



San Francisco Planning

49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94103
628.652.7600
www.sfplanning.org

2023-0000016

FILED

SAN FRANCISCO County Clerk

March 3, 2023

by: Giselle Romo
Deputy County Clerk

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Final Approval Date: February 14, 2023
 Case No.: 2019-000895ENV
 Project Title: REC & PARK: JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA RENOVATION
 Zoning: Japantown Neighborhood Commercial District
 50-X Height and Bulk District
 Block/Lot: 0700022, 0700035, 0700037
 Lot Size: 37,000 square feet
 Lead Agency: San Francisco Planning Department
 Project Sponsor: Marien Coss, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
 (628) 652-6647
 Marien.Coss@sfgov.org
 Staff Contact: Don Lewis
 (628) 652-7543
 don.lewis@sfgov.org

To: County Clerk, City and County of San Francisco
 City Hall Room 168
 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Guidelines of the Secretary for Resources, and San Francisco requirements, this Notice of Exemption is transmitted to you for filing. At the end of the posting period, please return this Notice to the Staff Contact with a notation of the period it was posted.

Attached fee: \$75 filing fee

Project Description

The Japantown Peace Plaza and Pagoda is located at 1610 Geary Boulevard on top of a partially subterranean two-level parking garage. The Plaza is leaking water into the garage below. The proposed renovation will address the water intrusion issue by demolishing all existing surfaces and fully waterproofing the entire plaza. In the renovation of the Plaza, the public space will be re-invigorated for the community's use with new planting, paving, seating, and lighting that will be added above the waterproofing seal.

The replacement plaza will be similar to the existing plaza, and will include:

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- Removing steps at the sidewalk of the northern entrance to the plaza (at Polk Street) and creating a planted buffer along the sidewalk.
- Creating two informal intimate gathering nooks on either side of the northern entrance at Polk Street.
- Formalizing and softening the transition between the upper and lower plazas.
- Relocating the “grove of trees” currently located west of the Pagoda to make more space for seating and gathering and redistribute weight.
- Trees will be relocated and grouped in larger planting beds, just north of the Pagoda, and will be connected through soil trenches located below the plaza hardscape. This system will produce larger stronger trees.
- Reducing the features surrounding the Peace Pagoda allowing visitors to access and experience the full circumference of the pagoda.

As part of the renovation, the garage structure will be reinforced to support the new features and the Peace Pagoda will be seismically upgraded. 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 cultural symbolism that the Japantown Peace Plaza holds within the neighborhood, city, and region.

Japantown Peace Pagoda

To address seismic safety concerns following a structural analysis, a seismic retrofit is proposed for the Japantown Peace Pagoda. The seismic reinforcement recommendations include:

- A. Four (0.5”) steel reinforced tendons/cables that run externally along the long side of each column from the foundation (i.e., garage ceiling) to the roof, installed outside the carbon fiber wrapping.
- B. To reinforce the roof’s seismic stability at every level, stainless steel plate reinforcement will be added to the connecting joints between existing adjoining concrete roof panels. Copper standing seam roof (over the existing concrete roof panels) will be removed and replaced to match original material in its entirety.
- C. Increased massing/depth on the horizontal roof ringbeams where they are connected to the columns at each roof level, this includes a new deep circular ring beam at the top roof.
- D. Carbon fiber wrapping around each column, roughly 1” thick. The carbon fiber wrapping would run to the 3rd story roof.
- E. Five Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) strips would run along each column until the 3rd story roof. Three FRP strips would run along the interior side of the column, two would run along the outer edge of each column. The strips would be anchored into the existing podium via three 36” deep pockets. The FRP strips would be located under the carbon fiber wrapping.

Most of these improvements would not be visible to pedestrians looking at the Pagoda, except for the column reinforcement tendons and carbon fiber wrapping. The wrapping will have a texture similar to concrete and all reinforcement materials will be painted the existing color of the Pagoda. When standing within the Pagoda looking upwards, the increased mass, external tendons, and carbon wrap would be visible. The reinforcement of the existing roof connections would only be visible from above. The new deep circular ring beam would not be visible.

The project also includes a new mural on the Geary Boulevard garage walls (currently painted concrete).

Determination

The City and County of San Francisco decided to carry out or approve the project on February 2, 2023. The approval action was the approval of the concept design by the Recreation and Park Commission. The Recreation and Park Department will carry out the project. The project was officially approved on February 14, 2023 when no appeal of a determination that a change in an exempt project is not a substantial modification was filed during the 10-day appeal period. A copy of the documents may be examined at the Planning Department, 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, CA, 94103 in file no. 2019-000895ENV.

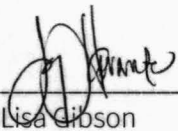
1. An Exemption from Environmental Review has been prepared pursuant to the provisions of CEQA under:

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption under Section 15301: (Class 1, Existing Facilities)
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____
- Community Plan Exemption (Sec. 21083.3; 15183)

2. This project in its approved form has been determined to be exempt from environmental review because rehabilitation of the Peace Plaza and the seismic retrofitting of the Pagoda conforms to the Secretary of Interior Standards.

This notice is being issued during the suspension of certain CEQA posting requirements pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code Chapter 31 requirements. This notice complies with local requirements under the March 23, 2020, Fifth Supplement to the Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency dated February 25, 2020.

Rich Hillis
Planning Director



By Lisa Gibson
Environmental Review Officer

for

02/28/2023

Date

cc: Marien Coss
San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department
Supervisor Preston, District 5



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print



Finalize&Email

RECEIPT NUMBER:
 38-03/03/2023-024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL pic@sfgov.org	DATE 03/03/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY	DOCUMENT NUMBER 2023-0000016	

PROJECT TITLE

 REC & PARK: JAPANTOWN PEACE PLAZA RENOVATION

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME DON LEWIS	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL don.lewis@sfgov.org	PHONE NUMBER
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 49 SOUTH VAN NESS AVENUE SUITE 1400	CITY SAN FRANCISCO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 94103

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)
 Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

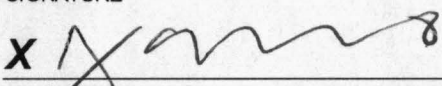
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) \$ 3,839.25 \$ _____
- Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND) \$ 2,764.00 \$ _____
- Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW \$ 1,305.25 \$ _____

- Exempt from fee
 - Notice of Exemption (attach)
 - CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
- Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

- Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only) \$ 850.00 \$ _____
- County documentary handling fee \$ 75.00 \$ 75.00
- Other \$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other JOURNAL ENTRY 523296
TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 75.00

SIGNATURE 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Giselle Romo Deputy Clerk
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