Commission on Community Investment and Infrastructure

RESOLUTION NO. 27-2013
Adopted June 4, 2013

APPROVING, CONSISTENT WITH THE TRANSBAY STREETSCAPE AND OPEN SPACE CONCEPT PLAN AND PURSUANT TO THE TRANSBAY IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT, THE SCHEMATIC DESIGN PACKAGE FOR THE FOLSOM STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT; TRANSBAY REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT AREA

WHEREAS, The Transbay Redevelopment Project Area (the “Project Area”) was adopted in 2005 with the purpose of redeveloping 10 acres of property owned by the State of California (the “State-owned parcels”) in order to generate funding for the Transbay Joint Powers Authority (“TJPA”) to construct the new Transbay Transit Center (the “TTC”); and,

WHEREAS, The Transbay Redevelopment Project Area Implementation Agreement (the “Implementation Agreement”) is an enforceable obligation that requires the Office of Community Investment and Infrastructure (“OCII”), as the Successor Agency (the “Successor Agency”) to the former San Francisco Redevelopment Agency (the “Former Agency”), to among other things, “execute all activities related to the implementation of the Transbay Redevelopment Plan, including but not limited to, activities related to major infrastructure improvements.” (Section 2.1 (d) of the Implementation Agreement at p. 4) On April 15, 2013, the California Department of Finance (“DOF”) determined “finally and conclusively” that the Implementation Agreement, along with other Transbay-related documents, is an enforceable obligation that will not require additional DOF review in the future, although expenditures under the Implementation Agreement are subject to continuing DOF review; and,

WHEREAS, The Folsom Streetscape Improvements Project is a central component of the 2006 Transbay Streetscape and Open Space Concept Plan (“Concept Plan”) and is one of the first infrastructure improvement projects that will be implemented by OCII. The project is necessary for the development of the surrounding residential neighborhood and will significantly increase the value of the adjacent parcels, thus increasing the revenue generated for the construction of the TTC; and,

WHEREAS, In June 2011, the Former Agency entered into an agreement with CMG Landscape Architecture (“CMG”) to complete design documents for select elements of the Concept Plan. Specifically, they are responsible for full design and construction administration for the streetscape improvements on Folsom and Essex Streets. CMG Landscape Architecture completed the schematic designs for the Folsom Streetscape Improvements Project (“Schematic Designs”) in January 2012, immediately prior to the dissolution of the Former Agency; and,

WHEREAS, The Schematic Designs were approved by the Transbay Citizens Advisory Committee (“CAC”) on January 12, 2012. The Schematic Designs were also reviewed by the TJPA, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (“SFPUC”), the San Francisco Department of Public Works (“DPW”), the San
Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency ("SFMTA"), and the San Francisco Planning Department ("Planning"). The designs were very well received, with the majority of comments technical and specific in nature (e.g. street lane widths, tree separation, etc.). As is typical, these comments, as well as any received from the Commission, will be incorporated into the next design phase; and,

WHEREAS, Staff is seeking Commission approval of the Schematic Designs so that CMG can begin work on the construction documents for the sidewalk component of the Folsom Streetscape Improvements Project, while continuing to analyze the potential addition of an added cycletrack on the south side of the street; and,

WHEREAS, Approval of the Schematic Designs will allow for the completion of feasibility and planning studies for portions of the Transbay Streetscape and Open Space Plan. These activities would have no resultant significant impacts on the physical environment, and are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15262; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Based on the Department of Finance’s Final and Conclusive Determination (April 15, 2013) that the Implementation Agreement is an enforceable obligation, this Commission, hereby conditionally approves the Folsom Street Schematic Designs; Transbay Redevelopment Project Area, substantially in the form lodged with the City Attorney, acting as counsel to OCII.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Commission at its meeting of June 4, 2013.

[Nastasha Jones]
Commission Secretary