



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Executive Summary

Condominium Conversion Subdivision

HEARING DATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2011
CONSENT CALENDAR

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

Reception:
415.558.6378

Fax:
415.558.6409

Planning
Information:
415.558.6377

Date: October 27, 2011
Case No.: **2011.0803Q**
Project Address: **626-628A NATOMA STREET**
Zoning: RED (Residential Enclave District)
Western SoMa Planning Area Special Use District
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 3727/048
Project Sponsor: Cam Perridge
Sirkin and Associates
250 Montgomery Street, Suite 1200
San Francisco, CA 94104
Staff Contact: Brittany Bendix – (415) 575-9114
brittany.bendix@sfgov.org
Recommendation: **Approval**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes to convert a three-story, five-unit building into residential condominiums. No alterations to the building are proposed other than those that result from the Department of Building Inspection’s Physical Inspection Report. The Subdivision Code requires that the Planning Commission hold a public hearing to review condominium conversion subdivisions containing five to six residential units for consistency with the General Plan.

Residential Unit Description

Unit No.	Square-Feet	No. of Bedrooms
626	800	1
626A	800	1
626C	850	1
628	800	1
628A	800	1

Rental History:

- Four of the five residential units are owner-occupied.
- There are no households with persons that are aged 62 or older or permanently disabled.

Five-Year Rental History

Unit #	Duration	Occupant	Rent	Reason for Leaving	Purchaser
626	10/02-present	David E. Getzelman	O/O	n/a	Yes
626A	10/02-present	Larry J. Campbell	O/O	n/a	Yes
626C	09/05-present	Steve Metz	\$1,558	n/a	No
628	10/02-present	Damon Boyle and Rachel A.	O/O	n/a	Yes
628A	10/04-present	Jessica J. Gammell	O/O	n/a	Yes

SITE DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT USE

The project site is located at 626-628A Natoma Street on the northwest side of Natoma Street between 7th and 8th Streets on Lot 048 of Assessor’s Block 3727. The project site is located within an RED (Residential Enclave District) Zoning District, 40-X Height and Bulk District, the Western SoMa Planning Area Special Use District and is approximately 1,875 square feet in size (25 feet wide by 75 feet deep). The three-story building is occupied by five dwelling units and was constructed circa 1915.

SURROUNDING PROPERTIES AND NEIGHBORHOOD

The project site is located at the northern edge of the Western SoMa Planning Area Special Use District. The property immediately north of the site is a two-story with basement, five-family dwelling. The property immediately south of the site is a one-story light industrial building. Directly across from the site are a two-story, four-family dwelling and a three-story commercial/light-industrial building. According to Planning Code Section 813, the RED Zoning District principally permits dwelling units and controls development to “encourage and facilitate the development of attractive, compatible and economically feasible in-fill housing while providing adequate residential amenities to the site and neighborhood.”

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS

The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) as a Class 1 categorical exemption.

HEARING NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

TYPE	REQUIRED PERIOD	REQUIRED NOTICE DATE	ACTUAL NOTICE DATE	ACTUAL PERIOD
Posted Notice	10 days	October 24, 2011	October 24, 2011	10 days

Mailed Notice	10 days	October 24, 2011	October 20, 2011	14 days
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PUBLIC COMMENT

- To date, the Department has not received any letters or phone calls in support of or in opposition to the project.

ISSUES AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The Subdivision Code requires that the Planning Commission hold a public hearing to review condominium conversion subdivisions containing five to six units, where at least one unit is residential, for consistency with the General Plan. Similar projects with four or fewer units are approved administratively.
- The subject building contains legal, nonconforming dwelling units. In the RED Zoning District, a maximum of four dwelling units can be considered legal and conforming to the Planning Code. The remaining one unit must be considered a legal, nonconforming dwelling unit and will be subject to the limitations under Planning Code Section 181.

REQUIRED COMMISSION ACTION

The proposed project requires Planning Commission approval under Section 3.527 of the Charter and Sections 1332 and 1381 of the Subdivision Code to allow the condominium conversion subdivision of five to six residential unit buildings. Findings must be made that the proposal is consistent with the General Plan and the Subdivision Code.

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- The proposed project is consistent with the Housing Element of the General Plan in that the existing supply of housing will be maintained, the condo subdivision application is subject to the restrictions of the Subdivision Code, and the subdivision will allow for home ownership opportunities for San Francisco residents.
- The eight priority planning policies set forth by Planning Code Section 101.1 are being met.
- The project meets the requirements for condominium conversions under the California State Map Act and the San Francisco Subdivision Code.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval
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Attachments:

Block Book Map
Sanborn Map

Executive Summary
Hearing Date: November 3, 2011

CASE NO. 2011.0803Q
626-628A Natoma Street

Zoning Map
Aerial Photograph
Site Photograph

Exhibit Checklist

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive Summary | <input type="checkbox"/> Project sponsor submittal |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Draft Motion | Drawings: <u>Existing Conditions</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Determination | <input type="checkbox"/> Check for legibility |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning District Map | Drawings: <u>Proposed Project</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Height & Bulk Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Check for legibility |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Block Book Map | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Dept. review of RF levels |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sanborn Map | <input type="checkbox"/> RF Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aerial Photos | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Meeting Notice |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Context Photo | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Correspondence |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site Photo | |

Exhibits above marked with an "X" are included in this packet

BB
Planner's Initials

BB: G:\DOCUMENTS\Condos\626 Natoma Street\626 Natoma Street_Executive Summary.doc

Parcel Map

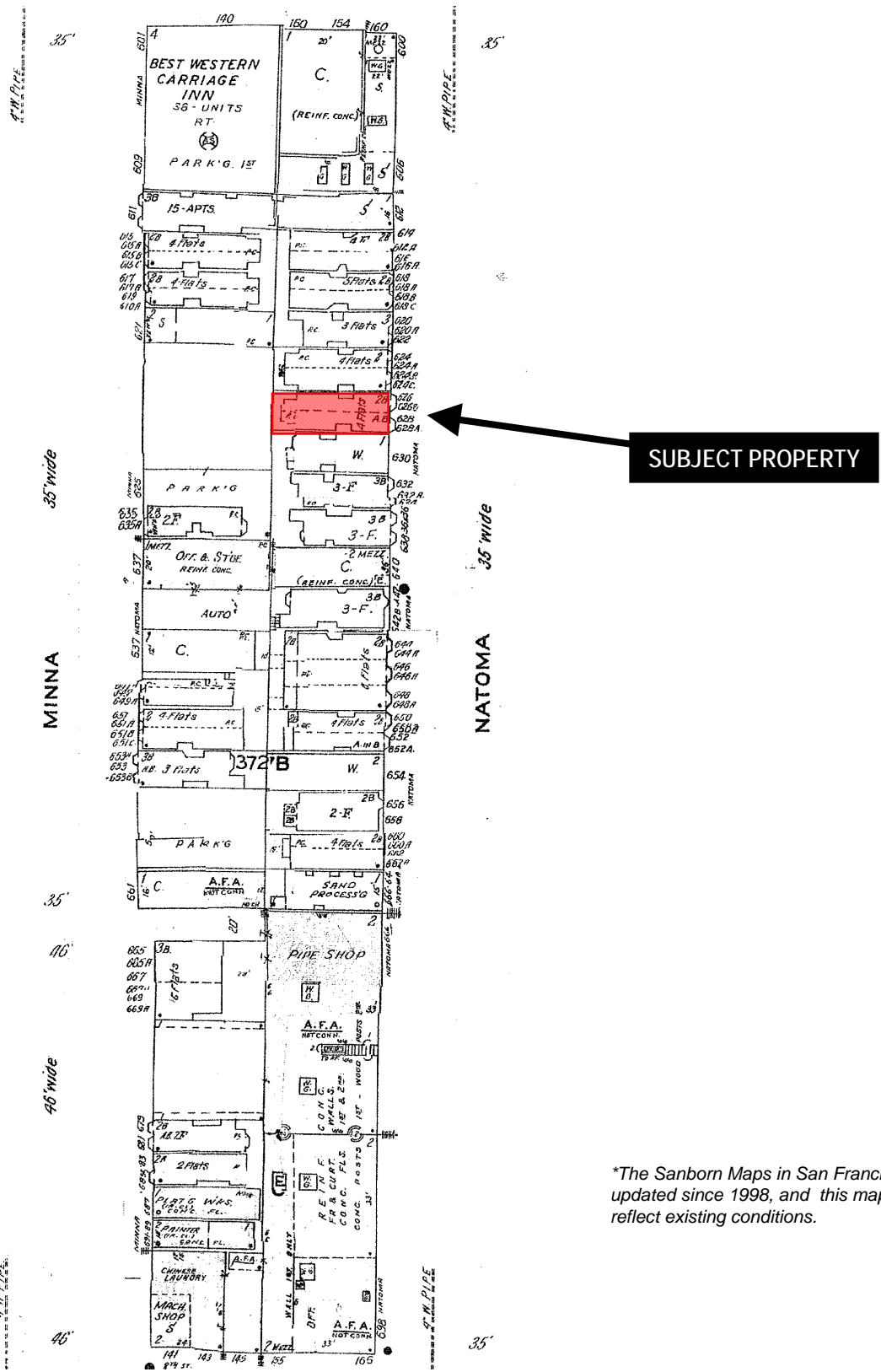


SUBJECT PROPERTY



Condominium Conversion Hearing
Case Number 2011.0803Q
626-628A Natoma Street
Block 3727 Lot 048

Sanborn Map*

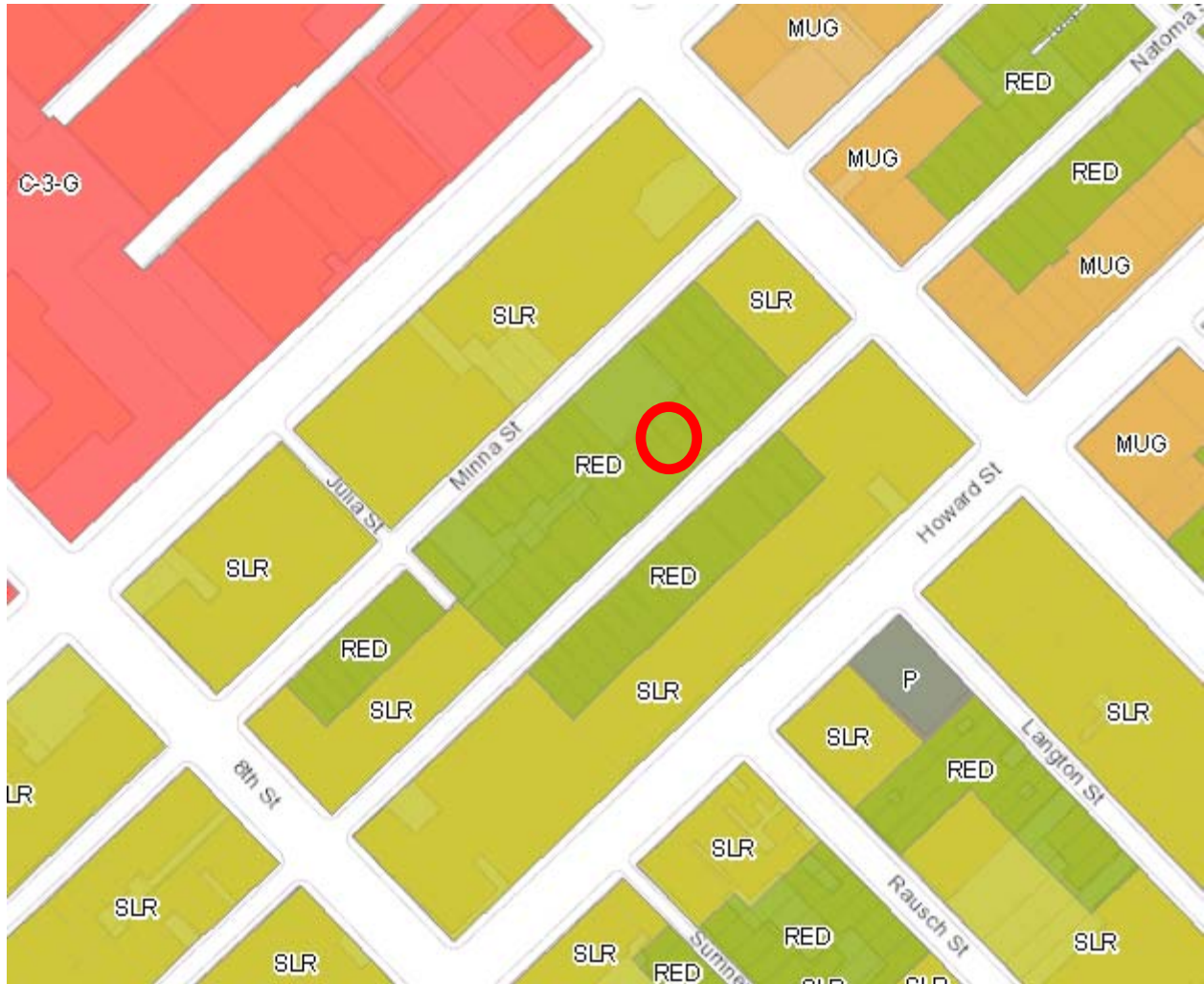


*The Sanborn Maps in San Francisco have not been updated since 1998, and this map may not accurately reflect existing conditions.

Condominium Conversion Hearing
 Case Number 2011.0803Q
 626-628A Natoma Street
 Block 3727 Lot 048



Zoning Map



Condominium Conversion Hearing
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626-628A Natoma Street
Block 3727 Lot 048

Aerial Photo



SUBJECT PROPERTY



Condominium Conversion Hearing
Case Number 2011.0803Q
626-628A Natoma Street
Block 3727 Lot 048

Site Photos



Condominium Conversion Hearing
Case Number 2011.0803Q
626-628A Natoma Street
Block 3727 Lot 048

Site Photos





SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Subject to: (Select only if applicable)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing (Sec. 415) | <input type="checkbox"/> First Source Hiring (Admin. Code) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jobs Housing Linkage Program (Sec. 413) | <input type="checkbox"/> Child Care Requirement (Sec. 414) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Park Fee (Sec. 412) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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Planning Commission Draft Motion

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ADOPTING FINDINGS RELATING TO THE REVIEW FOR CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN TO ALLOW A CONDOMINIUM CONVERSION SUBDIVISION OF A THREE-STORY, FIVE-UNIT BUILDING INTO RESIDENTIAL CONDOMINIUMS WITHIN AN RED (RESIDENTIAL ENCLAVE DISTRICT) ZONING DISTRICT AND A 40-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

PREAMBLE

On July 26, 2011, Sirkin and Associates (hereinafter "Project Sponsor") filed an application with the Department of Public Works, Bureau of Street Use and Mapping for Planning Department review to allow the Condominium Conversion Subdivision of a three-story, five-unit building into residential condominiums within an RED (Residential Enclave District) Zoning District and a 40-X Height and Bulk District. The subject building is considered a legal use as the Report of Residential Building Record indicates that the legal authorized occupancy and use is a five family dwelling.

On November 3, 2011, the San Francisco Planning Commission (hereinafter "Commission") conducted a duly noticed public hearing at a regularly scheduled meeting on Condominium Conversion Subdivision Application No. 2011.0803Q.

Section 1396, Article 9 of the Subdivision Code of the City and County of San Francisco sets forth the following rules and regulations for condominium conversions:

- A. A maximum of two-hundred (200) units may be converted to condominium units annually. An exception is provided for two-unit buildings where both units are owner-occupied for one year or one unit is owner occupied for three years.

- B. The following categories of buildings may be converted to condominiums:
 - i. Buildings consisting of four units or less in which at least one of the units has been occupied continuously by one of the owners of record for three years prior to the date of registration for the lottery as selected by the Director of Public Works.

 - ii. Buildings consisting of six units or less in which at least 50 percent of the units have been occupied continuously by one of the owners of record for three years prior to the date of registration for the lottery as selected by the Director of Public Works.

The Subdivision Code requires that the Planning Commission holds a public hearing to review condominium conversion subdivisions containing five to six units for consistency with the General Plan. The Code calls for a sales program which promotes affirmative action in housing, a non-transferable tenant right of first-refusal to purchase the unit occupied by the tenant and various relocation requirements, including the right to a \$1,000 relocation payment.

The Subdivision Code further provides for a lifetime lease for all tenants aged 62 years or older and/or are permanently disabled, and requires that no less than 40 percent of the tenants either have signed Intent to Purchase forms or be in a position of accepting such a lifetime lease. The Subdivision Code prohibits any increase in rents while the conversion application is pending before the City.

The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") as a Class 1 categorical exemption.

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 approves the Condominium Conversion Subdivision requested in Application No. 2011.0803Q 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.
2. The applicant requests Planning Department review of a Condominium Conversion Subdivision Application to allow for the conversion of the mixed-use building.
3. As required by Section 1396 of the San Francisco Subdivision Code, 50 percent or more of the units have been owner occupied continuously by one or more of the owners of record for three years prior to the date of registration for the lottery as selected by the Director of Public Works.
4. Tenants in the subject building were notified of their right-of-first refusal to purchase the unit they occupy, as required by the Subdivision Code, and of other rights to which they are entitled under provisions of the same Code.
5. A search of the Rent Board database did not show any tenant petitions or eviction notices filed with the Rent Board in the last 5 years.
6. On balance, the Project is consistent with the Objectives and Policies of the General Plan, as follows:

2009 HOUSING ELEMENT

Objectives and Policies

OBJECTIVE 3:

PROTECT THE AFFORDABILITY OF THE EXISTING HOUSING STOCK, ESPECIALLY RENTAL UNITS.

Policy 3.1:

Preserve rental units, especially rent controlled units, to meet the City's affordable housing needs.

This application was selected through the condominium conversion subdivision lottery, which sets an annual limit on condominium conversions. Conversion of the subject property would allow for home ownership opportunities for San Francisco residents.

7. **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.

The proposal would have no adverse effect upon existing neighborhood-serving retail uses as it is a change in form of residential tenure.

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

The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not alter the existing housing and neighborhood character of the vicinity.

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

No housing would be removed for this project.

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

The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not affect public transit or neighborhood parking.

- 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 proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not involve the industrial or service sectors of the City.

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

The proposal is subject to inspection by the Department of Building Inspection and will be required to make any code required repairs, including those related to life safety issues, prior to the recordation of the final condominium subdivision map.

- G. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not affect landmarks or historic buildings

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

The proposal is a change in form of residential tenure and would not affect public parks or open space.

8. 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.
9. The Commission hereby finds that approval of the Condominium Conversion Subdivision would promote the health, safety and welfare of the City.

DECISION

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, the staff of the Department and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings, and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **APPROVES Condominium Conversion Subdivision Application No. 2011.0803Q.**

I hereby certify that the Planning Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on November 3, 2011.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ADOPTED: November 3, 2011