



July 18, 2024

(By electronic transmission)
Historical Advisory Board
City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Subject: Revised Draft Alameda Point Design Guidelines for New Buildings.

Dear Boardmembers:

The Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS) has the following comments on the revised guidelines:

1. We would like to thank the Historical Advisory Board (HAB) and staff for incorporating one of our 6/6/24 recommendations into the revised draft.
2. Page 3, and the "Summary of Design Features" section replaces the term "character defining features" with "sympathetic design elements". "Character finding features" should be retained, since this term widely used in the context of the Secretary of Interior Standards and in historic preservation design discussions in general and is clearer and more precise than "sympathetic design elements".
3. Change the following revised text under "Purpose" on page 1 to read (the AAPS recommendations are shown in ~~double strikethrough~~ and double underline):

The main goal of these guidelines is to preserve the existing character of the NAS Historic District by requiring new development to reference the architectural styles and character defining features of contributors to the district. ~~However while avoiding mimicking those contributing structures. In other words,~~ new development should not be confused for being an original building to NAS Alameda, ~~while at the same.~~ New buildings ~~time it~~ while at the same time should not feel out of place and in conflict with the character of the surrounding buildings. This approach is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, which calls for new development impacting a historic resource to be compatible with historic resources while differentiating new buildings and additions from the original buildings.

4. In response to Historical Advisory Board (HAB) comments at the June 6 meeting, the revised draft removes the requirement that infill development in the historic district administrative core comply with the Streamline Moderne architectural style described in the Citywide Design Review Manual. The requirement was removed in response to HAB members request at the 6/6/24 meeting because the administrative core was originally developed in the Federal Moderne architectural style. AAPS's take that as used at the Alameda Point administrative core, there is minimal difference between Streamline Moderne and "Federal Moderne" and that there should still be a requirement that infill development reflect Moderne architecture in some form to give clear guidance to developers and architects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (510) 523-0411 or cbuckleyAICP@att.net if you would like to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher Buckley, Chair
Preservation Action Committee
Alameda Architectural Preservation Society

cc: Allen Tai, Steven Buckley and David Sablan (by electronic transmission)
AAPS Board and Preservation Action Committee (by electronic transmission)