



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

CEQA Categorical Exemption Determination

PROPERTY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Address		Block/Lot(s)
REC & PARK: JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA - 1610 GEARY BLVD.		0700022, 0700035, 0700037
Case No.		Permit No.
2019-000895ENV		
☐ Addition/ Alteration	☐ Demolition (requires HRE for Category B Building)	☐ New Construction
Project description for Planning Department approval. Renovation will fully remedy the leaking water to an MTA- owned garage below. The renovation will fully remedy this issue and provide a re-invigorated public space for the community. The renovation will include waterproofing, new planting, shade structures, paving, seating, lighting, and potential structural reinforcement of the plaza and/or Peace pagoda (if deemed necessary). The new design seeks to provide the community with more functional access to the plaza, both for everyday and special event use, while harnessing the symbolism that the plaza holds within the neighborhood, city and region.		

STEP 1: EXEMPTION CLASS

Note: If neither class applies, an <i>Environmental Evaluation Application</i> is required.	
☒	Class 1 - Existing Facilities. Interior and exterior alterations; additions under 10,000 sq. ft.
☐	Class 3 - New Construction. Up to three new single-family residences or six dwelling units in one building; commercial/office structures; utility extensions; change of use under 10,000 sq. ft. if principally permitted or with a CU.
☐	Class 32 - In-Fill Development. New Construction of seven or more units or additions greater than 10,000 sq. ft. and meets the conditions described below: (a) The project is consistent with the applicable general plan designation and all applicable general plan policies as well as with applicable zoning designation and regulations. (b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than 5 acres substantially surrounded by urban uses. (c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered rare or threatened species. (d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality. (e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services. FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING USE ONLY
☐	Class ____

STEP 2: CEQA IMPACTS

TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

If any box is checked below, an *Environmental Evaluation Application* is required.

☐	Air Quality: Would the project add new sensitive receptors (specifically, schools, day care facilities, hospitals, residential dwellings, and senior-care facilities within an Air Pollution Exposure Zone? Does the project have the potential to emit substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., backup diesel generators, heavy industry, diesel trucks, etc.)? (refer to EP_ArcMap > CEQA Catex Determination Layers > Air Pollution Exposure Zone)
☐	Hazardous Materials: If the project site is located on the Maher map or is suspected of containing hazardous materials (based on a previous use such as gas station, auto repair, dry cleaners, or heavy manufacturing, or a site with underground storage tanks): Would the project involve 50 cubic yards or more of soil disturbance - or a change of use from industrial to residential? If yes, this box must be checked and the project applicant must submit an Environmental Application with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. <i>Exceptions: do not check box if the applicant presents documentation of enrollment in the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) Maher program, a DPH waiver from the Maher program, or other documentation from Environmental Planning staff that hazardous material effects would be less than significant (refer to EP_ArcMap > Maher layer).</i>
☐	Transportation: Does the project create six (6) or more net new parking spaces or residential units? Does the project have the potential to adversely affect transit, pedestrian and/or bicycle safety (hazards) or the adequacy of nearby transit, pedestrian and/or bicycle facilities?
☐	Archeological Resources: Would the project result in soil disturbance/modification greater than two (2) feet below grade in an archeological sensitive area or eight (8) feet in a non -archeological sensitive area? (refer to EP_ArcMap > CEQA Catex Determination Layers > Archeological Sensitive Area)
☐	Subdivision/Lot Line Adjustment: Does the project site involve a subdivision or lot line adjustment on a lot with a slope average of 20% or more? (refer to EP_ArcMap > CEQA Catex Determination Layers > Topography)
☐	Slope = or > 20%: Does the project involve any of the following: (1) square footage expansion greater than 1,000 sq. ft. outside of the existing building footprint, (2) excavation of 50 cubic yards or more of soil, (3) new construction? (refer to EP_ArcMap > CEQA Catex Determination Layers > Topography) If box is checked, a geotechnical report is required.
☐	Seismic: Landslide Zone: Does the project involve any of the following: (1) square footage expansion greater than 1,000 sq. ft. outside of the existing building footprint, (2) excavation of 50 cubic yards or more of soil, (3) new construction? (refer to EP_ArcMap > CEQA Catex Determination Layers > Seismic Hazard Zones) If box is checked, a geotechnical report is required.
☐	Seismic: Liquefaction Zone: Does the project involve any of the following: (1) square footage expansion greater than 1,000 sq. ft. outside of the existing building footprint, (2) excavation of 50 cubic yards or more of soil, (3) new construction? (refer to EP_ArcMap > CEQA Catex Determination Layers > Seismic Hazard Zones) If box is checked, a geotechnical report will likely be required.

If no boxes are checked above, GO TO STEP 3. If one or more boxes are checked above, an *Environmental Evaluation Application* is required, unless reviewed by an Environmental Planner.

Comments and Planner Signature (optional): Laura Lynch

STEP 3: PROPERTY STATUS - HISTORIC RESOURCE
TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

PROPERTY IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: (refer to Parcel Information Map)	
☐	Category A: Known Historical Resource. GO TO STEP 5.
☒	Category B: Potential Historical Resource (over 45 years of age). GO TO STEP 4.
☐	Category C: Not a Historical Resource or Not Age Eligible (under 45 years of age). GO TO STEP 6.

STEP 4: PROPOSED WORK CHECKLIST
TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

Check all that apply to the project.	
☐	1. Change of use and new construction. Tenant improvements not included.
☐	2. Regular maintenance or repair to correct or repair deterioration, decay, or damage to building.
☐	3. Window replacement that meets the Department's <i>Window Replacement Standards</i> . Does not include storefront window alterations.
☐	4. Garage work. A new opening that meets the <i>Guidelines for Adding Garages and Curb Cuts</i> , and/or replacement of a garage door in an existing opening that meets the Residential Design Guidelines.
☐	5. Deck, terrace construction, or fences not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way.
☐	6. Mechanical equipment installation that is not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way.
☐	7. Dormer installation that meets the requirements for exemption from public notification under <i>Zoning Administrator Bulletin No. 3: Dormer Windows</i> .
☐	8. Addition(s) that are not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way for 150 feet in each direction; does not extend vertically beyond the floor level of the top story of the structure or is only a single story in height; does not have a footprint that is more than 50% larger than that of the original building; and does not cause the removal of architectural significant roofing features.
Note: Project Planner must check box below before proceeding.	
☒	Project is not listed. GO TO STEP 5.
☐	Project does not conform to the scopes of work. GO TO STEP 5.
☐	Project involves four or more work descriptions. GO TO STEP 5.
☐	Project involves less than four work descriptions. GO TO STEP 6.

STEP 5: CEQA IMPACTS - ADVANCED HISTORICAL REVIEW
TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

Check all that apply to the project.	
☐	1. Project involves a known historical resource (CEQA Category A) as determined by Step 3 and conforms entirely to proposed work checklist in Step 4.
☐	2. Interior alterations to publicly accessible spaces.
☐	3. Window replacement of original/historic windows that are not "in-kind" but are consistent with existing historic character.
☐	4. Façade/storefront alterations that do not remove, alter, or obscure character-defining features.
☐	5. Raising the building in a manner that does not remove, alter, or obscure character-defining features.
☐	6. Restoration based upon documented evidence of a building's historic condition, such as historic photographs, plans, physical evidence, or similar buildings.

☐	7. Addition(s) , including mechanical equipment that are minimally visible from a public right-of-way and meet the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation</i> .
☒	8. Other work consistent with the <i>Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> (specify or add comments): Rehabilitation of Peace Plaza conforms to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. See Part II PTR form for more information. (dated 4/29/19)
☐	9. Other work that would not materially impair a historic district (specify or add comments): (Requires approval by Senior Preservation Planner/Preservation Coordinator)
☐	10. Reclassification of property status. (Requires approval by Senior Preservation Planner/Preservation ☐ Reclassify to Category A a. Per HRER dated ☐ Reclassify to Category C (attach HRER) b. Other (specify): Property listed on the Landmark Designation Work Program and considered an eligible historic property for the purposes of CEQA. (See Part II dated
Note: If ANY box in STEP 5 above is checked, a Preservation Planner MUST check one box below.	
☐	Further environmental review required. Based on the information provided, the project requires an <i>Environmental Evaluation Application</i> to be submitted. GO TO STEP 6.
☒	Project can proceed with categorical exemption review. The project has been reviewed by the Preservation Planner and can proceed with categorical exemption review. GO TO STEP 6.
Comments (optional):	
Preservation Planner Signature: Michelle A Taylor	

STEP 6: CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION DETERMINATION
TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

☐	Further environmental review required. Proposed project does not meet scopes of work in either (check all that apply): ☐ Step 2 - CEQA Impacts ☐ Step 5 - Advanced Historical Review STOP! Must file an <i>Environmental Evaluation Application</i>.	
☒	No further environmental review is required. The project is categorically exempt under CEQA. There are no unusual circumstances that would result in a reasonable possibility of a significant effect.	
	Project Approval Action: Rec Park Commission If Discretionary Review before the Planning Commission is requested, the Discretionary Review hearing is the Approval Action for the project.	Signature: Laura Lynch 04/29/2019
	Once signed or stamped and dated, this document constitutes a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and Chapter 31 of the Administrative Code. In accordance with Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, an appeal of an exemption determination can only be filed within 30 days of the project receiving the first approval action. Please note that other approval actions may be required for the project. Please contact the assigned planner for these approvals.	

STEP 7: MODIFICATION OF A CEQA EXEMPT PROJECT

TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT PLANNER

In accordance with Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code, when a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exempt project changes after the Approval Action and requires a subsequent approval, the Environmental Review Officer (or his or her designee) must determine whether the proposed change constitutes a substantial modification of that project. This checklist shall be used to determine whether the proposed changes to the approved project would constitute a "substantial modification" and, therefore, be subject to additional environmental review pursuant to CEQA.

PROPERTY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Address (If different than front page)		Block/Lot(s) (If different than front page)
REC & PARK: JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA - 1610 GEARY BLVD.		0700/022
Case No.	Previous Building Permit No.	New Building Permit No.
2019-000895PRJ		
Plans Dated	Previous Approval Action	New Approval Action
	Other (please specify)	
Modified Project Description:		

DETERMINATION IF PROJECT CONSTITUTES SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION

Compared to the approved project, would the modified project:	
☐	Result in expansion of the building envelope, as defined in the Planning Code;
☐	Result in the change of use that would require public notice under Planning Code Sections 311 or 312;
☐	Result in demolition as defined under Planning Code Section 317 or 19005(f)?
☐	Is any information being presented that was not known and could not have been known at the time of the original determination, that shows the originally approved project may no longer qualify for the exemption?
If at least one of the above boxes is checked, further environmental review is required.	

DETERMINATION OF NO SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION

☐	The proposed modification would not result in any of the above changes.
If this box is checked, the proposed modifications are categorically exempt under CEQA, in accordance with prior project approval and no additional environmental review is required. This determination shall be posted on the Planning Department website and office and mailed to the applicant, City approving entities, and anyone requesting written notice.	
Planner Name:	Date: