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November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

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San Francisco, CA 94103

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Dear President Olague and Commissioners,

**Secretary**  
Tomiqua Moss

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Transit Center District Plan and Transit Center Tower DEIR. **We believe that the DEIR adequately analyzes the impacts of the Transit Center District Plan and Transit Center Tower.**

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The Transit Center District Plan is critical to the future of San Francisco and the region. San Francisco's downtown is a major regional job center, home to over 250,000 jobs. Unlike other locations in the region, over 50 percent of workers in San Francisco's downtown use a sustainable transportation mode (public transit, walking and bicycling) to get to their jobs. This is largely due to two facts:

1. San Francisco's downtown has the best regional transit access west of the Mississippi.
2. San Francisco's downtown core is dense, compact and walkable.

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The development Transbay Transit Center will build on these successes by creating a world-class multimodal station, including the terminus of Caltrain and California High Speed Rail.

Page S-2 of the DEIR notes that the Planning Department commissioned a study to evaluate future job and housing growth in San Francisco. The study concluded that "...downtown San Francisco would not meet the future demand for office space under existing zoning." **The Transit Center District Plan addresses this critical need by increasing zoning capacity for commercial space.**

We have had the opportunity to review the shadow impacts of the Transit Center District Plan and Transit Center Tower. Page 470 of the DEIR notes: "With one exception, shadow from any given potential building would cover part of any affected Section 295 park for less than 45 minutes per day over a period of time ranging from 4-12 weeks, per year." The exception noted is the shadow to Union Square by the proposed addition to the Palace Hotel on New Montgomery Street.

Table 41 on page 508 shows the potential shadow increases resulting from the plan. **These shadow increases range from .24% to less than .01%.** Even in the case of Union Square, the plan exceeds the existing shadow budget for the park by .2% which is only .5% of the total shadow budget for the park.

We believe the value of this plan to enable the continued development of our walkable transit friendly downtown core outweighs the very small shadow impacts it generates.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Karlinsky  
Deputy Director