Civic Design
Concept Phase Narrative

November 16, 2015

Project Background

As part of the Terminal 1 Redevelopment Program, San Francisco International Airport (SFO) will be demolishing key facilities currently located within the South Field portion of its airfield in order to expand Terminal 1. These facilities include (among others) SFO's Ground Transportation Unit & Radio Shop (GTU), its City & County of San Francisco Fueling Station, and a 2-bay Vehicular Wash Station for use by Airport Commission vehicles. Each of these facilities will be replaced with a new facility to be co-located at SFO's Plot 700. In order to vacate the South Field area by July 1st, Phase I of construction work at Plot 700 will include the construction of a "Temporary" GTU, permanent Fueling Station, and a permanent Vehicular Wash. Phase II work will include the construction of the Permanent GTU facility. A future Phase III of work will include the construction of a new Bus Maintenance Facility (BMF) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Fueling Station.

Site Design

The GTU Facility is responsible for inspecting and licensing all commercial vehicles that operate within SFO's campus including taxis, limos, and shuttle buses. As such, vehicular throughput and ease of access are critical to the GTU's successful operation. Our site design for Plot 700 responds to both the GTU and BMF's vehicular circulation and challenging parking requirements. Our approach locates a new fuel station and future CNG station along the site's northern edge for ease of access while siting the BMF and GTU along the site's western edge to maximize parking and circulation area.

Building Concept

The GTU building's form and orientation respond both to natural site conditions (sun and wind) as well as the industrial mega-scale of the airport campus. The building's south-facing courtyard is shielded from western winds while creating a quiet, landscaped "oasis" for staff and customers. Supporting this approach, the building's western facade will be primarily solid to minimize heat gain, while it's southern façade will be a more transparent skin—protected by sun-shading but communicating a welcome openness to it's annually returning customers. Rooftop solar panels, high-efficiency building systems, HVAC filtration systems, and a rain-screen panelized building skin will all combine to make this LEED-Gold building a model of both energy efficiency and sustainable building technology.