



October 20, 2008

Christina Olague, Chair
San Francisco Planning Commission
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94103-2414

Dear Madame President:

On behalf of the Board of the Yerba Buena Alliance, I commend AGI Capital and Avant Housing for the significant community outreach they have accomplished regarding the housing project at 900 Folsom and 260 Fifth Streets. Over the last 12 months, AGI Capital has presented the project at three Yerba Buena Neighborhood meetings (10/4/07, 3/6/08, and 6/5/08). These presentations were designed to solicit community feedback and ensure open communication between the project's sponsors and the members of the Yerba Buena Neighborhood.

Based on community feedback, Avant Housing made significant changes to the project. As a result, the scope of the project (height and bulk) is appropriate for the area, effectively reflecting the changing nature of the community it will impact. The project will bring needed housing, infrastructure improvements (including traffic calming and streetscape and alley improvements), and additional public green space to the area. In addition, the proposed uses are consistent with the mixed-use nature and vision of the Yerba Buena community.

Since 1991 the Yerba Buena Alliance has supported the Yerba Buena Neighborhood by strengthening partnerships, providing critical neighborhood-wide leadership and infrastructure, serving as an information source and forum for the area's diverse residents, businesses, and visitors, and promoting the area as a destination. The Yerba Buena Alliance believes stable and vibrant businesses, beautiful and accessible public spaces, mutually-beneficial and lasting relationships, and an engaged community are key to ensuring a high quality of life in San Francisco and the Yerba Buena Neighborhood.

Avant Housing's proposed project will be a vast improvement to the existing uses and structures on the proposed sites. It is critical for providing improved access to the booming and culturally rich Yerba Buena Neighborhood. I urge you to support this exciting new development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather A. Hoell", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Heather A. Hoell
Executive Director

CC: Planning Commissioners, John Rahaim