

## Supes OK Market Street condos over union opposition

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A developer's plan to build 115 modern condos with ground-floor commercial space at Market and Buchanan streets is a go after the Board of Supervisors last night rejected a union's appeal of the project on environmental grounds.

The supes, in a unanimous vote, rejected the appeal by San Francisco Building and Construction Trades Council, which said the development at a closed gas station at 1960 to 1998 Market St. poses an environmental threat, including the excavation of "highly contaminated soil and groundwater" that could put workers, neighbors and the environment at risk.



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Planning Department staff disagreed, saying a comprehensive plan to mitigate potential site hazards, like naturally occurring asbestos and fuel-contaminated soil, was already in place.

The developer, Brian Spiers, said the building trades council was abusing state environmental law in an attempt to extort a guarantee from him for all-union work on the project.

The council's secretary-treasurer, Michael Theriault, denied that was the case, but acknowledged this was the first time his group has opposed a project on environmental grounds (although other building and construction trades councils elsewhere have done so, he said).

In an Aug. 18 email, Theriault said: "An all-union project is my bottom line."

The supes in a 7-to-4 vote (Supervisors Ross Mirkarimi, John Avalos, Chris Daly and David Campos dissenting) also rejected an appeal of the project by neighbors, who said the development would block natural light and doesn't comply with "human scale" design parameters.

Supervisor Bevan Dufty, whose district includes the site, acknowledged neighbors would be adversely affected, but said the project would provide some affordable housing along with opportunities for mid-range home ownership without converting apartments to condos.

"People do want to own in the Castro," Dufty said, "and I would like the opportunity for them to own without taking additional rental stock."

Posted By: [John Coté](#) { [Email](#) } | Sep 16 at 12:20 pm

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