified in Section 138.1 of the Planning Code and new projects constructed in the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area are subject to varying requirements, dependent on project size. Another effort which addresses transit accessibility, Vision Zero, was adopted by various City agencies in 2014. Vision Zero focuses on building better and safer streets through education, evaluation, enforcement, and engineering. The goal is to eliminate all traffic fatalities by 2024. Vision Zero projects within the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area include pedestrian intersection treatments along Mission Street from 18th to 23rd streets, the Potrero Avenue Streetscape Project from Division to Cesar Chavez streets, and the Howard Street Pilot Project, which includes pedestrian intersection treatments from 4th to 6th streets.

The project site is within a quarter mile of several local transit lines, including Muni bus lines 33-Ashbury/18th, 22-Filmore, 14-Mission and 14R Mission Rapid, 49 Van Ness/Mission, and 55-16th Street. As discussed previously under Trip Generation, it was determined that the proposed project would have a negligible increase in transit trips, and generation of localized trip counts is not necessary. However, given the wide availability of nearby transit, any minor addition of transit trips would be accommodated by existing capacity. As such, the proposed project would not result in unacceptable levels of transit service or cause a substantial increase in delays or operating costs such that significant adverse impacts in transit service could result.

Each of the rezoning options in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR identified significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts relating to increases in transit ridership on Muni lines, with the Preferred Project having significant impacts on seven lines. Of those lines, the project site is located within a quarter-mile of Muni lines 14-Mission and 14R-Mission Rapid. The proposed project would not contribute considerably to these conditions as its negligible contribution of transit trips would not be a substantial proportion of the overall additional transit volume generated by Eastern Neighborhood projects. The proposed project would also not contribute considerably to 2025 cumulative transit conditions and thus would not result in any significant cumulative transit impacts. Additionally, the relatively small addition of new transit riders generated by the proposed project would not cause Muni lines 14-Mission and 14R-Mission to exceed the capacity utilization standard.

Other Transportation Impacts

Valencia Street has a Class II bicycle lane (designated and independent lane) on both sides of the street. Operation of the proposed project would not remove or inhibit use of this lane; however, proposed project construction could result in minor and temporary impacts on this bicycle facility in the immediate area of the project frontage along Valencia Street if temporary closure of the lane was necessary. However, those impacts would be intermittent and short term, and would not result in operational or construction significant impacts.

The proposed project would create a new curb cut on Sycamore Street for access to the proposed ground-floor garage, with four parking spaces. This would generate temporary construction impacts on the pedestrian sidewalk along Sycamore Street, but would not result in any long term or significant impacts.

Proposed project construction and operation would not alter emergency access and service time ratios; project construction is not anticipated to require any lane closures, and would thus not result in any traffic-related impacts.
Conclusion

For the above reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR related to transportation and circulation and would not contribute considerably to cumulative transportation and circulation impacts that were identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5. NOISE—Would the project:</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) Result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Result in a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) For a project located within an airport land use plan area, or, where such a plan has not been adopted, in an area within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f) For a project located in the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
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<tr>
<td>g) Be substantially affected by existing noise levels?</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
<td>☐ ☐ ☐ ☒</td>
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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that implementation of the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plans and Rezoning would result in significant noise impacts during construction activities and due to conflicts between noise-sensitive uses in proximity to noisy uses such as PDR, retail, entertainment, cultural/institutional/educational uses, and office uses. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR also determined that incremental increases in traffic-related noise attributable to implementation of the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plans and Rezoning would be less than significant. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR identified six noise mitigation measures that would reduce noise impacts from construction and noisy land uses to less-than-significant levels.

Construction Noise

Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measures F-1 and F-2 relate to construction noise. Mitigation Measure F-1: Construction Noise (Pile Driving) addresses individual projects that include pile-driving, and Mitigation Measure F-2: Construction Noise addresses individual projects that include particularly
noisy construction procedures (including pile-driving). The proposed project would include an addition/alteration to the existing building at 645-647 Valencia Street. Foundation work, including the construction of a new mat slab foundation on “waffle or raft” footings, would be necessary to support seismic and structural upgrades and building additions. Existing foundations would be removed and replaced with a new 2-foot-thick mat slab foundation. The foundation would use poured-in-place piles, requiring pre-drilled holes, but would not require pile driving. Therefore, the proposed project would not be subject to PEIR Mitigation Measure F-1. However, the proposed project could involve the use of other construction equipment, such as bulldozers and other standard pieces of equipment that could generate significant construction noise impacts in close proximity to residential receptors, and thus, the proposed project would be subject to PEIR Mitigation Measure F-2: Construction Noise. Mitigation Measure F-2, which would be implemented as Project Mitigation Measure 1, would require that the project sponsor develop a set of site-specific noise attenuation measures to reduce noise impacts during the use of construction equipment. With implementation of this mitigation measure, which is provided in full on page 47, no significant impacts from construction noise would result.

In addition, all construction activities for the proposed project (occurring over approximately 16 months) would be subject to and would comply with the San Francisco Noise Ordinance (Article 29 of the San Francisco Police Code) (Noise Ordinance). Construction noise is regulated by the Noise Ordinance. The Noise Ordinance requires that construction work be conducted in the following manner: (1) noise levels of construction equipment, other than impact tools, must not exceed 80 dBA at a distance of 100 feet from the source (the equipment generating the noise); (2) impact tools must have intake and exhaust mufflers that are approved by the Director of Public Works (PW) or the Director of the Department of Building Inspection (DBI) to best accomplish maximum noise reduction; and (3) if the noise from the construction work would exceed the ambient noise levels at the site property line by 5 dBA, the work must not be conducted between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. unless the Director of PW authorizes a special permit for conducting the work during that period.

DBI is responsible for enforcing the Noise Ordinance for private construction projects during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.). The Police Department is responsible for enforcing the Noise Ordinance during all other hours. Nonetheless, during the construction period for the proposed project of approximately 16 months, occupants of the nearby properties could be disturbed by construction noise. Times may occur when noise could interfere with indoor activities in nearby residences and other businesses near the project site. The increase in noise in the project area during project construction would not be considered a significant impact of the proposed project, because the construction noise would be temporary, intermittent, and restricted in occurrence and level, as the contractor would be required to comply with the Noise Ordinance and Project Mitigation Measure 1, which would reduce construction noise impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Operational Noise

Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure F-5 addresses impacts related to individual projects that include new noise-generating uses that would be expected to generate noise levels in excess of ambient noise in the proposed project site vicinity. A noise study completed at the project site determined

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21 “Waffle or raft” slabs consist of a perimeter footing (edge beam) and a series of narrow internal footings with spaces between them (strip footings), constructed on top of the ground that resemble a waffle pattern.

that existing noise levels consistently average over 67.5 dBA at the project site. The proposed project
would include commercial and residential uses, which would produce small amounts of operational
noises; however, those uses would not generate noise levels substantially above the ambient levels
observed in the project vicinity. Therefore, the proposed project would not be subject to Mitigation
Measure F-5. Furthermore, the proposed project’s mechanical equipment would be subject to noise limits
in Section 2909(b) and 2909(d) of the Noise Ordinance.

The proposed project would also be subject to the California Building Standards Code (Title 24), which is
described herein for informational purposes. Title 24 establishes uniform noise insulation standards. The
Title 24 acoustical requirement for residential structures is incorporated into Section 1207 of the San
Francisco Building Code, and requires these structures be designed to prevent the intrusion of exterior
noise so that the noise level with windows closed, attributable to exterior sources, shall not exceed 45
dBA in any habitable room. Title 24 allows the project sponsor to choose between a prescriptive or
performance-based acoustical requirement for non-residential uses. Both compliance methods require
wall, floor/ceiling, and window assemblies to meet certain sound transmission class or outdoor-indoor
sound transmission class ratings to ensure that adequate interior noise standards are achieved. In
compliance with Title 24, DBI would review the final building plans to ensure that the building wall,
floor/ceiling, and window assemblies meet Title 24 acoustical requirements. If determined necessary by
DBI, a detailed acoustical analysis of the exterior wall and window assemblies may be required.

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan area, within two miles of a public airport, or
in the vicinity of a private airstrip. Therefore, topic 12e and f from the CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G is
not applicable.

For the above reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant noise impacts that were not
identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. AIR QUALITY—Would the project:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal, state, or regional ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?</td>
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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR identified potentially significant air quality impacts resulting from construction activities and impacts to sensitive land uses24 as a result of exposure to elevated levels of diesel particulate matter (DPM) and other toxic air contaminants (TACs). The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR identified four mitigation measures that would reduce these air quality impacts to less-than-significant levels and stated that with implementation of identified mitigation measures, the Area Plan would be consistent with the Bay Area 2005 Ozone Strategy, the applicable air quality plan at that time. All other air quality impacts were found to be less than significant.

Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure G-1 addresses air quality impacts during construction, and PEIR Mitigation Measures G-3 and G-4 address proposed uses that would emit DPM and other TACs.

**Construction Dust Control**

Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure G-1 Construction Air Quality requires individual projects involving construction activities to include dust control measures and to maintain and operate construction equipment so as to minimize exhaust emissions of particulates and other pollutants. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors subsequently approved a series of amendments to the San Francisco Building and Health Codes, generally referred to as the Construction Dust Control Ordinance (Ordinance 176-08, effective July 30, 2008). The intent of the Construction Dust Control Ordinance is to reduce the quantity of fugitive dust generated during site preparation, demolition, and construction work in order to protect the health of the general public and of on-site workers, minimize public nuisance complaints, and to avoid orders to stop work by DBI. Project-related construction activities would result in construction dust, primarily from ground-disturbing activities. In compliance with the Construction Dust Control Ordinance, the project sponsor and contractor responsible for construction activities at the project site would be required to control construction dust on the site through a combination of watering disturbed areas, covering stockpiled materials, street and sidewalk sweeping and other measures.

The regulations and procedures set forth by the San Francisco Dust Control Ordinance would ensure that construction dust impacts would not be significant. These requirements supersede the dust control provisions of PEIR Mitigation Measure G-1. Therefore, the portion of PEIR Mitigation Measure G-1 Construction Air Quality that addresses dust control is no longer applicable to the proposed project.

**Criteria Air Pollutants**

While the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that at a program-level the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans would not result in significant regional air quality impacts, the PEIR states that “Individual development projects undertaken in the future pursuant to the new zoning and area plans

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24 The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) considers sensitive receptors as: children, adults or seniors occupying or residing in: 1) residential dwellings, including apartments, houses, condominiums, 2) schools, colleges, and universities, 3) daycares, 4) hospitals, and 5) senior care facilities. BAAQMD, Recommended Methods for Screening and Modeling Local Risks and Hazards, May 2011, page 12.
would be subject to a significance determination based on the BAAQMD’s quantitative thresholds for individual projects.”

The BAAQMD’s CEQA Air Quality Guidelines (Air Quality Guidelines) provide screening criteria for determining whether a project’s criteria air pollutant emissions would violate an air quality standard, contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation, or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in criteria air pollutants. Pursuant to the Air Quality Guidelines, projects that meet the screening criteria do not have a significant impact related to criteria air pollutants. Criteria air pollutant emissions during construction and operation of the proposed project would meet the Air Quality Guidelines screening criteria. With seven proposed dwelling units and approximately 600 gsf of commercial space, the proposed project would meet the Air Quality Guidelines screening criteria for both construction and operation (451 dwelling units for operational and 240 dwelling units for construction under the category of “apartment, low-rise,” and 8,000 sf for operational and 277,000 sf for construction under the category of “fast food restaurant without a drive-thru,” which is one of the most restrictive uses for a small commercial space, such as the one being proposed). In addition, approximately 300 cubic yards of soil would be excavated and exported off site, which is below the BAAQMD’s screening criterion that states that construction-related activities should not include extensive material transport (e.g., greater than 10,000 cubic yards of soil import/export) requiring a considerable amount of haul truck activity. Therefore, the project would not have a significant impact related to criteria air pollutants, and a detailed air quality assessment is not required.

Health Risk

Since certification of the PEIR, San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a series of amendments to the San Francisco Building and Health Codes, generally referred to as the Enhanced Ventilation Required for Urban Infill Sensitive Use Developments or Health Code, Article 38 (Ordinance 224-14, amended December 8, 2014)(Article 38). The purpose of Article 38 is to protect the public health and welfare by establishing an Air Pollutant Exposure Zone and imposing an enhanced ventilation requirement for all urban infill sensitive use development within the Air Pollutant Exposure Zone. The Air Pollutant Exposure Zone as defined in Article 38 are areas that, based on modeling of all known air pollutant sources, exceed health protective standards for cumulative PM2.5 concentration, cumulative excess cancer risk, and incorporates health vulnerability factors and proximity to freeways. Projects within the Air Pollutant Exposure Zone require special consideration to determine whether the project’s activities would expose sensitive receptors to substantial air pollutant concentrations or add emissions to areas already adversely affected by poor air quality. The project site is not located within an identified Air Pollutant Exposure Zone. Therefore, the ambient health risk to sensitive receptors from air pollutants is not considered substantial and the remainder of Mitigation Measure G-1 that requires the minimization of construction exhaust emissions is not applicable to the proposed project. The proposed project would not be expected to generate 100 trucks per day or 40 refrigerated trucks per day. Therefore, Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure G-3 is not applicable. In addition, the proposed project would not include any sources that would emit DPM or other TACs. Therefore, Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR Mitigation Measure G-4 is not applicable and impacts related to siting new sources of pollutants would also be less than significant.


26 Bay Area Air Quality Management District, CEQA Air Quality Guidelines, updated May 2011. See pp. 3-2 to 3-3.
Conclusion

For the previously described reasons, none of the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR air quality mitigation measures are applicable to the proposed project and the project would not result in significant air quality impacts that were not identified in the PEIR.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—Would the project:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?</td>
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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR assessed the GHG emissions that could result from rezoning of the Mission Area Plan under the three rezoning options. The Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning Options A, B, and C are anticipated to result in GHG emissions on the order of 4.2, 4.3 and 4.5 metric tons of CO2E27 per service population,28 respectively. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR concluded that the resulting GHG emissions from the three options analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plans would be less than significant. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR.

The BAAQMD has prepared guidelines and methodologies for analyzing GHGs. These guidelines are consistent with CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064.4 and 15183.5 which address the analysis and determination of significant impacts from a proposed project’s GHG emissions and allow for projects that are consistent with an adopted GHG reduction strategy to conclude that the project’s GHG impact is less than significant. San Francisco’s Strategies to Address Greenhouse Gas Emissions29 presents a comprehensive assessment of policies, programs, and ordinances that collectively represent San Francisco’s GHG reduction strategy in compliance with the BAAQMD and CEQA guidelines. These GHG reduction actions have resulted in a 23.3 percent reduction in GHG emissions in 2012 compared to 1990 levels,30 exceeding the year 2020 reduction goals outlined in the BAAQMD’s 2010 Clean Air Plan,31 Executive

27 CO2E, defined as equivalent Carbon Dioxide, is a quantity that describes other greenhouse gases in terms of the amount of Carbon Dioxide that would have an equal global warming potential.

28 Memorandum from Jessica Range to Environmental Planning staff, Greenhouse Gas Analyses for Community Plan Exemptions in Eastern Neighborhoods, April 20, 2010. This memorandum provides an overview of the GHG analysis conducted for the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR and provides an analysis of the emissions using a service population (equivalent to total number of residents and employees) metric.


Order S-3-05⁵², and Assembly Bill 32 (also known as the Global Warming Solutions Act).⁵³,⁵⁴ In addition, San Francisco’s GHG reduction goals are consistent with, or more aggressive than, the long-term goals established under Executive Orders S-3-05⁵⁵ and B-30-15.⁵⁶,⁵⁷ Therefore, projects that are consistent with San Francisco’s GHG Reduction Strategy would not result in GHG emissions that would have a significant effect on the environment and would not conflict with state, regional, and local GHG reduction plans and regulations.

The proposed project would increase the intensity of use of the site through the addition of seven residential units on three floors, and the repurposing of existing building space to approximately 600 gsf of commercial uses. The addition of residential uses would result in minor increased GHG emissions through added residential transit trips and private vehicle trips to the building that were not previously taken under the existing uses. An increase in standard operational uses—such as energy consumption and increased waste and wastewater discharge necessitating treatment—could also indirectly lead to an incremental increase in GHG emissions. Commercial uses could increase GHG emissions if uses were to attract additional new vehicle and transit trips to the building. However, these new uses and potential new emissions would not exceed any applicable GHG guidelines or reduction goals. Therefore, the proposed project would contribute to annual long-term increases in GHGs as a result of increased vehicle trips (mobile sources) and residential and commercial operations that result in an increase in energy use, water use, wastewater treatment, and solid waste disposal. Construction activities would also result in temporary increases in GHG emissions.

The proposed project would be subject to regulations adopted to reduce GHG emissions as identified in the GHG reduction strategy. As discussed below, compliance with the applicable regulations would reduce the project’s GHG emissions related to transportation, energy use, and waste disposal.

Compliance with the City’s transportation management programs, Transportation Sustainability Fee, and bicycle parking requirements would reduce the proposed project’s transportation-related emissions. These regulations reduce GHG emissions from single-occupancy vehicles by promoting the use of alternative transportation modes with zero or lower GHG emissions on a per capita basis.

The proposed project would be required to comply with the applicable energy efficiency requirements of the City’s Green Building Code, Stormwater Management Ordinance, Water Conservation Ordinance,

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⁵⁴ Executive Order S-3-05, Assembly Bill 32, and the Bay Area 2010 Clean Air Plan set a target of reducing GHG emissions to below 1990 levels by year 2020.

⁵⁵ Executive Order S-3-05 sets forth a series of target dates by which statewide emissions of GHGs need to be progressively reduced, as follows: by 2010, reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels (approximately 457 million MTCO₂E); by 2020, reduce emissions to 1990 levels (approximately 427 million MTCO₂E); and by 2050 reduce emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels (approximately 85 million MTCO₂E).


⁵⁷ San Francisco’s GHG reduction goals are codified in Section 902 of the Environment Code and include: (i) by 2008, determine City GHG emissions for year 1990; (ii) by 2017, reduce GHG emissions by 25 percent below 1990 levels; (iii) by 2025, reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent below 1990 levels; and by 2050, reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels.
and Energy Conservation Ordinance, which would promote energy and water efficiency, thereby reducing the proposed project’s energy-related GHG emissions.\textsuperscript{38}

The proposed project’s waste-related emissions would be reduced through compliance with the City’s Recycling and Composting Ordinance, Construction and Demolition Debris Recovery Ordinance, and Green Building Code requirements. These regulations reduce the amount of materials sent to a landfill, reducing GHGs emitted by landfill operations. These regulations also promote reuse of materials, conserving their embodied energy\textsuperscript{39} and reducing the energy required to produce new materials.

Compliance with the City’s Street Tree Planting requirements would serve to increase carbon sequestration. Regulations requiring low-emitting finishes would reduce volatile organic compounds (VOCs).\textsuperscript{40} Thus, the proposed project was determined to be consistent with San Francisco’s GHG reduction strategy.\textsuperscript{41}

Therefore, the proposed project’s GHG emissions would not conflict with state, regional, and local GHG reduction plans and regulations. Furthermore, the proposed project is within the scope of the development evaluated in the PEIR and would not result in impacts associated with GHG emissions beyond those disclosed in the PEIR. For the above reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant GHG emissions that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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Topics: & Significant Impact Peculiar to Project or Project Site & Significant Impact not Identified in PEIR & Significant Impact due to Substantial New Information & No Significant Impact not Previously Identified in PEIR \\
\hline
8. WIND AND SHADOW—Would the project: & & & & \\
\hline
a) Alter wind in a manner that substantially affects public areas? & ☐ & ☐ & ☐ & ☒ \\
\hline
b) Create new shadow in a manner that substantially affects outdoor recreation facilities or other public areas? & ☐ & ☐ & ☐ & ☒ \\
\hline
\end{tabular}

Wind

No significant impacts related to wind were anticipated to result from the implementation of the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plans. Specific projects within the Mission Plan Area require analysis of wind impacts where deemed necessary. Thus, wind impacts were determined not to be significant in the Eastern Neighborhoods Initial Study and were not analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR. No mitigation measures relative to wind impacts were identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

\textsuperscript{38} Compliance with water conservation measures reduce the energy (and GHG emissions) required to convey, pump and treat water required for the project.

\textsuperscript{39} Embodied energy is the total energy required for the extraction, processing, manufacture and delivery of building materials to the building site.

\textsuperscript{40} While not a GHG, VOCs are precursor pollutants that form ground level ozone. Increased ground level ozone is an anticipated effect of future global warming that would result in added health effects locally. Reducing VOC emissions would reduce the anticipated local effects of global warming.

\textsuperscript{41} San Francisco Planning Department, Greenhouse Gas Analysis: Compliance Checklist for 645-647 Valencia Street, June 3, 2016.
Based upon experience of the Planning Department in reviewing wind analyses and expert opinion on other projects, it is generally (but not always) the case that projects under 80 feet in height do not have the potential to generate significant wind impacts. Therefore, the proposed 55-foot-tall building (approximately 60 feet to the top of the elevator overrun) would not cause or contribute to a ground-level exceedance of the wind hazard criterion of the Planning Code in the project vicinity. Although the resulting building would be taller than the immediately adjacent buildings, it would be similar in height to existing buildings in the surrounding area, such as the five-story commercial/residential building approximately 150 feet north of the project site at the corner of Valencia and 17th Streets and the four-story residential building southwest of the project site across Valencia Street. For the previously described reasons, the proposed project is not anticipated to cause significant impacts related to wind that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

**Shadow**

Planning Code Section 295 generally prohibits new structures above 40 feet in height that would cast additional shadows on open space that is under the jurisdiction of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission between one hour after sunrise and one hour before sunset, at any time of the year, unless that shadow would not result in a significant adverse effect on the use of the open space. Under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, sites surrounding parks could be redeveloped with taller buildings without triggering Section 295 of the Planning Code because certain parks are not subject to Section 295 of the Planning Code (i.e., under jurisdiction of departments other than the Recreation and Parks Department or privately owned). The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR could not conclude if the rezoning and community plans would result in less-than-significant shadow impacts because the feasibility of complete mitigation for potential new shadow impacts of unknown proposals could not be determined at that time. Therefore, the PEIR determined shadow impacts to be significant and unavoidable. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR.

The proposed project would construct a 55-foot-tall building (approximately 60 feet to the top of the elevator overrun); therefore, the Planning Department prepared a preliminary shadow fan analysis to determine whether the project would have the potential to cast new shadow on nearby parks. The preliminary shadow fan showed that the proposed building would not cast new shadow on any parks in the area, and therefore, would not generate any shadow impacts.

The proposed project would shade portions of nearby streets and sidewalks and private property at times within the project vicinity. Shadows upon streets and sidewalks would not exceed levels commonly expected in urban areas and would be considered a less-than-significant effect under CEQA. Although occupants of nearby properties may regard the increase in shadow as undesirable, the limited increase in shading of private properties as a result of the proposed project would not be considered a significant impact under CEQA.

For the above reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to shadow that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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42 San Francisco Planning Department 645 Valencia Preliminary Shadow Fan, September 28, 2016.
The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR concluded that implementation of the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans would not result in substantial or accelerated deterioration of existing recreational resources or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that may have an adverse effect on the environment. No mitigation measures related to recreational resources were identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR. However, the PEIR identified Improvement Measure H-1: Support for Upgrades to Existing Recreation Facilities. This improvement measure calls for the City to implement funding mechanisms for an ongoing program to repair, upgrade and adequately maintain park and recreation facilities to ensure the safety of users.

As part of the Eastern Neighborhoods adoption, the City adopted impact fees for development in Eastern Neighborhoods that goes towards funding recreation and open space. Since certification of the PEIR, the voters of San Francisco passed the 2012 San Francisco Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond providing the Recreation and Parks Department an additional $195 million to continue capital projects for the renovation and repair of parks, recreation, and open space assets. This funding is being utilized for improvements and expansion to Garfield Square, South Park, Potrero Hill Recreation Center, Warm Water Cove Park, and Pier 70 Parks Shoreline within the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area. The impact fees and the 2012 San Francisco Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond are funding measures similar to that described in PEIR Improvement Measure H-1: Support for Upgrades to Existing Recreation Facilities.

An update of the Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) of the General Plan was adopted in April 2014. The amended ROSE provides a 20-year vision for open spaces in the City. It includes information and policies about accessing, acquiring, funding, and managing open spaces in San Francisco. The amended ROSE identifies areas within the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area for acquisition and the locations where new open spaces and open space connections should be built, consistent with PEIR Improvement Measure H-2: Support for New Open Space. In addition, the amended ROSE identifies the role of both the Better Streets Plan (refer to “Transportation” section for description) and the Green Connections Network in open space and recreation. Green Connections are special streets and paths that connect people to parks, open spaces, and the waterfront, while enhancing the ecology of the street environment. Six routes identified within the Green Connections Network cross the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area: Mission to Peaks (Route 6); Noe Valley to Central Waterfront (Route 8), a portion of which has been conceptually designed; Tenderloin to Potrero (Route 18); Downtown to Mission Bay (Route 19); Folsom, Mission Creek to McLaren (Route 20); and Shoreline (Route 24).
Furthermore, the Planning Code requires a specified amount of new usable open space (either private or common) for each new residential unit. Some developments are also required to provide privately owned, publicly accessible open spaces. The Planning Code open space requirements would help offset some of the additional open space needs generated by increased residential population to the project area. As discussed under Project Approvals, the project sponsor is seeking an Open Space Variance for the units that do not comply with these requirements.

As the proposed project would not degrade recreational facilities and is consistent with the development density established under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, there would be no additional impacts on recreation beyond those analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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<tr>
<td>10. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the project:</td>
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<tr>
<td>a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?</td>
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<tr>
<td>b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</td>
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<tr>
<td>c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</td>
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<tr>
<td>d) Have sufficient water supply available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or require new or expanded water supply resources or entitlements?</td>
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<tr>
<td>e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?</td>
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<tr>
<td>f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</td>
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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that the anticipated increase in population would not result in a significant impact to the provision of water, wastewater collection and treatment, and solid waste collection and disposal. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR.

Since certification of the PEIR, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) adopted the 2010 Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) in June 2011. The UWMP update includes city-wide demand projections to the year 2035, compares available water supplies to meet demand and presents water demand management measures to reduce long-term water demand. Additionally, the UWMP update
includes a discussion of the conservation requirement set forth in Senate Bill 7 passed in November 2009 mandating a statewide 20% reduction in per capita water use by 2020. The UWMP includes a quantification of the SFPUC’s water use reduction targets and plan for meeting these objectives. The UWMP projects sufficient water supply in normal years and a supply shortfall during prolonged droughts. Plans are in place to institute varying degrees of water conservation and rationing as needed in response to severe droughts.

In addition, the SFPUC is in the process of implementing the Sewer System Improvement Program, which is a 20-year, multi-billion dollar citywide upgrade to the City’s sewer and stormwater infrastructure to ensure a reliable and seismically safe system. The program includes planned improvements that will serve development in the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area including at the Southeast Treatment Plant, the Central Bayside System, and green infrastructure projects, such as the Mission and Valencia Green Gateway.

Furthermore, since the certification of the PEIR, the City approved an agreement with Recology, Inc., for transport and disposal of the City’s municipal solid waste at the Recology Hay Road Landfill in Solano County. The City began disposing its municipal solid waste at the Recology Hay Road Landfill in January 2016, and this practice is anticipated to continue for approximately 9 years, with an option to renew the agreement thereafter for an additional 6 years. The proposed project would contribute solid waste to the Hay Road Landfill but sufficient capacity exists and the project would comply with all ordinances related to solid waste disposal, and thus, would not generate potential impacts.

As the proposed project is consistent with the development density established under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, there would be no additional impacts on utilities and service systems beyond those analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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11. PUBLIC SERVICES—Would the project:

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, or the need for, new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any public services such as fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other services?

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that the anticipated increase in population would not result in a substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of or need for new or physically altered public services, including fire protection, police protection, and public schools. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR.

As the proposed project is consistent with the development density established under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, the project would not result in new or substantially more
severe impacts on the physical environment associated with the provision of public services beyond those analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

As discussed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR, the Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area is in a developed urban environment that does not provide native natural habitat for any rare or endangered plant or animal species. There are no riparian corridors, estuaries, marshes, or wetlands in the Plan Area that could be affected by the development anticipated under the Area Plan. In addition, development envisioned under the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan would not substantially interfere with the movement of any resident or migratory wildlife species. For these reasons, the PEIR concluded that implementation of the Area Plan would not result in significant impacts on biological resources, and no mitigation measures were identified.

The project site is located within the Mission Plan area of the Eastern Neighborhoods Area Plan and therefore, does not support habitat for any candidate, sensitive or special status species. As such, implementation of the proposed project would not result in significant impacts to biological resources not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.
13. GEOLOGY AND SOILS—Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
   i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.) ☒
   ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? ☒
   iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? ☐
   iv) Landslides? ☒

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? ☒

c) Be located on geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property?

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

f) Change substantially the topography or any unique geologic or physical features of the site?

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR concluded that implementation of the Plan would indirectly increase the population that would be subject to an earthquake, including seismically induced ground-shaking, liquefaction, and landslides. The PEIR also noted that new development is generally safer than comparable older development due to improvements in building codes and construction techniques. Compliance with applicable codes and recommendations made in project-specific geotechnical analyses would not eliminate earthquake risks, but would reduce them to an acceptable level, given the seismically active characteristics of the Bay Area. Thus, the PEIR concluded that implementation of the Plan would not result in significant impacts with regard to geology, and no mitigation measures were identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

A Geotechnical Report was prepared for the proposed project. The Geotechnical Report used a test boring from an adjacent property to evaluate the subsurface conditions at the project site. The

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geotechnical investigation determined that the site is underlain by superficial undivided deposits and fill material. These deposits primarily consist of fine- to medium-grained silty clay, clayey sands, and sandy clays, some of which are compressible. The test boring was advanced to a depth of approximately 15 feet bgs and did not encounter free groundwater at any depth. According to the geotechnical investigation, the proposed project site is also located within an area identified as having liquefaction potential, as determined by the State of California Hazardous Area Map. The Geotechnical Report recommended that the building foundation consist of a waffle or raft footing for a mat slab subfloor, penetrating to a depth of approximately 18 inches bgs to account for potential liquefaction settlement.

The project is required to conform to the San Francisco Building Code, which ensures the safety of all new construction in the City. DBI will review the project-specific geotechnical report during its review of the building permit for the project. In addition, DBI may require additional site specific soils report(s) through the building permit application process, as needed. The DBI requirement for a geotechnical report and review of the building permit application pursuant to DBI’s implementation of the Building Code would ensure that the proposed project would have no significant impacts related to soils, seismic or other geological hazards.

In light of the above, the proposed project would not result in a significant effect related to seismic and geologic hazards. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to geology and soils that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

### 14. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY—Would the project:

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44 Waffle or raft slabs consist of a perimeter footing (edge beam) and a series of narrow internal footings with spaces between them (strip footings), constructed on top of the ground that resemble a waffle pattern.
The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that the anticipated increase in population would not result in a significant impact on hydrology and water quality, including the combined sewer system and the potential for combined sewer outflows. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR.

The project site is currently occupied by a two-story building, which covers the entire site with impervious surfaces. The proposed project would not change this coverage and would not substantially increase runoff from the site. In accordance with the City’s Stormwater Management Ordinance (Ordinance No. 83-10), the proposed project would be subject to Low Impact Design approaches, such as landscape solutions, designed to capture stormwater runoff, and stormwater management systems would be required to comply with the Stormwater Design Guidelines. As a result, the proposed project would not increase stormwater runoff.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in any significant impacts related to hydrology and water quality that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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<td>e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?</td>
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<td>f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?</td>
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<td>g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other authoritative flood hazard delineation map?</td>
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<td>h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?</td>
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<td>i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?</td>
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<td>j) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?</td>
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15. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS—Would the project:

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<td>a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?</td>
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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR noted that implementation of any of the proposed project’s rezoning options would encourage construction of new development within the project area. The PEIR found that there is a high potential to encounter hazardous materials during construction activities in many parts of the project area because of the presence of 1906 earthquake fill, previous and current land uses associated with the use of hazardous materials, and known or suspected hazardous materials cleanup cases. However, the PEIR found that existing regulations for facility closure, Under Storage Tank (UST) closure, and investigation and cleanup of soil and groundwater would ensure implementation of measures to protect workers and the community from exposure to hazardous materials during construction.

**Hazardous Building Materials**

The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that future development in the Plan Area may involve demolition or renovation of existing structures containing hazardous building materials. Some building materials commonly used in older buildings could present a public health risk if disturbed during an accident or during demolition or renovation of an existing building. Hazardous building materials addressed in the PEIR include asbestos, electrical equipment such as transformers and fluorescent light ballasts that contain PCBs or di (2 ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), fluorescent lights containing mercury vapors, and lead-based paints. Asbestos and lead base paint may also present a health risk to existing building occupants if they are in a deteriorated condition. If removed during demolition of a building, these materials would also require special disposal procedures. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR identified a significant impact associated with hazardous building materials including PCBs, DEHP, and
mercury and determined that that Mitigation Measure L-1: Hazardous Building Materials, as outlined below, would reduce effects to a less-than-significant level.

The proposed project would include an addition/alteration of the existing two-story building from a bar to a five-story mixed-use commercial/residential building with 600 gsf of ground floor commercial space, and seven residential units on floors two through five. The existing building was constructed in 1915, and although the façade would be maintained, the proposed project would require demolition of much of the existing interior building structure. Due to the age of the building, the potential exists for hazardous materials to be contained within the building structure. Therefore, although the building would not be demolished, Mitigation Measure L-1 would apply to the proposed project, and would be implemented as Project Mitigation Measure 2. Project Mitigation Measure 2 is provided in full on p. 47.

**Soil and Groundwater Contamination**

Since certification of the PEIR, Article 22A of the Health Code, also known as the Maher Ordinance, was expanded to include properties throughout the City where there is potential to encounter hazardous materials, primarily industrial zoning districts, sites with industrial uses or underground storage tanks, sites with historic bay fill, and sites in close proximity to freeways or underground storage tanks. The over-arching goal of the Maher Ordinance is to protect public health and safety by requiring appropriate handling, treatment, disposal and when necessary, remediation of contaminated soils that are encountered in the building construction process. The Maher Ordinance is administered and overseen by the Department of Public Health, and requires the project sponsor to retain the services of a qualified professional to prepare a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) that meets the requirements of Health Code Section 22.A.6. Projects that disturb 50 cubic yards or more of soil that are located on sites with potentially hazardous soil or groundwater within Eastern Neighborhoods Plan area are subject to this ordinance. The project site is not located within an area mapped by the Maher Ordinance.

The proposed project would require shallow excavation to a depth of approximately 3 feet bgs, with a maximum of 7.6 feet bgs at elevator pits and car pits, resulting in the removal of approximately 300 cubic yards of soil from the site. The proposed project site was therefore screened to determine if it should be added to the area mapped by the Maher Ordinance, as it would disturb more than 50 cubic yards of soil. Thus, a Phase I ESA was completed. The Phase I ESA, found, although no acutely hazardous operations (i.e., industrial, dry cleaner, gas station, etc.) have been conducted recently at the site, past historical site uses included a mortuary. However, the Phase I ESA concluded that there are no recognized environmental concerns at the site. Therefore, the proposed project would not be subject to Article 22A of the Health Code.

Based on the previously discussed information, the proposed project would not result in significant impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials that were not identified in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

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### 16. MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES—Would the project:

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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that the Area Plan would facilitate the construction of both new residential units and commercial buildings. Development of these uses would not result in use of large amounts of fuel, water, or energy in a wasteful manner or in the context of energy use throughout the City and region. The energy demand for individual buildings would be typical for such projects and would meet, or exceed, current state and local codes and standards concerning energy consumption, including Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations enforced by DBI. The Plan Area does not include any natural resources routinely extracted and the rezoning does not result in any natural resource extraction programs. Therefore, the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR concluded that implementation of the Area Plan would not result in a significant impact on mineral and energy resources. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR.

As the proposed project is consistent with the development density established under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, there would be no additional impacts on mineral and energy resources beyond those analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR.

### 17. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES—Would the project:

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The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR determined that no agricultural resources exist in the Area Plan; therefore the rezoning and community plans would have no effect on agricultural resources. No mitigation measures were identified in the PEIR. The Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR did not analyze the effects on forest resources.

As the proposed project is consistent with the development density established under the Eastern Neighborhoods Rezoning and Area Plans, there would be no additional impacts on agricultural resources beyond those analyzed in the Eastern Neighborhoods PEIR. The project site is currently developed and located in an urban area. Therefore, the project would have no effect on forest resources.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

The project sponsor has agreed to implement the following mitigation measures, which would reduce the potentially significant impacts of the project to a less-than-significant level.

**Noise**

*Project Mitigation Measure 1 - Construction Noise (Eastern Neighborhoods Mitigation Measure F-2)*

The project sponsor shall develop a set of site-specific noise attenuation measures under the supervision of a qualified acoustical consultant. Prior to commencing construction, a plan for such measures shall be submitted to the Department of Building Inspection to ensure that maximum feasible noise attenuation will be achieved. These attenuation measures shall include as many of the following control strategies as feasible:

- Erect temporary plywood noise barriers around a construction site, particularly where a site adjoins noise-sensitive uses;
- Utilize noise control blankets on a building structure as the building is erected to reduce noise emission from the site;
- Evaluate the feasibility of noise control at the receivers by temporarily improving the noise reduction capability of adjacent buildings housing sensitive uses;
- Monitor the effectiveness of noise attenuation measures by taking noise measurements; and
- Post signs on-site pertaining to permitted construction days and hours and complaint procedures and who to notify in the event of a problem, with telephone numbers listed.
Hazardous Materials

Project Mitigation Measure 2 - Hazardous Building Materials (Eastern Neighborhoods Mitigation Measure L-1)

The project sponsors shall ensure that any equipment containing PCBs or DEPH, such as fluorescent light ballasts, are removed and properly disposed of according to applicable federal, state, and local laws prior to the start of renovation, and that any fluorescent light tubes, which could contain mercury, are similarly removed and properly disposed of. Any other hazardous materials identified, either before or during work, shall be abated according to applicable federal, state, and local laws.