The decision of the City Planning Commission either approving or disapproving an application for a reclassification or a conditional use of property is final unless a valid appeal to the Board of Supervisors is filed in accordance with the procedures listed below. These paragraphs are written to provide a summary of the process. Further details are contained in Planning Code, Section 308.1. In case of conflict between these paragraphs and the Planning Code, the Planning Code provisions control.

Who May File An Appeal:

Any person may file an appeal, provided the notice of appeal is subscribed either by the owners (as shown on the City’s tax records) of at least 20% of the land area described in the next two paragraphs or subscribed by five members of the Board of Supervisors. Street areas do not count in the area calculation. Other government-owned property is not counted unless the government agency concerned is itself a subscriber to the appeal.

If Disapproved:

When a proposed amendment of conditional use has been disapproved by the City Planning Commission, the property affected shall be deemed to be all property within the area that is the subject of the application for amendment or conditional use, and within 300 feet of all exterior boundaries of the property that is the subject of the application.

If Approved:

When a proposed conditional use has been approved by the City Planning Commission, the property affected shall be deemed to be all property within 300 feet of all exterior boundaries of the property for which the conditional use has been approved by the City Planning Commission, excluding the property for which the approval has been given.

NOTE: When a property is held in joint ownership, the signatures of joint owners shall be calculated in accordance with the provisions of Planning Code, Section 308.1(b)4.

Thus, if property is owned jointly by two persons, the signature of only one counts as representing only half of the square footage.
Filing Deadline: In accordance with Planning Code, Section 308.1, the notice of appeal must be filed within 30 calendar days of the date of the Planning Commission’s decision, which normally occurs on a Thursday.

NOTE: If the 30th day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the appeal may be filed before 5:00 p.m. on the next business day.

What to File: The following shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors:

(1 original and 2 hard-copies)  
1) The required Appeal Form (signed by the Appellant/Authorized Agent) may be obtained from the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, (attached);  
2) A copy of the Planning Commission’s Decision;  
3) Any documentation to be included as evidence to support your appeal; and  
4) $665 Appeal Fee, payable to the Planning Department.¹

Administrative Code, Section 31.22 AND Planning Code, Section 350

Fee waiver and refund information is attached.

NOTE: Any materials will become public records, therefore, if any private information is included, Appellant is responsible for redacting such information prior to submission.

Where to File: Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244  
San Francisco, CA  94102

¹ Appeal Fee is subject to annual Consumer Price Index adjustment, as determined by the Controller. Contact the Clerk's Office at (415) 554-5184 or board.of.supervisors@sfgov.org to confirm current Appeal Fee.
Hearing Date:

Once the Appeal is determined ripe and timely, the Clerk will notify the appellant of the date, time, and place for the hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

Appeal hearings are scheduled at regular meetings of the full Board of Supervisors not less than 10 nor more than 30 days of the appeal filing. Appeals are scheduled on the last Tuesday within the 30 day period at 3:00 p.m.

Due to the fact that appeal hearings are scheduled from the date of filing, it is possible to have a hearing date scheduled before or very near the appeal filing deadline. If the Clerk of the Board receives additional appeal filings before the filing deadline, the initial hearing may be continued to not less than 10 nor more than 30 days.

No Committee hearing is held.

Hearing Notice:

20 days prior to the hearing, the appellant shall provide the names and addresses of the interested parties to be notified in spreadsheet format.

The Clerk sends notices to the appellant, owners of the subject property, owners of all properties within 300 feet, and other interested persons who request notification from the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

Additional Documentation:

Any additional documentation the appellant would like the Board members to consider must be delivered to the Clerk no later 12:00 p.m., 11 days prior to the hearing.

Decision:

The Board of Supervisors may disapprove the action of the Planning Commission by vote of not less than two-thirds of all members of the Board (8 votes).
Continuances:

Only the Board of Supervisors (not the Clerk of the Board) can continue or grant a written request for continuance of the appeal hearing.

A written request must be submitted by both parties, in advance, for the Board’s consideration.

A continuance may also occur if less than a full Board is expected to be present on a hearing date.

The Board may not continue the hearing for more than 90 days from the date of filing of the appeal, pursuant to Planning Code, Section 308.1(c).

Contact:

Office of the Clerk of the Board
(415) 554-5184