



CEQA Exemption Determination

PROPERTY INFORMATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Address		Block/Lot(s)
SF Controller's Office Refuse Rate Adjustment 2025-2028		
Case No.		Permit No.
2025-005557ENV		
<input type="checkbox"/> Addition/ Alteration	<input type="checkbox"/> Demolition (requires HRE for Category B Building)	<input type="checkbox"/> New Construction
<p>Project description for Planning Department approval.</p> <p>The RRA received a rate adjustment request that Recology San Francisco, Recology Golden Gate, and Recology Sunset Scavenger (collectively, "Recology") on January 3, 2025. The RRA evaluated Recology's request and submitted a recommendation on it to the Refuse Rate Board on May 21, 2025. Recology's request, the RRA's recommendation, are available at https://sf.gov/departments/office-refuse-rates-administrator. The Refuse Rate Board had its first hearing on the RRA's recommendation on May 30, 2025, and is scheduled to have its next, and possibly final, hearing on the matter on June 25, 2025 Recology requests a rate adjustment in 2025 through 2028 to cover the cost of existing programs, subject to certain modifications, which is included in this file. The proposed rate adjustment is statutorily exempt from CEQA review under California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b) (8), and Section 15273 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Under those authorities, CEQA does not apply to a public agency's establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges which the public agency finds are for the purpose of, among other things: (1) meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; (2) purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials; (3) meeting financial</p> <p>FULL PROJECT DESCRIPTION ATTACHED</p>		

EXEMPTION TYPE

The project has been determined to be exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 1 - Existing Facilities. (CEQA Guidelines section 15301) Interior and exterior alterations; additions under 10,000 sq. ft.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Class 3 - New Construction. (CEQA Guidelines section 15303) 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Class 32 - In-Fill Development. (CEQA Guidelines section 15332) New Construction of seven or more units or additions greater than 10,000 sq. ft. and meets the conditions described below:</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(b) The proposed development occurs within city limits on a project site of no more than 5 acres substantially surrounded by urban uses.</p> <p>(c) The project site has no value as habitat for endangered rare or threatened species.</p> <p>(d) Approval of the project would not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.</p> <p>(e) The site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other _____ Statutory Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Section 15273 - rates, tolls, fares, and charges.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3)). It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Comments:

Planner Signature: Joy Navarrete

PROPERTY STATUS - HISTORIC RESOURCE

PROPERTY IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Category A: Known Historical Resource. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Category B: Potential Historical Resource (over 45 years of age). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Category C: Not a Historical Resource or Not Age Eligible (under 45 years of age). |

PROPOSED WORK CHECKLIST

Check all that apply to the project.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Change of use and new construction. Tenant improvements not included. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Regular maintenance or repair to correct or repair deterioration, decay, or damage to building. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Garage work. A new opening that meets the <i>Guidelines for Adding Garages and Curb Cuts</i> , or replacement of a garage door in an existing opening that meets the Residential Design Guidelines. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Deck, terrace construction, or fences not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mechanical equipment installation that is not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dormer installation that meets the requirements for exemption from public notification under <i>Zoning Administrator Bulletin No. 3: Dormer Windows</i> . |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Addition(s) not visible from any immediately adjacent public right-of-way for 150 feet in each direction; or does not extend vertically beyond the floor level of the top story of the structure, or does not cause the removal of architectural significant roofing features. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Façade or storefront alterations that do not remove, alter, or obscure character -defining features. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Restoration based upon documented evidence of a building's historic condition, such as historic photographs, plans, physical evidence, or similar buildings. |

Note: Project Planner must check box below before proceeding.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Project is not listed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Project involves scope of work listed above. |

ADVANCED HISTORICAL REVIEW

Check all that apply to the project.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Reclassification of property status. (<i>Attach HRRER Part I relevant analysis; requires Principal Preservation Planner approval</i>)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reclassify to Category A</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Reclassify to Category C</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lacks Historic Integrity</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lacks Historic Significance</p> </div> </div>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project involves a known historical resource (CEQA Category A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project does not substantially impact character-defining features of a historic resource (see Comments)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project is compatible, yet differentiated, with a historic resource.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project consistent with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
Note: If ANY box above is checked, a Preservation Planner MUST sign below.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Project can proceed with EXEMPTION REVIEW. The project has been reviewed by the Preservation Planner and can proceed with exemption review.
Comments by Preservation Planner:	
Preservation Planner Signature: Joy Navarrete	

EXEMPTION DETERMINATION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No further environmental review is required. The project is exempt under CEQA.	
	<p>Project Approval Action: Refuse Rate Board approval</p>	<p>Signature: Joy Navarrete 06/23/2025</p>
	<p>Supporting documents are available for review on the San Francisco Property Information Map, which can be accessed at https://sfplanninggis.org/pim/. Individual files can be viewed by clicking on the Planning Applications link, clicking the "More Details" link under the project's environmental record number (ENV) and then clicking on the "Related Documents" link.</p> <p>Once signed and dated, this document constitutes an exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines and chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code. Per chapter 31, an appeal of an exemption determination to the Board of Supervisors shall be filed within 30 days after the approval action occurs at a noticed public hearing, or within 30 days after posting on the planning department's website (https://sfplanning.org/resource/ceqa-exemptions) a written decision or written notice of the approval action, if the approval is not made at a noticed public hearing.</p>	

Full Project Description

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The proposed rate adjustment is statutorily exempt from CEQA review under California Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8), and Section 15273 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Under those authorities, CEQA does not apply to a public agency's establishment, modification, structuring, restructuring, or approval of rates, tolls, fares, or other charges which the public agency finds are for the purpose of, among other things: (1) meeting operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits; (2) purchasing or leasing supplies, equipment, or materials; (3) meeting financial reserve needs and requirements; or (4) obtaining funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas.

In this case, the Refuse Rate Board will consider adjusting the rates to enable Recology to "[meet] operating expenses, including employee wage rates and fringe benefits," "[purchase] or [lease] supplies, equipment, or materials," and "[o]btain funds for capital projects, necessary to maintain service within existing service areas," for the programs identified in the application.