



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Planning Commission Resolution No. 18158

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 5, 2010

Date: July 29, 2010
Case No.: **2010.0068M**
Project Title: **General Plan Amendment updating the Noise Maps of the Environmental Protection Element and making conforming text amendments**
Block/Lot: Citywide
Project Sponsor: San Francisco Planning Department
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RECOMMENDING THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ADOPT A PROPOSED ORDINANCE THAT WOULD AMEND THE SAN FRANCISCO GENERAL PLAN BY: AMENDING THE NOISE MAPS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ELEMENT TO REFLECT CURRENT CONDITIONS; MAKING CONFORMING TEXT AMENDMENTS; AND MAKING FINDINGS, INCLUDING FINDINGS OF CONSISTENCY WITH THE GENERAL PLAN AND THE EIGHT PRIORITY POLICIES OF PLANNING CODE SECTION 101.1, AND ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS

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 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 General Plan to update maps in the Environmental Protection Element to reflect these current noise levels, and make conforming text amendments. 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) and include conforming text amendments.

Staff recommends adoption of the draft Resolution to adopt the proposed amendments to the Environmental Protection Element of 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 **BOLD CAPITAL FONT**
General Plan Objectives and Policy numbers are in **BOLD FONT**
General Plan Policies are in 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.

As permitted under Section 302(a) of the Planning Code, on July 1, 2010, the Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 18126, a Resolution of Intention to initiate an amendment to the Environmental Protection Element of the General Plan.

On May 26, 2010, the Major Environmental Analysis Section of the Department determined that the General Plan Amendment set forth in the Draft Board of Supervisor's Ordinance, as shown in Exhibit D, is Categorically Exempt from Environmental Review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c) (2) – Nonphysical Project.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to Planning Code Section 340, the Planning Commission does hereby find that the public necessity, convenience and general welfare require the proposed amendments and therefore adopts amendments to the General Plan contained in the attached ordinance, approved as to form by the City Attorney in Exhibit D, and recommends approval of these amendments to the Board of Supervisors.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED by the City Planning Commission on August 5th, 2010.

Linda Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Antonini, Borden, Lee, Miguel, Moore, and Sugaya
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioner Olague
ADOPTED: August 5, 2010