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## BAY AREA

# Plan to Use Treasure Island As Homeless Housing Site

*By John King*  
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A 30-year conversion plan for Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island that includes an ambitious homeless housing effort passed muster yesterday with a key city committee.

The plan earmarks 375 of the Navy's 1,100 residential units on both islands as transitional housing for homeless families after the base closes next year. The homeless people would be trained for jobs and operate such businesses on the island as a restaurant, a convenience store and a janitorial service.

The plan would be implemented along with more lucrative proposals as a theme park and three hotels — although much of the commercial development would not be completed until at least the second decade of the next century, planners say.

The innovative approach was applauded by the Rules Committee of the Board of Supervisors, which said that using the spectacular mid-Bay site to fight homelessness should not detract from its

overall future. Similar arguments were made by people who have participated in the two years of public meetings about the islands.

"This is a way to create a new San Francisco neighborhood that can work, a collaborative community for both poor people and the wealthy," said Josh Brandon, a representative of the Treasure Island Homeless Development Initiative, a consortium of 14 groups.

The plan goes to the full board next Monday. If approved, it will be presented to the federal government and will serve as the basis for an environmental impact report.

Mayor Willie Brown and other city officials say the plan must be viewed in its entirety.

When asked yesterday about the wisdom of setting aside 30 percent of the base for homeless housing efforts, Brown said: "I don't think there's anything wrong with that (homeless housing)." At the same time, he stressed, "I don't want Treasure Island to get the title of being the homeless shelter for San Francisco. That would destroy its potential."

Herb Caen is taking the day off.