

SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT ACTION PLAN 2008-2010

	OBJECTIVES	TIMEFRAME	STATUS AS OF 10/2008	STATUS AS OF 3/2009	STATUS AS OF 7/2009	STATUS AS OF 10/2009	STATUS AS OF 9/2010				
	I. STAFF SUPPORT										
	Improve staff effectiveness and morale by providing needed tools, systems, and structures										
1.	Acquire and implement an integrated permit tracking system	UNDERWAY; Complete by Summer 2011	Developed MOU with DBI	Evaluating bids. Vendor selection anticipated May 2009.	Vendor selected. Initiating contract nego- tiations. Project kick-off expected early winter 2009.	Contract negotiations underway. Project kick-off expected early 2010.	Bid Process was cancelled due to RFP process problems. New RFP to be issued Oct 2010. Project kick-off will be Jan 2011.				
2.	Improve the accuracy and efficiency of application pro- cessing through expanded use of GIS	ONGOING	Active for Power Users	Zone Info Finder avail- able to staff, pending for public.	Ongoing tool develop- ment.	Ongoing tool develop- ment.	Ongoing tool development				
3.	Reconsider the organizational structure to support streamlined application review, improved communica- tion and community input, more timely and informed long-range planning efforts, and support the consistent application of the General Plan by the Neighborhood Planning and MEA divisions	IMPLEMENTED	Under development	Reorganization an- nounced December 2008. Additional orga- nizational changes in concert with budget, for roll out Spring 2009.	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE				
	Reconsider support staff structure, functions, and profes- sional development opportunities			Promotive path with cost and operational savings implemented in FY2010 budget, for roll out Fall 2009.	Promotive path with cost and operational savings approved in FY2010 budget, for roll out Fall 2009.	Promotive path propos- al submitted to Dept of Human Resources for review and approval.	Pending review by Dept. of Human Resources.				
4.	Develop an in-house 3-D modeling capability	WINTER 2008 - WINTER 2011	Preparing proposal with COIT	Dept. of Technology pursuing a model for citywide use.	Dept. of Technology pursuing a model for citywide use. Implementation expect- ed December 2009.	Dept. of Technology pursuing a model for citywide use. Implementation ex- pected June 2010.	Model is expected to be ready for delivery in Jan 2011.				
5.	Invest resources in training, including a better under- standing of compliance with the Planning Code and Building Code, and building design. Provide time-man- agement training and management tools to manage work performance.	ONGOING	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing	The Dept. Budget for FY 10-11 includes funding for manage- ment training classes offered by DHR, all Planners are re- quired to attend ongoing code training.				

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	II. REVIEW AND APPROVALS											
	Provide more comprehensive, consistent, and timely review of projects											
1.	Streamline the environmental review process:											
	Implement a procedure for streamlining environmental review in neighborhood plan areas (Community Plan Area Streamlining)	IMPLEMENTED	COMPLETE. The Community Plan Exemption process was established.	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE					
	Codify common mitigation measures to ensure compliance and streamline environmental review → Perform outreach to other departments concerning ordinances to implement common mitigation measures → Draft legislation and monitor approval	UNDERWAY; Complete by Winter 2011	Developing ATG ap- proach with MOEWD/ SFCTA/MTA	Selecting vendor for ATG nexus study. Noise mitigation program im- plemented. Identifying additional priorities for development.	Vendor selected for ATG nexus study. Identifying additional priorities for develop- ment.	ATG nexus study underway. Identifying additional priorities for development.	Work is underway and proposed policy and legislative changes are expected in the winter.					
	Review applications for environmental analysis upon intake and identify necessary special studies and level of review	UNDERWAY; Complete by Fall 2010	Fee proposal and legis- lation to be developed this winter	Fee proposal and legis- lation to be developed this spring. Staff analy- sis of applications on intake implemented.	Fee proposal and legis- lation to be developed this fall. Staff analysis of applications on in- take implemented.	Fee proposal and legis- lation to be developed this fall. Staff analysis of applications on in- take implemented.	Fees were established and this effort is now part of the PPA process which is currently being tested.					
	Transition to use of established pool for consultant selec- tion	IMPLEMENTED	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE					
	Modify procedures for simple categorical exemptions in- volving historical resource review	IMPLEMENTED	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE					
	Add planning staff to increase in-house resources for transportation planning	IMPLEMENTED	Seeking Prop K fund- ing; consultant support	Secured Prop K fund- ing. Anticipate full staff- ing by May 2009.	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE					
2.	Establish a single intake application system to provide early and comprehensive information to applicants:											
	 Implement single intake for all Planning cases: → Develop procedures for staging review (including pre-application review) and fee collection from initial intake through filing of final entitlements → Draft legislation and monitor approval of legislation → Develop internal procedures and forms by project type → Training staff → Develop document templates 	WINTER 2008 - WINTER 2010	Initial discussions un- derway	Considering "initial" versus "single" intake	Draft proposal for new, consolidated pre-ap- plication process under review by Advisory Committee	Proposal for consoli- dated pre-application process (Preliminary Project Assessment) near finalization. Implementation pro- gram under develop- ment, with initiation expected early 2010.	Pilot Projects are currently being processed and pending input from Advisory Committee, Stakeholders, Staff, and Planning Commission the process will be rolled out in late 2010.					
	Implement an interdepartmental review committee for major projects	IMPLEMENTED	MOU developed with DBI, Fire	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE					

II. REVIEW AND APPROVALS >

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3.	 Establish a case management system to enhance timely application processing, including management of priority applications, and including enhanced internal and external communication: → Develop case management system recommendation based on re-organization → Training: Standards of public service, role of case manager, procedures, communication with applicants and public → Training: Develop and present case studies on case management 	FALL 2008 - FALL 2010	Initial discussions un- derway	Initial discussions un- derway	Concept developed. Detailed proposal under development.	Concept reviewed and approved. Implementation pro- gram under develop- ment.	This process is being tested as part of the PPA Process.
4.	Track Planning Department conditions of approval through coordination with DBI.	FALL 2008 - FALL 2010	Underway	Standard conditions of approval being reviewed and con- solidated. Coordination with other agencies is underway. Anticipate completion in June 2009.	Standard conditions of approval being reviewed and consoli- dated. Templates and training being prepared. Anticipate completion in December 2009.	Staff has compiled over 300 conditions of approval currently in use and is analyzing their role, simplifying them, and working with DBI to facilitate their enforcement. Anticipate completion in March 2010.	Final draft list of conditions has been complied and will be vetted with Planning Staff. Anticipated completion in December 2010.
5.	Develop a consistent and comprehensive design review process	FALL 2008 - FALL 2010	Initial meeting sched- uled	Draft process flow chart under review	Draft proposal under review by Advisory Committee	Draft proposal under review by Advisory Committee	Process developed and will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee along with the PPA process.
6.	Improve the public experience at the Planning Information Counter:	FALL 2008 - WINTER 2009	Initial meeting sched- uled	Completed training for non-core PIC staff. Addressing organiza- tion issues now.	Implemented a new phone management system. Updated contact information for other departments. Organization issues pending.	Adjusted PIC staff- ing to include senior level planners, in- cluding the Director of Neighborhood Planning, and in- creased staffing levels per shift. Standardized training offered to "ro- tating" PIC staff.	ONGOING
	Establish interdepartmental training for core PIC staff, to include provisions and procedures of relevant departments (e.g., DBI, Fire), so that core PIC staff can effectively ad- dress applicants' and staff's questions	ONGOING				Scheduling quarterly interdepartmental train- ing sessions.	ONGOING
	Clarify regulations regarding window replacement	IMPLEMENTED			COMPLETE	COMPLETE	Window Replacement Standards were finalized and posted on the Department's website.
	Handle triage during initial screening at the IPR station.	COMPLETE				COMPLETE Currently handled by DBI information or in- take stations. Staff will reconsider this concept if the need arises.	COMPLETE

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	III. COMMISSION AND DR									
Enable the Planning Commission to focus on higher-level policy issues										
1.	Reform the DR process, with both the CPC and staff as intended beneficiaries	UNDERWAY - Spring 2011	Proposal drafted for external review	April 2nd Planning Commission hear- ing to adopt policy resolution and initiate amendments to imple- ment Phase I changes. Phase II changes ex- pected in April 2010.	Planning Commission adopted policy resolution and initiated amendments to imple- ment Phase I changes. Board of Supervisors hearings Fall 2009. Phase II changes ex- pected in April 2010.	Board of Supervisors hearings at the Land Use Committee begin October 19, 2009. Phase II changes ex- pected in April 2010.	The Board of Supervisors placed the policy on hold for a year. Efforts will resume in Spring 2011.			
2.	Clarify roles and expectations and improve commu- nication and the working relationship between the Commission, the LPAB, and staff, including senior staff	FALL 2008 - Winter 2009	Not yet initiated	Pending	Pending	Pending	PENDING			
	IV. COMMUNICATION									
	Improve the public experience of the Planning proce	ss through i	mproved commu	nication						
1.	Enhance the Department's web site for ease of use and access to information; develop road map for enhancing web site.	UNDERWAY; Complete by Spring 2011	Underway	Identified issues. Mock-up of proposed web page will be prepared by Summer 2009, with full imple- mentation in Winter 2009.	Mock-up of proposed web page completed. Drafting grant pro- posal to fund needed changes to implement new design.	Applied for and re- ceived Friends of City Planning grant to fund consultant effort to develop a conceptual framework to restruc- ture and redesign the web site. Consultant effort expected to begin early 2010.	Consultant is on board and completion is expected in the Spring 2011.			
2.	Update and simplify forms, handouts, and applications	UNDERWAY; Complete by Spring 2011	Underway	Reviewed over 180 documents and de- leted 60. Identifying resources to update and reformat remaining 120, plus new materi- als. Full implementation in 12 months.	Recruiting and training staff to update forms, handouts, and applica- tions. Full implementa- tion expected to take 24 months.	Staff trained to update all documents. Phase I (Bulletins) in final editing process. Phase II (Applications) and Phase III (Handouts) initiated. Phases I and II expected to be com- plete by January 2010.	Phase I (Bulletins) is complete. Phase II (Applications and Affidavits) is underway. Phase VI (Forms) is largely completed. The project will be complete by May 2011.			
3.	 Develop and implement a communications program → Develop scope for a communications strategy → Improve transparency on Department initiatives and impact to stakeholders → Enhance consistency of communication 	WINTER 2008- SUMMER 2010	Initial concepts devel- oped through Growth Management Strategy	Pending	Phase I will focus on Public Communication and Phase II on Internal Communication. Identified topic areas.	Completed department- wide survey identifying priority topic areas. Initial steps taken to address each priority area.	Communications position was added to the FY 11 budget and hiring is pending.			

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V.	PROJECT MANAGEMENT						0,200				
	Improve Department effectiveness by providing appropriate management structures and oversight										
1.	Develop consistent policies and procedures for open- ing, closing, and reopening cases	UNDERWAY; Complete by Winter 2009	Underway	Draft recommendations will be developed by June 2009	Draft recommendations under internal review	Draft recommendations under internal review.	Draft recommendations under internal review.				
2.	Develop a comprehensive strategy for continued reduc- tion to the backlog	JULY 2008 - JANUARY 2009	Underway	Pending due to eco- nomic changes	Pending due to eco- nomic changes	Pending due to eco- nomic changes	Pending due to economic changes				
3.	Finish work on time and on budget										
	Establish appropriate scope control and communication mechanisms for long-range plans	WINTER 2008 - Fall 2010	Not yet initiated	Identifying projects and mechanisms	Pending	Draft Scope Approval Process developed and undergoing internal review.	Pilot the draft policies and procedures with the Central Subway Corridor planning initiative in Fall 2010.				
4.	Implement an interim strategy to produce meaningful case tracking data based management reports	COMPLETED	Initial meeting sched- uled	Pending	Pending	Effort underway to "scrub" case tracking data in order to ensure meaningful reports, and to prepare for a new system.	Management reports are now available on the Plan Portal. This effort is complete.				
	VI. PRESERVATION										
	Provide more comprehensive, consistent, and timely	review of p	rojects								
1.	Streamline preservation review at the Planning Information Counter	FALL 2008 - Spring 2010	Initial meeting sched- uled	Pending	Pending	Training in historic resources provided to all staff who work PIC shifts.	ONGOING Additional Preservation shifts have been added.				
2.	Increase certainty and consistency of review process	UNDERWAY; Complete by Winter 2009	Underway	Pending	Pending	Training developed for all staff who review potential historic re- sources.	ONGOING , protocols for staff review and consistency have been established.				
3.	Modify procedures for simple categorical exemptions involving historical resource review	IMPLEMENTED	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE Historic Resoources Checklist was created.				
VI	I. GENERAL										
1.	Develop and implement a comprehensive approach to "public benefit" planning and implementation	IMPLEMENTED	Underway; proposal to be developed for consideration with Department FY2010 budget	Proposal included in FY2010 budget submit- tal. Developed scope and responsibilities of Implementation Group. Identifying staffing by Summer 2009.	Drafted work program for FY2010. Formalizing staffing summer 2009.	COMPLETE Implementation Group staffed and working.	COMPLETE				
2.	Increase the General Fund support to the Planning Department	FALL 2008 - SUMMER 2009	Ongoing discussions with Mayor's Office	Ongoing discussions with Mayor's Office	Increased General Fund support achieved in FY2010 budget.	Complete for FY2010	Not Feasible at this time.				