

Planning Commission Resolution No. 18126

Intention to Initiate General Plan Amendment updating the Noise Maps of the Environmental Protection Element

SAN FRANCISCO

PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. R-18126

WHEREAS, Section 4.105 of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco mandates that the Planning Department shall periodically recommend to the Board of Supervisors for approval or rejection proposed amendments to the General Plan.

The Department of Public Health has recently updated the acoustical noise levels for the City, thereby replacing the information contained in the existing Map 1 (Background Noise Map) of the Environmental Protection Element. In order to utilize the new noise levels in enforcement of the City's Noise Control Ordinance, contained in Article 29 of the San Francisco Police Code, maps representing these new noise levels must be adopted into the City's General Plan.

The San Francisco Planning Department is seeking to amend the the General Plan to update maps in the Environmental Protection Element to reflect these current noise levels, and make corresponding text clarifications. The amendments would update Map 1 (Background Noise Map) to reflect current noise levels and to include thoroughfare noise levels, and therefore remove Map 2 (Thoroughfare Noise Map).

Staff recommends adoption of the draft Resolution of Intention to initiate the proposed minor amendments to the General Plan.

Planning Code Section 101.1(b) establishes eight priority policies and is the basis by which differences between competing policies in the General Plan are resolved. The project is consistent with the eight priority policies, in that:

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

The proposed change would not impact neighborhood serving retail uses or future opportunities for employment.

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

The proposed change would not have a negative impact housing and neighborhood character.

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

The proposed change would not impact affordable housing.

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

The proposed change would not impede MUNI transit services, overburden streets, or neighborhood parking.

5. 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 proposed change would not adversely affect the industrial or service sectors.

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

The proposed change would not adversely affect preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

7. That landmarks and historic buildings be preserved.

The proposed change would not have an impact on landmarks or historic buildings.

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

The proposed change would not have an effect on parks and open spaces.

Analysis of applicable General Plan Objectives and Policies has determined that the proposed action is, on balance, consistent with the General Plan as it is proposed to be amended. Below are specific policies and objectives that support the proposed action.

NOTE: General Plan Elements are in *CAPITAL ITALICS*
General Plan Objectives are in CAPITAL LETTERS
General Plan Policies are in Arial standard font

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ELEMENT

OBJECTIVE 9

REDUCE TRANSPORTATION-RELATED NOISE.

Policy 9.1: Enforce noise emission standards for vehicles.

Policy 9.2: Impose traffic restrictions to reduce transportation noise.

Policy 9.3: Limit City purchases of vehicles to models with the lowest noise emissions and adequately maintain City-owned vehicles and travel surfaces.

Policy 9.4: Regulate use of emergency sirens.

Policy 9.5: Retain and expand the electric trolley network.

Policy 9.6: Discourage changes in streets which will result in greater traffic noise in noise-sensitive areas.

OBJECTIVE 10

MINIMIZE THE IMPACT OF NOISE ON AFFECTED AREAS.

Policy 10.1: Promote site planning, building orientation and design, and interior layout that will lessen noise intrusion.

Policy 10.2: Promote the incorporation of noise insulation materials in new construction.

Policy 10.3: Construct physical barriers to reduce noise transmission from heavy traffic carriers.

OBJECTIVE 11

PROMOTE LAND USES THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH VARIOUS TRANSPORTATION NOISE LEVELS.

Policy 11.1: Discourage new uses in areas in which the noise level exceeds the noise compatibility guidelines for that use.

Policy 11.2: Consider the relocation to more appropriate areas of those land uses which need more quiet and cannot be effectively insulated from noise in their present location, as well as those land uses which are noisy and are presently in noise-sensitive areas.

Policy 11.3: Locate new noise-generating development so that the noise impact is reduced.

**Resolution No. R-18126
July 1, 2010**

**Case No. 2010.0068M
Resolution of Intention to Initiate an Amendment of the
Environmental Protection Element of the General Plan**

Whereas, for the reasons set forth in the staff memo to the Planning Commission and presented at the hearing, the Planning Commission finds that this General Plan Amendment and related actions will serve the public necessity, convenience and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, the Planning Commission adopts a Resolution of Intention to initiate the Amendment to the General Plan of the City and County of San Francisco, in order to update Map 1 (Background Noise Map), remove Map 2 (Thoroughfare Noise Map) and make subsequent text changes of the Environmental Protection Element.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That pursuant to Planning Code Section 306.3, the Planning Commission authorizes the Department to provide appropriate notice for a public hearing to consider the above referenced General Plan amendment, as though fully set forth herein, to be considered at a publicly noticed hearing on or after 6/24/2010.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission on July 1, 2010.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Antonini, Borden, Lee, Miguel, Moore, Olague, and Sugaya.

NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

ADOPTED: July 1, 2010