



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Executive Summary Conditional Use Authorization

HEARING DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2011

Date: October 13, 2011
Case No.: **2011.0563C**
Project Address: **1625 Post Street**
Current Zoning: NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density)
Japantown Special Use District
50-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0700/017
Project Sponsor: AT&T Wireless represented by,
Amy Million, KDI
855 Folsom Street, #106
San Francisco, CA 94107
Staff Contact: Sara Vellve – (415) 558 - 6263
sara.vellve@sfgov.org
Recommendation: **Approval with Conditions**

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

AT&T Wireless proposes to install up to twelve (12) panel antennas and associated mechanical equipment cabinets as part of their wireless transmission network. According to the *Wireless Telecommunications Services (WTS) Siting Guidelines*, the property is a Location Preference 4 (wholly commercial building) as the site is developed with the four-story portion of a wholly commercial building (Hotel Kabuki). The twelve antennas and mechanical equipment would be enclosed in an approximately 10 foot tall new mechanical penthouse located in the middle of the subject building's roof. The overall height of the new penthouse structure would be approximately 55 feet from grade. The penthouse will be constructed of synthetic material that is RF (Radio Frequency) Transparent, which allows transmission to occur even though the antennas are obscured. The maximum dimension for all proposed antennas would be approximately 4 feet tall, 1 foot wide and 7 inches deep.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT USE

The subject site is zoned NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density) and is the Japantown Special Use District. The NC-3 District is characterized in the Planning Code as containing a wide variety of comparison and specialty goods and services to a population greater than the immediate neighborhood in a linear commercial street stretching for many blocks. The purpose of the Japantown Special Use District is to retain the distinctive character and image of the Japanese culture as it has developed in the neighborhood over time.

The approximately 28,000 square foot site at the southwest corner of Post and Laguna Street is developed as the Hotel Kabuki with two distinct building volumes; a 16-story hotel tower, fronting Post Street, and a

four-story hotel mid-rise fronting Laguna Street. The proposed antennas and related equipment would be constructed on the roof of the four-story mid-rise building at the east end of the block along Laguna Street between Post Street and Geary Boulevard. The subject structures were constructed in approximately 1968.

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES AND NEIGHBORHOOD

The site is located on the southeast corner of the Japantown Special Use District, and is bounded by the Japantown Mall to the west, Geary Boulevard to the south, a residential tower to the east, and commercial buildings to the north. Sites to the north and east are located within the Japantown Special Use District, and the site east of Laguna Street is zoned RM-4 (Residential, Mixed, High Density).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as a Class 3 categorical exemption. The categorical exemption and all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Planning Department, as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, San Francisco.

HEARING NOTIFICATION

| TYPE | REQUIRED PERIOD | REQUIRED NOTICE DATE | ACTUAL NOTICE DATE | ACTUAL PERIOD |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Classified News Ad | 20 days | September 29, 2011 | September 29, 2011 | 20 days |
| Posted Notice | 20 days | September 29, 2011 | September 29, 2011 | 20 days |
| Mailed Notice | 20 days | September 29, 2011 | September 29, 2011 | 20 days |

Per Planning Code Section 249.31(b)(3)(i) Section 312 notification was sent to occupants within a 300-foot radius of the subject property.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As of October 13, 2011, the Department has received two phone calls from neighbors who oppose the proposal.

ISSUES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The project will conceal the antennas and related equipment within a new mechanical penthouse constructed of radio frequency transparent material.
- The project is a Location Preference 4, (wholly commercial building) as the site is developed with the four-story portion of a wholly commercial building (Kabuki Hotel) at the location of the antennas.
- Health and safety aspects of all wireless projects are reviewed under the Department of Public Health and the Department of Building Inspection.

- A Five Year Plan with approximate longitudinal and latitudinal coordinates of proposed locations, including the subject site, was submitted.
- All required public notifications were conducted in compliance with the City's code and policies.
- The project will improve voice and data calls either outdoors or most indoor areas at any time of day independent of the number of users on the network.

REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

In order for the project to proceed, the Commission must grant the Conditional Use authorization pursuant to Planning Code Sections 249.31, 712.83 and 303 to allow the installation of wireless facilities.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Department believes this project is necessary and/or desirable under Section 303 of the Planning Code for the following reasons:

- The project complies with the applicable requirements of the Planning Code.
- The project is consistent with the objectives and policies of the General Plan.
- The project is consistent with the 1996 WTS Facilities Siting Guidelines, Planning Commission Resolution No. 14182.
- The project site is a Location Preference 4, a preferred location, according to the Wireless Telecommunications Services (WTS) Siting Guidelines.
- The project will improve coverage for an area where there is currently marginal cell phone and data coverage.

| |
|--|
| RECOMMENDATION: Approval with Conditions |
|--|

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Summary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project sponsor submittal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft Motion | Drawings: <u>Proposed Project</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning District Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check for legibility |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Height & Bulk Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photo Simulations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parcel Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coverage Maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Map | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RF Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photo | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DPH Approval |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Context Photos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Photos | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHPO Review |

Exhibits above marked with an "X" are included in this packet _____ Planner's Initials

SV:



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Subject to: (Select only if applicable)

- Affordable Housing (Sec. 415)
- Jobs Housing Linkage Program (Sec. 413)
- Downtown Park Fee (Sec. 412)
- First Source Hiring (Admin. Code)
- Child Care Requirement (Sec. 414)
- Other

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

Planning Commission Motion No. XXX

HEARING DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2011

Date: October 13, 2011
Case No.: 2011.0563C
Project Address: 1625 Post Street
Current Zoning: NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density)
Japantown Special Use District
50-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0700/017
Project Sponsor: AT&T Wireless represented by,
Amy Million, KDI
855 Folsom Street, #106
San Francisco, CA 94107
Staff Contact: Sara Vellve – (415) 558 - 6263
sara.vellve@sfgov.org
Recommendation: Approval with Conditions

ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATING TO THE APPROVAL OF A CONDITIONAL USE AUTHORIZATION UNDER PLANNING CODE SECTIONS 249.31, 712.83 AND 303 TO INSTALL A WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY CONSISTING OF UP TO TWELVE (12) PANEL ANTENNAS AND RELATED EQUIPMENT CONCEALED IN A NEW MECHANICAL PENTHOUSE ON THE BUILDING'S ROOF OF A FOUR-STORY WHOLLY COMMERCIAL STRUCTURE (HOTEL KABUKI) AS PART OF AT&T'S WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WITHIN THE NC-3 (NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL, MODERATE DENSITY) ZONING DISTRICT, JAPANTOWN SPECIAL USE DISTRICT, AND A 50-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

PREAMBLE

On May 31, 2011, Amy Million, as representative of AT&T Wireless, (hereinafter "Project Sponsor"), made an application (hereinafter "application"), for Conditional Use Authorization on the property at 1625 Post Street, Lot 017 in Assessor's Block 0700, (hereinafter "project site") to install a wireless telecommunications facility consisting of up to twelve (12) panel antennas and related equipment concealed in a new mechanical penthouse on the roof of an existing four-story wholly commercial structure (Hotel Kabuki) as part of AT&T's wireless telecommunications network within the NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density) Zoning District, Japantown Special Use District and a 50-x Height and Bulk District.

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as a Class 3 categorical exemption. The Commission has reviewed and concurs with said determination. The categorical exemption and all pertinent documents may be found in the files of the Planning Department (hereinafter "Department"), as the custodian of records, at 1650 Mission Street, San Francisco.

On October 20, 2011, the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on the application for a Conditional Use authorization.

The Commission has heard and considered the testimony presented to it at the public hearing and has further considered written materials and oral testimony presented on behalf of the applicant, department staff, and other interested parties.

MOVED, that the Commission hereby authorizes the Conditional Use in Application No. 2011.0563C, subject to the conditions contained in "EXHIBIT A" of this motion, based on the following findings:

FINDINGS

Having reviewed the materials identified in the preamble above, and having heard all testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. The above recitals are accurate and constitute findings of this Commission.

Site Description and Present Use. The subject site is zoned NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density) and is the Japantown Special Use District. The NC-3 District is characterized in the Planning Code as containing a wide variety of comparison and specialty goods and services to a population greater than the immediate neighborhood in a linear commercial street stretching for many blocks. The purpose of the Japantown Special Use District is to retain the distinctive character and image of the Japanese culture as it has developed in the neighborhood over time.

The approximately 28,000 square foot site at the southwest corner of Post and Laguna Street is developed as the Hotel Kabuki with two distinct building volumes; a 16-story hotel tower, fronting Post Street, and a four-story hotel mid-rise fronting Laguna Street. The proposed antennas and related equipment would be constructed on the roof of the four-story mid-rise building at the east end of the block along Laguna Street between Post Street and Geary Boulevard. The subject structures were constructed in approximately 1968.

2. **Surrounding Properties and Neighborhood.** The site is located on the southeast corner of the Japantown Special Use District, and is bounded by the Japantown Mall to the west, Geary Boulevard to the south, a residential tower to the east, and commercial buildings to the north. Sites to the north and east are located within the Japantown Special Use District, and the site east of Laguna Street is zoned RM-4 (Residential, Mixed, High Density).

3. **Project Description.** AT&T Wireless proposes to install up to twelve (12) panel antennas and associated mechanical equipment cabinets as part of their wireless transmission network. According to the Wireless Telecommunications Services (WTS) Siting Guidelines, the property is a Location Preference 4 (wholly commercial building) as the site is developed with the four-story portion of a wholly commercial building (Hotel Kabuki). The twelve antennas and mechanical equipment would be enclosed in an approximately 10 foot tall new mechanical penthouse located in the middle of the subject building's roof. The overall height of the new penthouse structure would be approximately 55 feet from grade. The penthouse will be constructed of synthetic material that is RF (Radio Frequency) Transparent, which allows transmission to occur even though the antennas are obscured. The maximum dimension for all proposed antennas would be approximately 4 feet tall, 1 foot wide and 7 inches deep.

4. **Past History and Actions.** The Planning Commission established guidelines for the installation of wireless telecommunications facilities in 1996 ("*Guidelines*"). These *Guidelines* set forth the land use policies and practices that guide the installation and approval of wireless facilities throughout San Francisco. A large portion of the *Guidelines* was dedicated to establishing location preferences for these installations. The Board of Supervisors, in Resolution No. 635-96, provided input as to where wireless facilities should be located within San Francisco. The *Guidelines* were updated by the Commission in 2003, requiring community outreach, notification, and detailed information about the facilities to be installed.¹

Section 8.1 of the *Guidelines* outlines Location Preferences for wireless facilities. There are five primary areas where the installation of wireless facilities should be located:

1. Publicly-used Structures: such facilities as fire stations, utility structures, community facilities, hospitals, health centers and other public structures;
2. Co-Location Site: encourages installation of facilities on buildings that already have wireless installations;
3. Industrial or Commercial Structures: buildings such as warehouses, factories, garages, service stations;
4. Industrial or Commercial Structures: buildings such as supermarkets, retail stores, banks; and
5. Mixed Use Buildings in High Density Districts: buildings such as housing above commercial or other non-residential space.

Before the Planning Commission can review an application to install a wireless facility, the project sponsor must submit a five-year facilities plan, which must be updated biannually, an emissions report and approval by the Department of Public Health, Section 106 Declaration of Intent, a submittal checklist and details about the facilities to be installed.

¹ PC Resolution 16539, passed March 13, 2003.

Under Section 704(B)(iv) of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act, local jurisdictions cannot deny wireless facilities based on Radio Frequency (RF) radiation emissions so long as such facilities comply with the FCC's regulations concerning such emissions.

On October 20, 2011, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on the application for a Conditional Use authorization pursuant to Planning Code Sections 249.31, 712.83 and 303 to install a wireless telecommunications facility consisting of twelve panel antennas and related equipment to be located within a new mechanical penthouse on subject building's roof per the plans contained in Exhibit "B".

5. **Location Preference.** The *WTS Facilities Siting Guidelines* identify different types of buildings for the siting of wireless telecommunications facilities. Under the *Guidelines*, the Project is a Location Preference Number 4, as it is a preferred location for a wholly commercial structure (Hotel Kabuki).
6. **Radio Waves Range.** The Project Sponsor has stated that the proposed wireless network will transmit calls by radio waves operating in the 700 - 2145 Megahertz (MHZ) band, which is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and which must comply with the FCC-adopted health and safety standards for electromagnetic radiation and radio frequency radiation.
7. **Radiofrequency (RF) Emissions:** The project sponsor retained Hammett & Edison, Inc., a radio engineering consulting firm, to prepare a report describing the expected RF emissions from the proposed facility. Pursuant to the *Guidelines*, the Department of Public Health reviewed the report and determined that the proposed facility complies with the standards set forth in the *Guidelines*.
8. **Department of Public Health Review and Approval.** The proposed project was referred to the Department of Public Health (DPH) for emissions exposure analysis. Existing RF levels at ground level were less than 1% of the FCC public exposure limit. T-Mobile has installed omnidirectional antennas on the site. There were no other observed similar antennas within 100 feet of this site. AT&T proposes to install twelve new panel antennas. The antennas will be mounted within a new mechanical penthouse on the building's roof at a height of approximately 55 feet above grade. The estimated ambient RF field from the proposed AT&T transmitters at ground level is calculated to be 0.014 mW/sq cm, which is 2.6% of the FCC public exposure limit. The three dimensional perimeter of RF levels equal to the public exposure limit extends 62 feet which includes areas of the roof top but does not reach any publicly accessible areas. Warning signs must be posted at the antennas and roof access points in English, Spanish, and Chinese. Workers should not have access to within 22 feet of the front of the antennas while in operation.
9. **Maintenance Schedule.** The proposed facility would operate without on-site staff but with a maintenance crew visiting the property approximately two or three times a month and on an as-needed basis to service and monitor the facility.

10. **Community Outreach.** Per the *Guidelines*, the project sponsor held a Community Outreach Meeting for the proposed project. The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center, located at 1840 Sutter Street, San Francisco. One member of the public attended the meeting and supported the project.
11. **Five-year plan:** Per the *Guidelines*, the project sponsor submitted its latest five-year plan, as required, in October 2011.
12. As of October 13, 2011, the Department has received two phone calls from neighbors who oppose the proposal.
13. **Planning Code Compliance.** The Commission finds that the Project is consistent with the relevant provisions of the Planning Code in the following manner:
 - A. **Use.** Per Planning Code Sections 712.83, a Conditional Use authorization is required for the installation of wireless transmission facilities in the NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density).
 - B. **Japantown Special Use District.** Per planning Code Section 249.31(b)(2), for any use subject to conditional use authorization and for any activity that the Planning Commission considers under its discretionary review power, the Planning Commission shall make the following additional findings:
 - i 249.31(b)(2)(i) - The use is not incompatible with the cultural and historic integrity, neighborhood character, development pattern, and design aesthetic of the Special Use District; and
 - ii 249.31(b)(2)(ii) - The use must support one or more of the purposes for establishing the Japantown Special Use District.

Construction of a new 10 foot tall mechanical penthouse that is set back from each building wall is compatible with the Special Use District as it is not related to a structure or use that could be experienced or used by the general public on a regular basis. The site is designed to be inconspicuous from all views and generally blends in with its visual background. Adding features or details with Japanese style to the structure would only make it more noticeable. Per the General Plan Findings, it is understood that providing WTS infrastructure throughout San Francisco promotes all business, including Japanese businesses, which is a purpose of the Japantown Special Use District. A number of WTS sites currently exist in the area without negatively affecting the purpose of the Japantown Special Use District.

- C. **Japantown Special Use District.** Per Planning Code Section 249.31(b)(3), any change in use or establishment of a new use in the neighborhood commercial zones within this Special Use District shall require notice pursuant to section 312.

The 300' radius Conditional Use notice included Section 312 notification language and was sent to occupants within a 300-foot radius of the subject property.

14. **Planning Code Section 303** establishes criteria for the Planning Commission to consider when reviewing applications for Conditional Use approval. On balance, the project does comply with said criteria in that:

A. The proposed new uses and building, at the size and intensity contemplated and at the proposed location, will provide a development that is necessary or desirable, and compatible with, the neighborhood or the community.

i Desirable: San Francisco is a leader of the technological economy; it is important and desirable to the vitality of the city to have and maintain adequate telecommunications coverage and data capacity. This includes the installation and upgrading of systems to keep up with changing technology and increases in usage. It is desirable for the City to allow wireless facilities to be installed.

The proposed project at 1625 Post Street will be generally desirable and compatible with the surrounding neighborhood because the project will not conflict with the existing uses of the property and will be of such size and nature to be compatible with the surrounding nature of the vicinity. The approval of this authorization has been found, first and foremost, to insure public safety, and insure that the placement of antennas and related support and protection features are so located, designed, and treated architecturally to minimize their visibility from public places, to avoid intrusion into public vistas, avoid disruption of the architectural design integrity of building and insure harmony with neighborhood character.

ii Necessary: In the case of wireless installations, there are two criteria that the Commission reviews: coverage and capacity.

Coverage: San Francisco does have sufficient overall wireless coverage (note that this is separate from carrier service). It is necessary for San Francisco to have as much coverage as possible in terms of wireless facilities. Due to the topography and tall buildings in San Francisco, unique coverage issues arise because the hills and buildings break up coverage. Thus, telecommunication carriers often install additional installations to make sure coverage is sufficient.

Capacity: While a carrier may have adequate coverage in a certain area, the capacity may not be sufficient. With the continuous innovations in wireless data technology and demand placed on existing infrastructure, individual telecommunications carriers must upgrade and in some instances expand their facilities network to be able to have proper data distribution. It is necessary for San Francisco, as a leader in technology, to have adequate capacity.

The proposed project at 1625 Post Street is necessary in order to achieve sufficient street, in-transit and in-building mobile phone coverage and to provide service coverage during high demand periods. Recent drive tests in the subject area conducted by the AT&T Radio Frequency Engineering Team provide conclusive evidence that the subject property is the most viable

location, based on factors including quality of coverage, population density, land use compatibility, zoning and aesthetics. The proposed coverage area will serve the vicinity bounded by Sutter and Ellis Streets, and Octavia to Webster Streets, as indicated in the coverage maps. This facility will fill in the gaps and improve coverage in the Japantown/Fillmore District as well as to provide necessary facilities for emergency transmission and improved communication for the neighborhood, community and the region.

- B. The proposed project will not be detrimental to the health, safety, convenience or general welfare of persons residing or working in the vicinity. There are no features of the project that could be detrimental to the health, safety or convenience of those residing or working the area, in that:

- i Nature of proposed site, including its size and shape, and the proposed size, shape and arrangement of structures;

The proposed project must comply with all applicable Federal and State regulations to safeguard the health, safety and to ensure that persons residing or working in the vicinity will not be affected, and prevent harm to other personal property.

The Department of Public Health conducted an evaluation of potential health effects from Radio Frequency radiation, and has concluded that the proposed wireless transmission facilities will have no adverse health effects if operated in compliance with the FCC-adopted health and safety standards. The Department has received information that the proposed wireless system must be operated so as not to interfere with radio or television reception in order to comply with the provisions of its license under the FCC.

The Planning Department is developing a database of all such wireless communications facilities operating or proposed for operation in the City and County of San Francisco. All applicants are now required to submit information on the location and nature of all existing and approved wireless transmission facilities operated by the Project Sponsor. The goal of this effort is to foster public information as to the location of these facilities.

- ii The accessibility and traffic patterns for persons and vehicles, the type and volume of such traffic, and the adequacy of proposed off-street parking and loading;

No increase in traffic volume is anticipated with the facilities operating unmanned, with a single maintenance crew visiting the site two to three times a month or on an as-needed basis.

- iii The safeguards afforded to prevent noxious or offensive emissions such as noise, glare, dust and odor;

While some noise and dust may result from the erection of the antennas and transceiver equipment, noise or noxious emissions from continued use are not likely to be significantly greater than ambient conditions due to the operation of the wireless communication network.

- iv Treatment given, as appropriate, to such aspects as landscaping, screening, open spaces, parking and loading areas, service areas, lighting and signs;

The antennas and related equipment are proposed to be concealed from view by a new mechanical penthouse made with RF transparent material.

- C. That the use as proposed will comply with the applicable provisions of the Planning Code and will not adversely affect the General Plan.

The project complies with all relevant requirements and standards of the Planning Code and is consistent with objectives and policies of the General Plan as detailed below.

- D. That the use as proposed would provide development that is in conformity with the purpose of the applicable Neighborhood Commercial District.

The proposed project is consistent with the stated purpose of the NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density) District in that the intended use is located on an existing building at a height of approximately 55 feet from grade and designed to be consistent with the building's design and minimally visible.

- 15. **General Plan Compliance.** The Project is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan

2009 HOUSING ELEMENT

BALANCE HOUSING CONSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVE 12 – BALANCE HOUSING GROWTH WITH ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SERVES THE CITY'S GROWING POPULATION.

POLICY 12.2 – Consider the proximity of quality of life elements, such as open space, child care, and neighborhood services, when developing new housing units.

POLICY 12.3 – Ensure new housing is sustainable supported by the City's public infrastructure systems.

The project will improve AT&T Mobility coverage in residential, commercial and recreational areas along primary transportation routes in San Francisco

URBAN DESIGN

HUMAN NEEDS

OBJECTIVE 4 - IMPROVEMENT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT TO INCREASE PERSONAL SAFETY, COMFORT, PRIDE AND OPPORTUNITY.

POLICY 4.14 - Remove and obscure distracting and cluttering elements.

The project adequately “stealths” the proposed antennas and related equipment by locating the antennas and mechanical equipment within a new mechanical penthouse on the building’s roof.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ELEMENT

Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE 1:

MANAGE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND CHANGE TO ENSURE ENHANCEMENT OF THE TOTAL CITY LIVING AND WORKING ENVIRONMENT.

Policy 1:

Encourage development, which provides substantial net benefits and minimizes undesirable consequences. Discourage development, which has substantial undesirable consequences that cannot be mitigated.

Policy 2:

Assure that all commercial and industrial uses meet minimum, reasonable performance standards.

The project would enhance the total city living and working environment by providing communication services for residents and workers within the City. Additionally, the project would comply with Federal, State and Local performance standards.

OBJECTIVE 2:

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE A SOUND AND DIVERSE ECONOMIC BASE AND FISCAL STRUCTURE FOR THE CITY.

Policy 1:

Seek to retain existing commercial and industrial activity and to attract new such activity to the city.

Policy 3:

Maintain a favorable social and cultural climate in the city in order to enhance its attractiveness as a firm location.

The site is an integral part of a wireless communications network that will enhance the City’s diverse economic base.

OBJECTIVE 4:

IMPROVE THE VIABILITY OF EXISTING INDUSTRY IN THE CITY AND THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE CITY AS A LOCATION FOR NEW INDUSTRY.

Policy 1:

Maintain and enhance a favorable business climate in the City.

Policy 2:

Promote and attract those economic activities with potential benefit to the City.

The project would benefit the City by enhancing the business climate through improved communication services for residents and workers.

VISITOR TRADE

OBJECTIVE 8 - ENHANCE SAN FRANCISCO'S POSITION AS A NATIONAL CENTER FOR CONVENTIONS AND VISITOR TRADE.

POLICY 8.3 - Assure that areas of particular visitor attraction are provided with adequate public services for both residents and visitors.

The project will ensure that residents and visitors have adequate public service in the form of AT&T's mobile telecommunications.

COMMUNITY SAFETY ELEMENT

Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE 3:

ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FROM THE EFFECTS OF FIRE OR NATURAL DISASTER THROUGH ADEQUATE EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PREPARATION.

Policy 1:

Maintain a local agency for the provision of emergency services to meet the needs of San Francisco.

Policy 2:

Develop and maintain viable, up-to-date in-house emergency operations plans, with necessary equipment, for operational capability of all emergency service agencies and departments.

Policy 3:

Maintain and expand agreements for emergency assistance from other jurisdictions to ensure adequate aid in time of need.

Policy 4:

Establish and maintain an adequate Emergency Operations Center.

Policy 5:

Maintain and expand the city's fire prevention and fire-fighting capability.

Policy 6:

Establish a system of emergency access routes for both emergency operations and evacuation.

The project would enhance the ability of the City to protect both life and property from the effects of a fire or natural disaster by providing communication services.

16. **Planning Code Section 101.1(b)** establishes eight priority-planning policies and requires review of permits for consistency with said policies. On balance, the project does comply with said policies in that:

- A. That existing neighborhood-serving retail uses be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses be enhanced.

No neighborhood-serving retail use would be displaced and the wireless communications network will enhance personal communication services.

- B. That existing housing and neighborhood character be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods.

No residential uses would be displaced or altered in any way by the granting of this authorization.

- C. That the City's supply of affordable housing be preserved and enhanced.

The project would have no adverse impact on housing in the vicinity.

- D. That commuter traffic not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking.

Due to the nature of the project and minimal maintenance or repair, municipal transit service would not be impeded and neighborhood parking would not be overburdened.

- E. That a diverse economic base be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development, and that future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors be enhanced.

The project would cause no displacement of industrial and service sector activity.

- F. That the City achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

Compliance with applicable structural safety and seismic safety requirements would be considered during the building permit application review process.

- G. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

The proposed design will comply with the California Environmental Quality Act.

- H. That our parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas be protected from development.

The project will have no adverse effect on parks or open space, or their access to sunlight or vistas.

17. The Project is consistent with and would promote the general and specific purposes of the Code provided under Section 101.1(b) in that, as designed, the Project would contribute to the character and stability of the neighborhood and would constitute a beneficial development.
18. The Commission hereby finds that approval of the Determination of Compliance authorization would promote the health, safety and welfare of the City.

DECISION

The Commission, after carefully balancing the competing public and private interests, and based upon the Recitals and Findings set forth above, in accordance with the standards specified in the Code, hereby approves the Conditional Use authorization under Planning Code Sections 249.31, 712.83 and 303 to install up to twelve panel antennas and related equipment within a new mechanical penthouse on the roof of a four-story wholly commercial building (Hotel Kabuki) as part of a wireless transmission network operated by AT&T Wireless on a Location Preference Four (Preferred Location – Wholly commercial building) according to the *Wireless Telecommunications Services (WTS) Siting Guidelines*, within the NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density), the Japantown Special Use District, and a 50-X Height and Bulk District, and subject to the conditions of approval attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION: Any aggrieved person may appeal this conditional use authorization to the Board of Supervisors within thirty (30) days after the date of this Motion No. XXX. The effective date of this Motion shall be the date of this Motion if not appealed (after the 30-day period has expired) OR the date of the decision of the Board of Supervisors if appealed to the Board of Supervisors. For further information, please contact the Board of Supervisors at (415) 554-5184, City Hall, Room 244, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Motion was adopted by the Planning Commission on **October 20, 2011**.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners

NAYS: None

Motion No. XXX
Hearing Date: October 20, 2011

CASE NO. 2011.00563C
1625 Post Street

ABSENT: Commissioners

ADOPTED: October 20, 2011

EXHIBIT A

AUTHORIZATION

This approval is for Conditional Use authorization under Planning Code Sections 249.31, 712.83 and 303 to install a wireless telecommunications facility consisting of twelve panel antennas and mechanical equipment to be located within a new mechanical penthouse on the subject building's roof, on a Location Preference 4 (Preferred Location – Wholly Commercial Structure) according to the Wireless Telecommunications Services (WTS) Siting Guidelines, as part of AT&T's wireless telecommunications network within the NC-3 (Neighborhood Commercial, Moderate Density), the Japantown Special Use District, and 50-X Height and Bulk District.

RECORDATION OF CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Prior to the issuance of the building permit or commencement of use for the Project the Zoning Administrator shall approve and order the recordation of a Notice in the Official Records of the Recorder of the City and County of San Francisco for the subject property. This Notice shall state that the project is subject to the conditions of approval contained herein and reviewed and approved by the Planning Commission on **October 20, 2011** under Motion No. XXX.

PRINTING OF CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL ON PLANS

The conditions of approval under the 'Exhibit A' of this Planning Commission Motion No. XXX shall be reproduced on the Index Sheet of construction plans submitted with the Site or Building permit application for the Project. The Index Sheet of the construction plans shall reference to the Conditional Use authorization and any subsequent amendments or modifications.

SEVERABILITY

The Project shall comply with all applicable City codes and requirements. If any clause, sentence, section or any part of these conditions of approval is for any reason held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect or impair other remaining clauses, sentences, or sections of these conditions. This decision conveys no right to construct, or to receive a building permit. "Project Sponsor" shall include any subsequent responsible party.

CHANGES AND MODIFICATIONS

Changes to the approved plans may be approved administratively by the Zoning Administrator. Significant changes and modifications of conditions shall require Planning Commission approval of a new Conditional Use authorization.

Conditions of Approval, Compliance, Monitoring, and Reporting

PERFORMANCE

1. **Validity and Expiration.** The authorization and right vested by virtue of this action is valid for three years from the effective date of the Motion. A building permit from the Department of Building Inspection to construct the project and/or commence the approved use must be issued as this Conditional Use authorization is only an approval of the proposed project and conveys no independent right to construct the project or to commence the approved use. The Planning Commission may, in a public hearing, consider the revocation of the approvals granted if a site or building permit has not been obtained within three (3) years of the date of the Motion approving the Project. Once a site or building permit has been issued, construction must commence within the timeframe required by the Department of Building Inspection and be continued diligently to completion. The Commission may also consider revoking the approvals if a permit for the Project has been issued but is allowed to expire and more than three (3) years have passed since the Motion was approved.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org.

2. **Extension.** This authorization may be extended at the discretion of the Zoning Administrator only where failure to issue a permit by the Department of Building Inspection to perform said tenant improvements is caused by a delay by a local, State or Federal agency or by any appeal of the issuance of such permit(s).

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org.

DESIGN – COMPLIANCE AT PLAN STAGE

3. **Plan Drawings - WTS.** Prior to the issuance of any building or electrical permits for the installation of the facilities, the Project Sponsor shall submit final scaled drawings for review and approval by the Planning Department ("Plan Drawings"). The Plan Drawings shall describe:
 - a. **Structure and Siting.** Identify all facility related support and protection measures to be installed. This includes, but is not limited to, the location(s) and method(s) of placement, support, protection, screening, paint and/or other treatments of the antennas and other appurtenances to insure public safety, insure compatibility with urban design, architectural and historic preservation principles, and harmony with neighborhood character.
 - b. For the Project Site, regardless of the ownership of the existing facilities. Identify the location of all existing antennas and facilities; and identify the location of all approved (but not installed) antennas and facilities.
 - c. **Emissions.** Provide a report, subject to approval of the Zoning Administrator, that operation of the facilities in addition to ambient RF emission levels will not exceed adopted FCC standards with regard to human exposure in uncontrolled areas.

For information about compliance, contact the Case Planner, Planning Department at 415-558-6613, www.sf-planning.org.

4. **Screening - WTS.** To the extent necessary for information about compliance with adopted FCC regulations regarding human exposure to RF emissions, and upon the recommendation of the Zoning Administrator, the Project Sponsor shall:
 - a. Modify the placement of the facilities;
 - b. Install fencing, barriers or other appropriate structures or devices to restrict access to the facilities;
 - c. Install multi-lingual signage, including the RF radiation hazard warning symbol identified in ANSI C95.2 1982, to notify persons that the facility could cause exposure to RF emissions;
 - d. Implement any other practice reasonably necessary to ensure that the facility is operated in compliance with adopted FCC RF emission standards.
 - e. To the extent necessary to minimize visual obtrusion and clutter, installations shall conform to the following standards:
 - f. Antennas and back up equipment shall be painted, fenced, landscaped or otherwise treated architecturally so as to minimize visual effects;
 - g. Rooftop installations shall be setback such that back up facilities are not viewed from the street;
 - h. Antennae attached to building facades shall be so placed, screened or otherwise treated to minimize any negative visual impact; and
 - i. Although co location of various companies' facilities may be desirable, a maximum number of antennas and back up facilities on the Project Site shall be established, on a case by case basis, such that "antennae farms" or similar visual intrusions for the site and area is not created.

For information about compliance, contact the Case Planner, Planning Department at 415-558-6613, www.sf-planning.org.

MONITORING - AFTER ENTITLEMENT

5. **Enforcement.** Violation of any of the Planning Department conditions of approval contained in this Motion or of any other provisions of Planning Code applicable to this Project shall be subject to the enforcement procedures and administrative penalties set forth under Planning Code Section 176 or Section 176.1. The Planning Department may also refer the violation complaints to other city departments and agencies for appropriate enforcement action under their jurisdiction.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

6. **Monitoring.** The Project requires monitoring of the conditions of approval in this Motion. The Project Sponsor or the subsequent responsible parties for the Project shall pay fees as established under Planning Code Section 351(e) (1) and work with the Planning Department for information about compliance.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

7. **Revocation due to Violation of Conditions.** Should implementation of this Project result in complaints from interested property owners, residents, or commercial lessees which are not resolved by the Project Sponsor and found to be in violation of the Planning Code and/or the specific Conditions of Approval for the Project as set forth in Exhibit A of this Motion, the Zoning

Administrator shall refer such complaints to the Commission, after which it may hold a public hearing on the matter to consider revocation of this authorization.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org.

8. Implementation and Monitoring Costs - WTS.

- a. The Project Sponsor, on an equitable basis with other WTS providers, shall pay the cost of preparing and adopting appropriate General Plan policies related to the placement of WTS facilities. Should future legislation be enacted to provide for cost recovery for planning, the Project Sponsor shall be bound by such legislation.
- b. The Project Sponsor or its successors shall be responsible for the payment of all reasonable costs associated with the monitoring of the conditions of approval contained in this authorization, including costs incurred by this Department, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Electricity and Telecommunications, Office of the City Attorney, or any other appropriate City Department or agency pursuant to Planning Code Section 351(f) (2). The Planning Department shall collect such costs on behalf of the City.
- c. The Project Sponsor shall be responsible for the payment of all fees associated with the installation of the subject facility, which are assessed by the City pursuant to all applicable law.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org.

9. Implementation and Monitoring - WTS. In the event that the Project implementation report includes a finding that RF emissions for the site exceed FCC Standards in any uncontrolled location, the Zoning Administrator may require the Applicant to immediately cease and desist operation of the facility until such time that the violation is corrected to the satisfaction of the Zoning Administrator.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org.

10. Project Implementation Report - WTS. The Project Sponsor shall prepare and submit to the Zoning Administrator a Project Implementation Report. The Project Implementation Report shall:

- a. Identify the three dimensional perimeter closest to the facility at which adopted FCC standards for human exposure to RF emissions in uncontrolled areas are satisfied;
- b. Document testing that demonstrates that the facility will not cause any potential exposure to RF emissions that exceed adopted FCC emission standards for human exposure in uncontrolled areas.
- c. The Project Implementation Report shall compare test results for each test point with applicable FCC standards. Testing shall be conducted in compliance with FCC regulations governing the measurement of RF emissions and shall be conducted during normal business hours on a non holiday weekday with the subject equipment measured while operating at maximum power.
- d. Testing, Monitoring, and Preparation. The Project Implementation Report shall be prepared by a certified professional engineer or other technical expert approved by the Department. At the sole option of the Department, the Department (or its agents) may monitor the performance of testing required for preparation of the Project Implementation Report. The cost of such monitoring shall be borne by the Project Sponsor pursuant to the condition related to the payment of the City's reasonable costs.

- i. Notification and Testing. The Project Implementation Report shall set forth the testing and measurements undertaken pursuant to Conditions 2 and 4.
- ii. Approval. The Zoning Administrator shall request that the Certification of Final Completion for operation of the facility not be issued by the Department of Building Inspection until such time that the Project Implementation Report is approved by the Department for compliance with these conditions.

For information about compliance, contact the Environmental Health Section, Department of Public Health at (415) 252-3800, www.sfdph.org.

11. **Notification prior to Project Implementation Report - WTS.** The Project Sponsor shall undertake to inform and perform appropriate tests for residents of any dwelling units located within 25 feet of the transmitting antenna at the time of testing for the Project Implementation Report.
- a. At least twenty calendar days prior to conducting the testing required for preparation of the Project Implementation Report, the Project Sponsor shall mail notice to the Department, as well as to the resident of any legal dwelling unit within 25 feet of a transmitting antenna of the date on which testing will be conducted. The Applicant will submit a written affidavit attesting to this mail notice along with the mailing list.
 - b. When requested in advance by a resident notified of testing pursuant to subsection (a), the Project Sponsor shall conduct testing of total power density of RF emissions within the residence of that resident on the date on which the testing is conducted for the Project Implementation Report.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

12. **Installation - WTS.** Within 10 days of the installation and operation of the facilities, the Project Sponsor shall confirm in writing to the Zoning Administrator that the facilities are being maintained and operated in compliance with applicable Building, Electrical and other Code requirements, as well as applicable FCC emissions standards.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

13. **Periodic Safety Monitoring - WTS.** The Project Sponsor shall submit to the Zoning Administrator 10 days after installation of the facilities, and every two years thereafter, a certification attested to by a licensed engineer expert in the field of EMR/RF emissions, that the facilities are and have been operated within the then current applicable FCC standards for RF/EMF emissions.

For information about compliance, contact the Environmental Health Section, Department of Public Health at (415) 252-3800, www.sfdph.org.

OPERATION

14. **Community Liaison.** Prior to issuance of a building permit application to construct the project and implement the approved use, the Project Sponsor shall appoint a community liaison officer to deal with the issues of concern to owners and occupants of nearby properties. The Project Sponsor shall provide the Zoning Administrator written notice of the name, business address, and telephone number of the community liaison. Should the contact information change, the Zoning Administrator

shall be made aware of such change. The community liaison shall report to the Zoning Administrator what issues, if any, are of concern to the community and what issues have not been resolved by the Project Sponsor.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

15. **Out of Service – WTS.** The Project Sponsor or Property Owner shall remove antennae and equipment that has been out of service or otherwise abandoned for a continuous period of six months.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

16. **Emissions Conditions – WTS.** It is a continuing condition of this authorization that the facilities be operated in such a manner so as not to contribute to ambient RF/EMF emissions in excess of then current FCC adopted RF/EMF emission standards; violation of this condition shall be grounds for revocation.

For information about compliance, contact the Environmental Health Section, Department of Public Health at (415) 252-3800, www.sfdph.org.

17. **Noise and Heat – WTS.** The WTS facility, including power source and cooling facility, shall be operated at all times within the limits of the San Francisco Noise Control Ordinance. The WTS facility, including power source and any heating/cooling facility, shall not be operated so as to cause the generation of heat that adversely affects a building occupant.

For information about compliance, contact the Environmental Health Section, Department of Public Health at (415) 252-3800, www.sfdph.org.

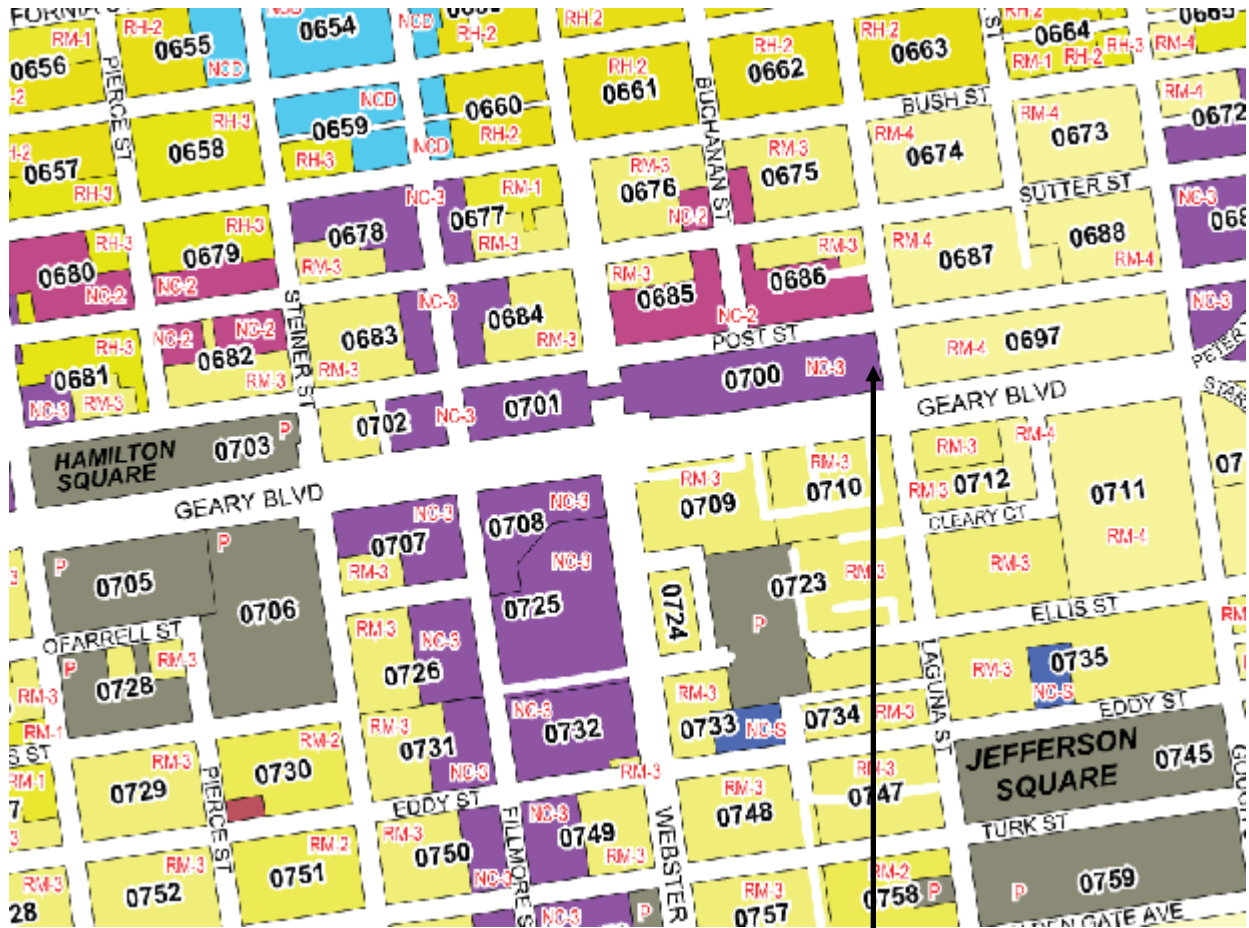
18. **Transfer of Operation – WTS.** Any carrier/provider authorized by the Zoning Administrator or by the Planning Commission to operate a specific WTS installation may assign the operation of the facility to another carrier licensed by the FCC for that radio frequency provided that such transfer is made known to the Zoning Administrator in advance of such operation, and all conditions of approval for the subject installation are carried out by the new carrier/provider.

For information about compliance, contact Code Enforcement, Planning Department at 415-575-6863, www.sf-planning.org

19. **Compatibility with City Emergency Services – WTS.** The facility shall not be operated or caused to transmit on or adjacent to any radio frequencies licensed to the City for emergency telecommunication services such that the City's emergency telecommunications system experiences interference, unless prior approval for such has been granted in writing by the City.

For information about compliance, contact the Department of Technology, 415-581-4000, <http://sfgov3.org/index.aspx?page=1421>

Zoning District Map



SUBJECT PROPERTY



ZONING USE DISTRICTS

RESIDENTIAL, HOUSE DISTRICTS

RH-1(D) RH-1 RH-1(S) RH-2 RH-3

RESIDENTIAL, MIXED (APARTMENTS & HOUSES) DISTRICTS

RM-1 RM-2 RM-3 RM-4

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

NC-1 NC-2 NC-3 NCD NC-S

SOUTH OF MARKET MIXED USE DISTRICTS

SPD RED RSD SLR SLI SSO

COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

C-2 C-3-S C-3-G C-3-R C-3-O C-3-O(SD)

INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

C-M M-1 M-2

CHINATOWN MIXED USE DISTRICTS

CRNC CVR CCB

RESIDENTIAL-COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS

RC-3 RC-4

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY DISTRICTS

MB-RA HP-RA

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS

RH DTR TB DTR

MISSION BAY DISTRICTS

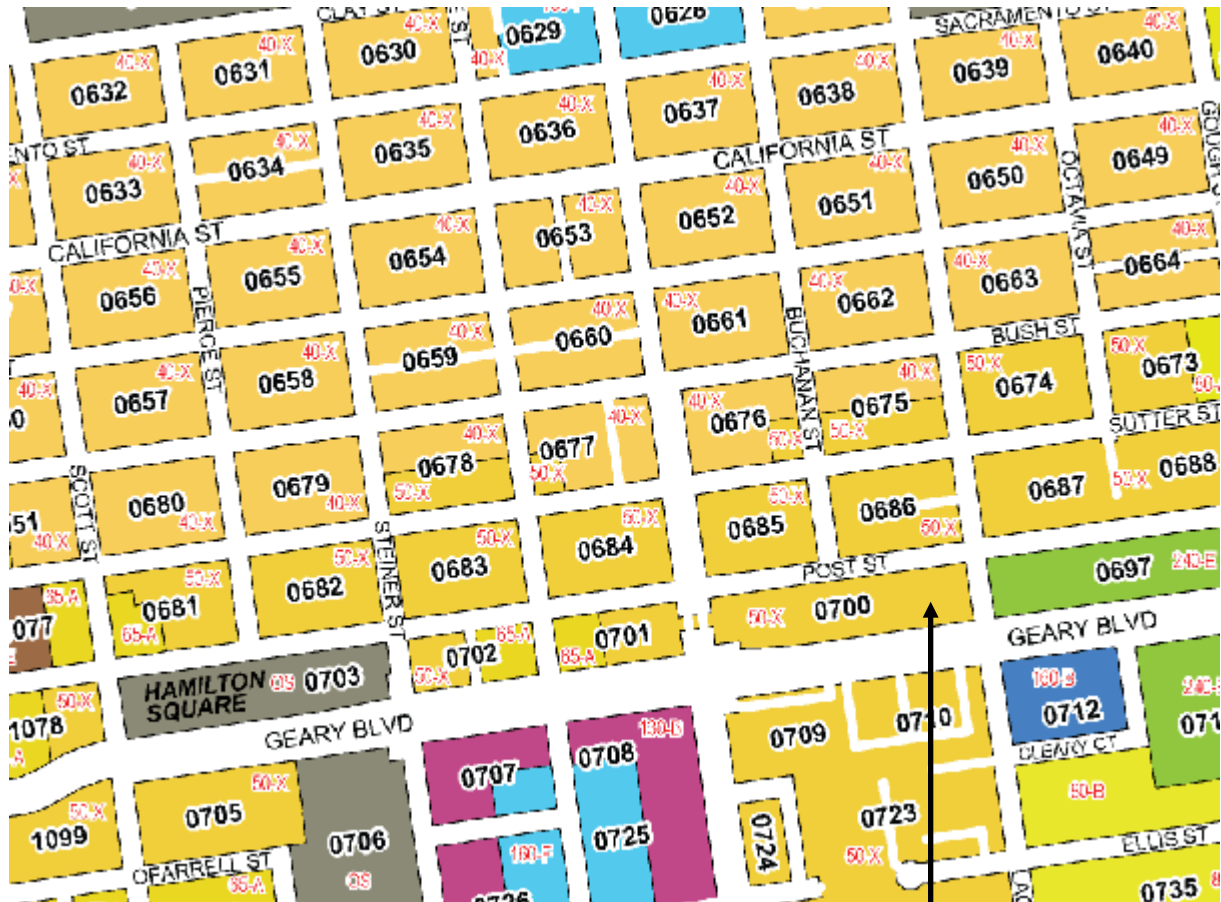
MB-OS MB-O

PUBLIC DISTRICT

P

Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2011.0563C
AT&T Wireless
1625 Post Street

Height and Bulk Map

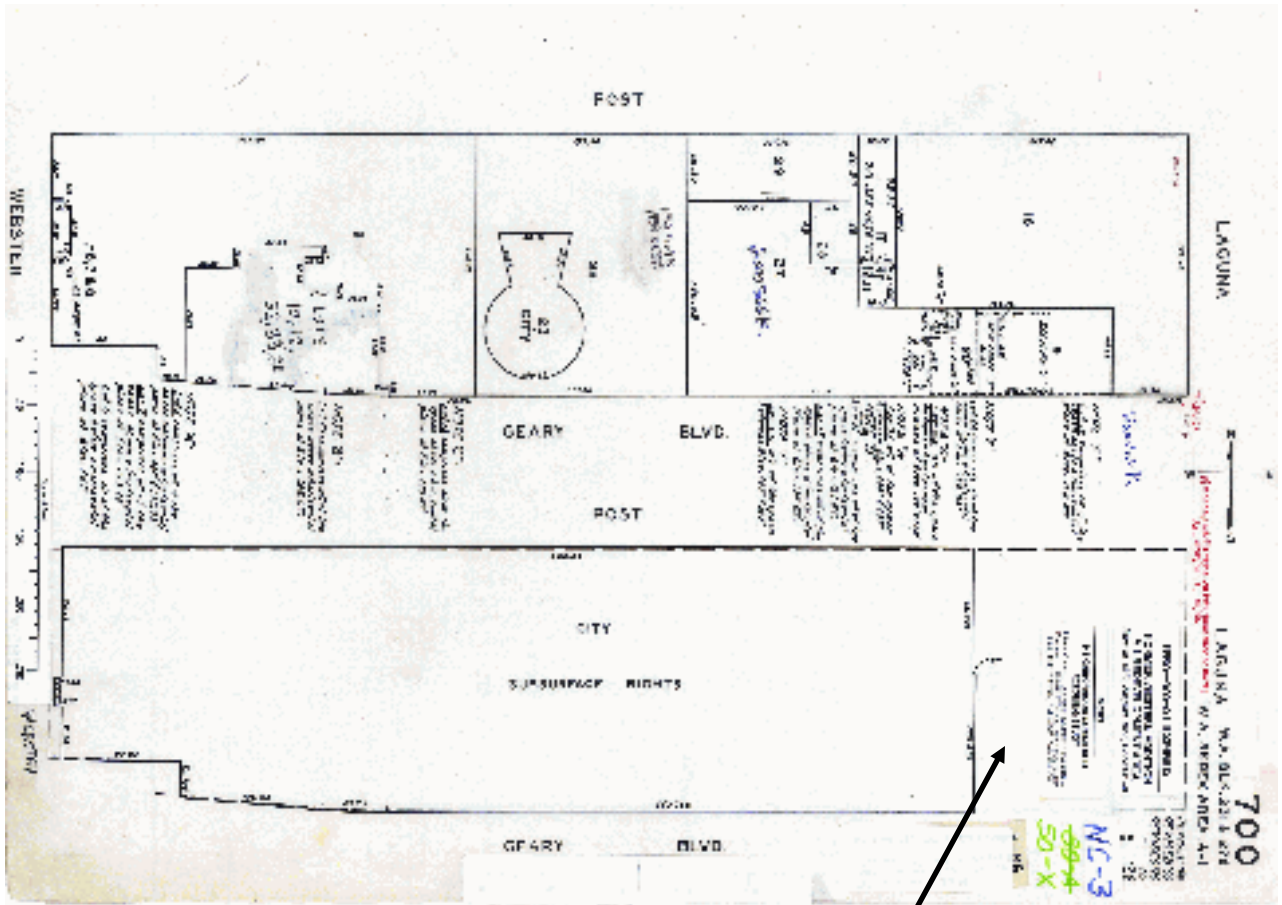


SUBJECT PROPERTY



Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2011.0563C
AT&T Wireless
1625 Post Street

Parcel Map

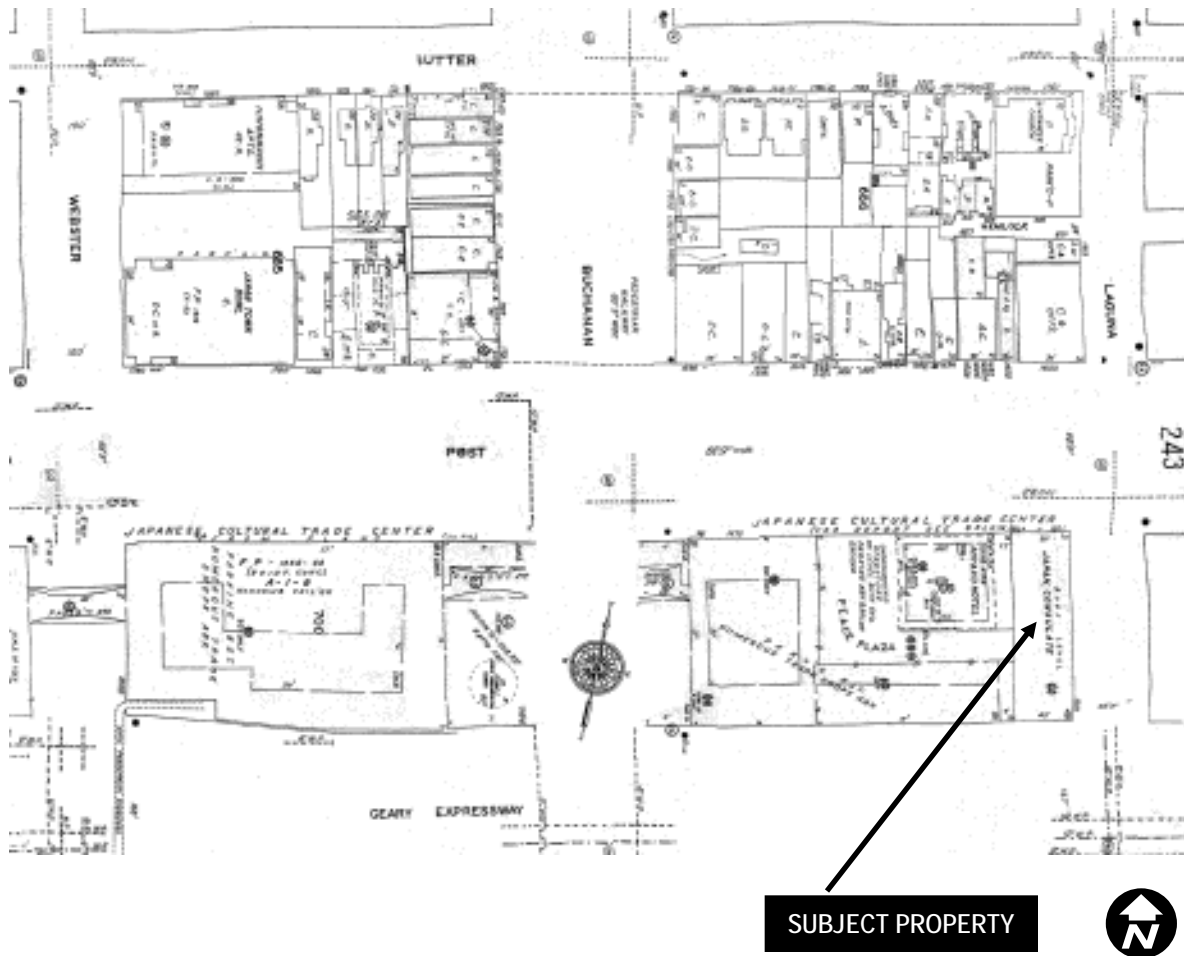


SUBJECT PROPERTY



Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2011.0563C
AT&T Wireless
1625 Post Street

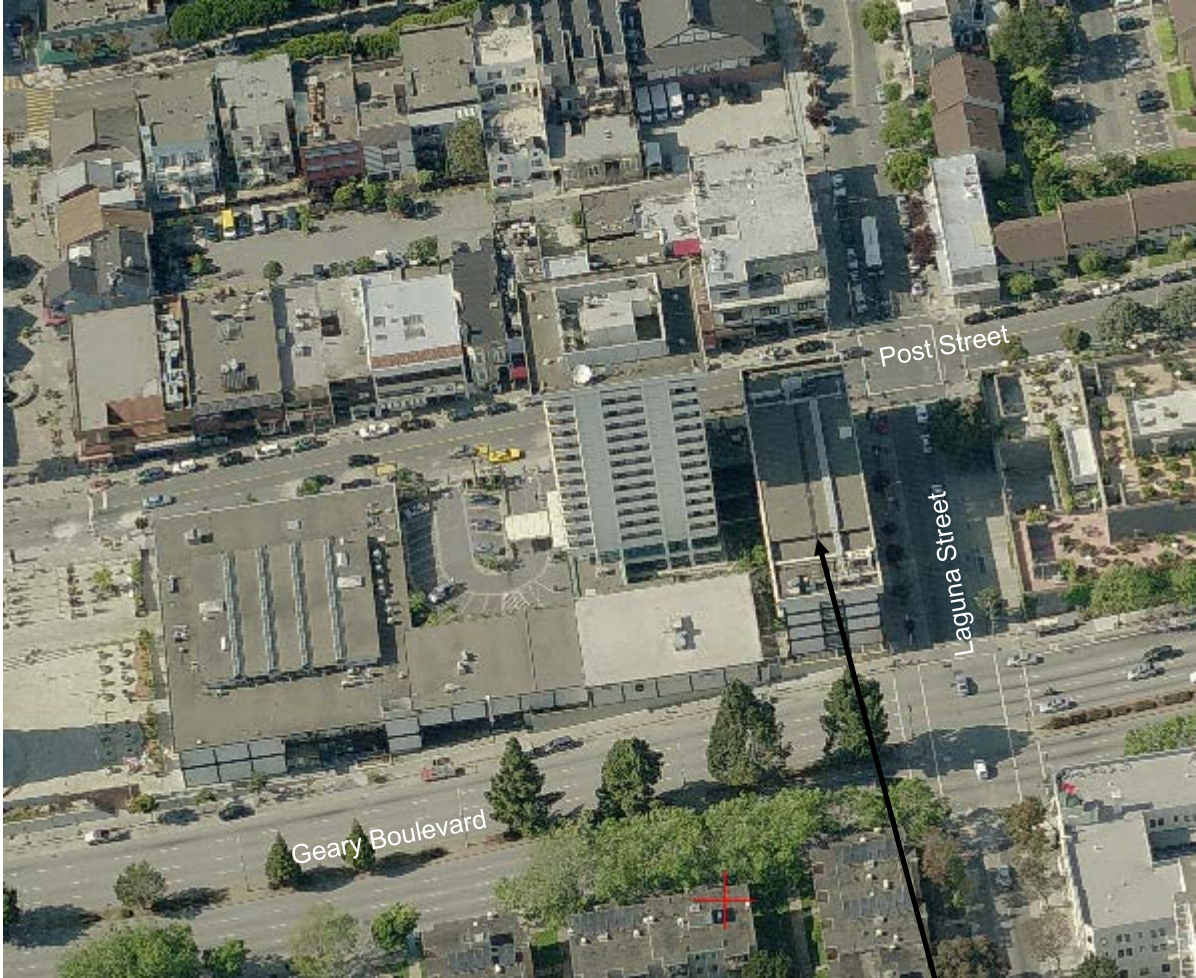
Sanborn Map*



**The Sanborn Maps in San Francisco have not been updated since 1998, and this map may not accurately reflect existing conditions.*

Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2011.0563C
AT&T Wireless
1625 Post Street

Aerial Photo



SUBJECT PROPERTY



Conditional Use Hearing
Case Number 2011.0563C
AT&T Wireless
1625 Post Street