



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET-4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

September 11, 2006

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Agenda Date: October **11, 2006**

Item #: 7

Time: After 9 AM

APN: 038-061-07

Application: 04-0650

Subject: A public hearing to consider an appeal **of** the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve application **04-0650**; a proposal **to** recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Members of the Commission:

This item is an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's 11/18/05 decision to approve the above listed application and was heard before your Commission on 1/11/06. At that time, you decided to hear the appeal but continued consideration of the appeal to 2/22/06 and directed staff to assemble all of the information available regarding the site and the development permit proposal. At the 2/22/06 public hearing your Commission continued the item to the 3/8/06 agenda at the applicant's request. At the 3/8/06 public hearing your Commission reviewed the information and the item was continued to the 7/26/06 public hearing to allow for adequate time for the preparation of a geotechnical investigation to address slope stability issues and for Planning Department staff to review this technical information. The item has subsequently been continued to 10/11/06 allow for additional time for the completion of required testing due to an abnormally wet rainy season and for Planning Department staff to review the geotechnical investigation.

The applicant submitted a geotechnical investigation with a slope stability analysis on 8/29/06 (Exhibit 4B). This technical report has been reviewed by Planning Department staff (Exhibit 4A). The submitted report indicates that there is evidence of settling and down-slope creep of existing fill material that has been placed on the project site over time. The report notes that the existing retaining wall appears to be failing, with some piers already undermined and the lagging between the piers appears to be bowed out due to loads from behind the wall. Pavement cracking and separation are also noted as a result of down-slope *creep* or settlement.

The report recommends replacement of the portions of the existing wall that have failed **or** complete replacement with a wall of improved design. A drainage trench is also recommended behind the existing wall to allow the slope the drain and to increase site stability. Erosion control and further drainage improvements are also recommended.

Planning Department Review

The geotechnical investigation has been reviewed by Planning Department staff (Exhibit 4A). This review has identified that the report does not properly evaluate the stability of the project site or the slopes relative to the existing structure. Standard methods exist for determining static and pseudo-static factors of safety, and these methods were not adhered to in the preparation of this report. The report bases the factor of safety on an assumption that the site must have a factor of safety at or near one because it is not currently failing at a rapid rate.

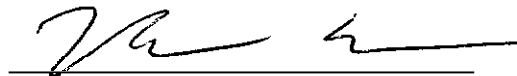
Regardless of the methods used to prepare the report, the results of the report indicate that the slopes on the project site do not meet the factors of safety typically accepted by the County. Even with the inclusion of a deep drainage trench, as recommended by the project geotechnical engineer, the factors of safety do not increase to an acceptable level.

A memo has been prepared by Planning Department staff which describes the deficiencies in the geotechnical investigation (Exhibit 4A). Additional geotechnical analysis, using proper methods for determining static and pseudo-static slope stability, with additional recommendations for the repair of the failing retaining wall is necessary to properly complete the review of the geotechnical investigation.

Recommendation

Planning staff recommends that your Commission **CONTINUE** the public hearing for Application Number **04-0650** to 12/13/06 allow for the completion of further geotechnical review and recommendations, with review of the revised information by Planning Department staff.

Sincerely,



Randall Adams
Project Planner
Development Review

Reviewed By: 
Mark Deming
Assistant Director
Planning Department

Exhibits:

- 4A. Soils Report Review Comments, prepared by Joe Hanna (County Geologist) & Kent Edler (Civil Engineer), dated 9/20/06
- 4B. Soils Report with Slope Stability Analysis (Summary), prepared by Terra Firma Engineering & Science, dated 8/25/06.
- 4C. Letter to the Planning Commission, 7/26/06 public hearing, with Exhibits.

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 20, 2006
To: Randall Adams, Planner
From: Joe Hanna, County Geologist & Kent Edler, Civil Engineer
Re: Comments on Soils Report by Terra Firma Engineering and Science
Application 04-0650 - Zar Alvin Sr Trustees Etal

We have reviewed the subject report and have the following comments:

1. The soils report does not provide an assessment of the existing building or correlate affects of slope stability in relation to the structure.
2. Additional sampling and testing should be done in the vicinity of x-sections C-C, D-D, and E-E, in order to aid in both stability analyses and recommendations for possible site mitigations (i.e. retaining wall(s)).

Note: The report also recommends additional sampling and testing to better assess slope stability. Terra Firma needs to more clearly define where and what additional sampling and testing is needed.

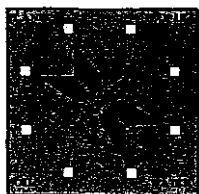
3. The slope stability analyses should be **based** upon the sampling and test results of existing soil conditions to provide existing static and pseudo-static factors of safety (f.s.). Once the existing factors of safety have been determined, mitigation measures (retaining wall(s), subdrains, etc.) can be inserted to analyze their affects on increasing the overall slope stability to acceptable levels (static f.s. > 1.5, pseudo static f.s. > 1.2). The stability analyses should be based upon the methods outlined in "Recommended Procedures for Implementation of DMG Special Publication 117" published by SCEC.

Instead, the Terra Firma report bases the stability analyses on an assumption that the site is stable and adjusts strength parameters and water levels to obtain a factor of safety of 1.0, then analyzes the affects of a "deep drainage trench on the overall stability. This method is inherently flawed in that the existing slope may (and **most** likely does) have a factor of safety less than 1.0 (a slope with a factor of safety of less than 1.0 may not be actively failing). Additionally, Terra Firma's report states "creep, and/or settlement, and/or deflection of the retaining wall may continue in the future", thus indicating that an assumption of an existing factor of safety of 1.0 is not a reasonable assumption.

In addition, even if we were to accept the **stability** analyses with an assumption of a factor of safety of 1.0, the addition of the proposed "deep drainage trench" would not bring the

factors of safety up to the static factor of safety of 1.5 which is required by the County of Santa Cruz. (Note: the Terra Firma report did not provide pseudo-static slope stability analyses and must do *so*)

4. The soils profiles (for instance – the inflection points in bedrock profile) used in the stability analyses shown on pages 12-23 do not appear to match the soils profiles indicated on Plates 2, 3, 4, and 5.
5. The soils report should provide more recommendations (foundation design considerations, anticipated active and passive pressures, tie-back requirements, etc.) to repair the failing retaining walls.
6. The report must evaluate the sufficient stability of the face of the slope and demonstrate that face is stable during both dry and wet conditions. A typical method of examining the stability of the face of the slope would be to conduct an infinite slope procedure with seepage parallel to the **slope's** surface (see Taylor, D. W. (1948) Fundamentals of Soils Mechanics, Wiley, Hoboken, NJ.)



Dear Mr. Zar, at your request I conducted a field investigation and office analysis for the site at 2000 McGregor Drive during the spring and summer of 2006. The scope of work you requested was to assess site slope stability and the 1996 Grading Plan. The scope of work did not include any assessment of the existing building.

Site Description

The portion of the property investigated is the developed part of the parcel. Figure 1 is a site vicinity map and Plate 1 is a topographic map of the site showing the existing slopes, parking area, terraced areas and the office building.

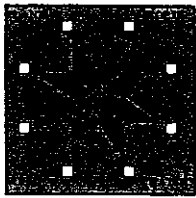
McGregor Drive provides access to the site. McGregor is a wide two lane frontage road that parallels Highway 1. Highway 1 is four lanes and about 100 feet from the property. Highway 1 and McGregor intersects Borregas Creek at approximately a 90 degree angle with the creek traveling under both roads in culverts.

The site is located on the slopes above Borregas Creek, on the east side of the Creek. The slopes of the creek bank, to the retaining wall above, range in steepness from 40 to 50° degrees; or horizontal to vertical ratio of 0.8 : 1 to 1.2 : 1. Above the retaining wall are a parking lot on the north, and terraced areas to the south. The office building is located along the eastern edge of the site

The upper portions of the slopes are primarily vegetated with grasses and low plants. The lower slopes have low plants, briars, and at some locations low trees.

Site History and the 1996 Grading Plan

A sewer line was constructed on the slope, in the 1950.s, and was later buried under 12 feet to 15 feet of fill. The site was used as a nursery during the 1960.s through the 1980.s which included office / sales area with a bathroom. During the 1990.s the site was used for mixed commercial purposes and living units. In 1996 the County of Santa Cruz contracted your company J.R. Zar Contracting to undertake a grading project to locate and raise the buried sewer manhole and to restore access, via the manhole to the sewer. The project was completed on February 22, 1997 and signed off by the County of Santa Cruz in June of 1997. In 2004 all living units were removed and the property is being used for mixed commercial.



The County of Santa Cruz 1996-Plan sheets are comprised of two pages; copies are in Appendix 1. The extent of the proposed grading and the location of a proposed retaining wall are also shown on Plate 1.

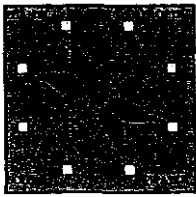
When the 1996-Plan was prepared the exact location of the sewer access manhole was not known as indicated by the note on the plan 'Manhole To be Found & Raised As Neceassry'. The difference between the 1996-Plan location of the manhole and the actual location can be seen on Plate 1 as 13 feet from the assumed location; 10 feet different parallel to Section 3.

The 1996-Plan therefore appears to be conceptual, showing an intended result, rather than being a carefully detailed construction document.

The location of the 1996-Plan retaining wall is therefore also inferred to be conceptual. It is not possible to say at this time what happened during construction. There may have been many reasons, besides the uncertain location of the manhole, why the scope of work changed during construction. The search for the manhole almost certainly required much more excavation than was originally intended or planned to locate the manhole. Soft soils may have been encountered that needed to be replaced in order to gain access to the missing manhole. Simple expediency in completing the project may have resulted in the changed height and location of the retaining wall. The project was completed in 1996.

Reynolds and Associates conducted a site investigation and made recommendation for site grading in their letter report dated April 17, 1996, at the time the 1996-Plan was prepared by the County of Santa Cruz.

Reynolds and Associates conducted construction inspections of the 1996 grading project and concluded (letter of May 27, 1997) 'It is our opinion that the slope reconstruction has been adequately compacted and completed.' Reynolds did not conduct observation of the construction of the retaining wall or final compaction for pavement. Cone Penetrometer (CPT) Soundings were conducted in the parking lot in May of 2006 and identified a contact between upper compacted soils and looser soils below. The depth of the contact appears to fit with the profile Reynolds recommended for benching and placement of compacted. The CPT logs are in Appendix 2.

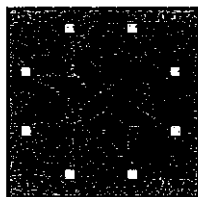


Soils Stratigraphy Based on Field Data

Based on the sub-surface soil investigation conducted in 2006 (described in Appendix 2), the site has a history of having fill materials placed (or dumped) on the creek bank and slopes. Underlying the loose surface soils or colluvium is firm native soil or bedrock.

The soil profiles encountered during field work and the nature of the site indicate that present site was formed by:

- 1) In geologic time the creek was incised by natural processes into native soils comprised of clays, silty-clays, silty-sands, and sands. Firm bedrock is likely to be near the bottom of the creek, and appears to be comprised of silt and sand and is partially indurated, and firm. Native soil forming the surficial layer of the banks and slopes above the creek are/were probably comprised of soft weathered soil, colluvium, and possibly channel and/or flood plain deposits.
- 2) During more recent times, un-controlled fills of a substantial thickness appears to have been place or dumped onto the creek bank over the native soils. The fill materials appear to be comprised of soils similar to the native soil. It seems possible, if not likely, that the fill could easily have been derived from nearby areas. **Spoils** from the construction of McGregor Drive or Highway 1, from sewer construction, or from grading of residential or commercial projects could have ended up at the site. From the fieldwork done, it is not possible to tell where the boundary between soft native soils and fill is as all the soils are fine grained and no distinctive marker beds were observed. Also, it was not possible to determine if the fill or native-weathered-topsoils are layered, or form irregular zones without lateral continuity.
- 3) In **1996** an engineered **fill** was constructed creating the upper-most portion of the soil profile comprised of compacted silty-clayey sands and silty-sandy clays. These compacted soils are approximately 3 feet to 12 feet thick with the thickest part being closest to the top of the slope and being thinner closer to the existing building and McGregor Drive. The soils compacted in 1996 are denser and stronger than the underlying soils; until the depth of the lower firm native sands (described above) are encountered.
- 4) One soil boring was constructed at the back of the office building. Soils at this location were considerably different than those found at the front of the building. The soils observed were generally lighter in color and contained considerably more sand below a depth of 6 feet. These soils were saturated and soft. Sandy soils were identified during the soil investigation conducted on the adjacent parcel, by Jacobs / Raas and Associates (March 2, 1988, Geotechnical



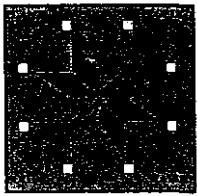
Investigation First Alarm Building). Reynolds and Associates also identified sandy soils at the southern end of the site during their **1996** investigation. It appears possible that clayey fill soils identified on the opposite side of the building may end toward the southern end of the property and along the property line. Groundwater present in the sandy soils on the flatter adjacent parcel appears to be held back by the finer grained (generally clayey) fill soils on the creek-bank-slope. The finer grained fill soils on the subject property may be acting like a dam.

Existing Site Slope-Stability-- Based on Visual Observations

From March through August of 2006 field observations were made at the site. For analysis, the site has been divided into five cross-sections lines as shown on Plates 1 to 5. The locations where visual observations were made are identified by the cross-section lines.

1) Sections 1 to 2—

- a) In the parking lot there are indications that down-slope creep (or settlement) occurred sometime during the last 10 years. These indications include:
- b) The protrusion of dead-man piers in the parking area. The dead-man are set-back 12 to 18 feet from the face of the existing retaining wall. The protrusion of the piers indicates that the soil around the dead-men has moved down either due to consolidation of the underlying soils, vertical down-slope displacement, or a combination of both.
- c) There are arcuate cracks in the pavement (parallel to the top of slope) starting at the retaining wall and progressing back to near the office building. Most of the cracking and vertical offset is within the space from the retaining wall to the dead-men, with a smaller amount of pavement cracking and vertical offset from the dead-men to the building. It appears that possibly 3 to 12 inches of vertical movement may have occurred at the retaining wall, but quantification is uncertain **as** the as-built grades are not known.
- d) Sections of the existing retaining-wall lagging were bowed outward, indicating the wall lagging is approaching its capacity to retain the soil behind the wall.
- e) Down-slope of the site, above the creek bank, and near the head wall for the culvert (under McGregor Drive), a surficial slope failure had occurred. The slip is 2 to 3 feet deep and extends about 1/4 to 1/3 of the slope distance **up** the hill. Other surficial slips may be present in the **slopes** under the vegetation
- f) At the base of the existing wood retaining wall along the length of the parking area is a concrete footing extends beyond the face of the wood piers about a foot, and extends behind the wall 3 to 4 feet (based on photographs made during construction). Although there is some separation of the soil below the footing from the footing, the separation does not extend more than 6 to 8 inches back and is at most about 1 inch and typically about



1/4 inch. The lack of greater separation seems to indicate surficial slope failure at the face of the wall has not occurred.

2) Section 2 to 3 —

From the parking lot to the sewer manhole the concrete flat-work slopes down-slope slightly at several locations. The slope may have been built-in, or may be due to settlement, or due to slope-movement. The sewer manhole flatwork appears to be intact, with little or no settlement having occurred around the manhole and attached pipe.

3) Section 3 to 4 —

From the sewer manhole to across a garden terrace above the existing retaining wall, one of the wood post supporting the retaining wall has completely lost its embedment and an adjacent post has partially lost its embedment. The retaining wall in this area has failed. Gravel backfill behind the failed wall has move down-slope. The embedment of the two post was only about 4 feet, based on the observed bottom of the failed post.

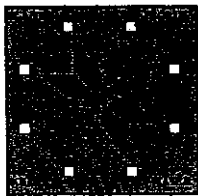
5) Section 4 to 5 — evidence of surface movement was not observed.

6) Overall. Section 1 to 5 —

The existing wood retaining wall vanes in height from ground surface to about 4 1/2 feet, with the typical height being about 3 to 3 1/2 feet to the top of the concrete footing. The wall appears to have been constructed at one time, as the materials used are uniform in type and dimensions. The materials also appear to be uniformly weathered and deteriorated. Most of the wood piers are close to vertical. However, wood lagging between the piers is bowed at many locations.

Based on the field observations, the field data collected, and the laboratory tests conducted the following conclusions can be inferred:

7) The site currently appears to be stable but may have, in the past experienced, slow down-slope creep and/or vertical consolidation of the soil, along the extent of the retaining wall. This creep, and/or settlement, and/or deflection of the retaining wall may continue in the future or the soils may have already stabilized.



8) The existing retaining wall:

- a) was not adequately constructed at some locations;
- b) may be contributing to the pavement cracking by deflecting outward;
- c) is likely to need reinforcement or replacement at some locations in the near future; and
- d) is likely to need complete replacement at some time in the not to distant future (5 to 10 years) due to the limited life expectancy of wood embedded in soil.

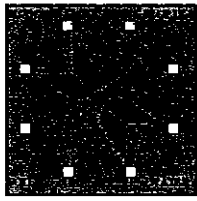
Slope Stability Analyses

Slope stability analyses were conducted to compare mitigation alternatives.

The analyses discussed are for the overall site. The analyses done show that shallow surface failures of the slopes below the retaining wall are possible. Shallow slope failures could undermine the existing retaining wall and cause local failures of the wall. Also, there is insufficient information about the construction of the existing wall to do stability analyses for the portion of the slopes immediately adjacent the retaining wall.

The defining **assumption** for the analyses done is that the site is presently subject to slope movement. Although there is evidence that slope movement occurred in the past as discussed in the previous section of this report, it is not certain the movement is occurring now. Thus the **assumption** is a starting point that may underestimate the true slope. At the present time, even after the very heavy rainfall in the spring of 2006 which triggered many landslides in the County, the subject site does not appear to show signs of further movement. If long term monitoring of the site to assess slope movement is conducted, and the results found that movement was not happening, then the slope models could be adjusted to show at least 10% more stability.

The modeling analyses done compare the slope stability of the existing site to a mitigated site. The proposed mitigation is the installation of a drainage trench system. The affect of the mitigation is to provide a physical short-cut to what probably happens naturally at the site. What presently appears to occur is that during periods of precipitation groundwater accumulates at the site and on the adjacent parcel and then migrates slowly through the fine-grained soils at the site. In August of 2006 the slopes below the site retaining wall were still mostly green indicating that water is still moving through the site and providing water to the vegetation. The low vegetation on the slopes on the opposite side of the creek is mostly brown, dried, and dead. The proposed drainage trench is expected reduce the total seasonal increase in



groundwater in the fill, and reduce the duration of higher water levels, thus reducing settlement, and slope movement.

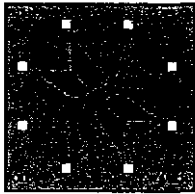
The comparison tool used to assess slope stability is the Factor of Safety (FS). The Factor of Safety is the ratio of resisting forces to driving forces. A Factor of Safety of one ($FS=1$) indicates mathematically that the forces tending to move the slope down hill are balanced by the forces tending to keep the slope in place. A Factor of Safety of slightly less than one does not mean that the site slopes will fail catastrophically; rather it is likely to mean that some creep down the hill will occur. Similarly, a Factor of Safety of greater than one does not mean that no creep will occur; rather it is likely to mean that slower creep down the hill will occur.

The true Factor of Safety for this site is indeterminate due to a number of factors including:

- a) highly variable subsurface soils;
- b) difficulty in assessing long-term cohesive strength of soils; and
- c) difficulty in assessing the nature of groundwater migration through the soils.

The starting points, for doing the comparative slope analyses in this report, was to derive site models that had $FS=1$. The existing site conditions were input into a computer program, and then the parameters such as soil strength, subsurface orientation of soil layers, and groundwater elevation were adjusted until an $FS=1$ was calculated for each section. Very little changing of the data was needed to get to a $FS=1$ once a uniform method of adjusting field data to drained soil strength was determined. The assumed difference between field strength measured and drained shear strength used in the analyses was to divide the average field strength determined by Cone Penetrometer (CPT) soundings in half. The reduction by $1/2$ was based on the laboratory testing done for the project and the modeling results. At locations where collecting CPT data was not possible, the Standard Penetration Test (SPT) data was correlated to the CPT data and shear strengths based on the corresponding values were used. Although this procedure sounds complicated, the data derived from the CPT soundings is virtually continuous through the soil profile, is substantially more accurate than SPT data, and substantially more reproducible, in the my professional opinion. CPT logs are shown in Appendix 2.

Soils strength were adjusted in a manner which tended to minimized the potential benefit of the proposed drainage trench. Specifically cohesion was increased rather than friction angle, or friction angle was decreased to a minimum realistic value before cohesion was decreased.



Based on the models which have a starting points of $FS = 1$, the following improvements occur if a deep drainage trench is installed. The assumed drainage trench is about 16 feet deep in the parking lot area and 12 feet deep elsewhere. Pages 12 to 23 show the stability analyses.

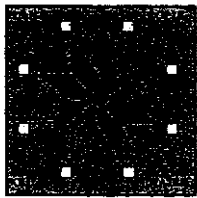
Section 1-- $FS = 1.00$ goes to $FS = 1.32$
Section 2-- $FS = 1.00$ goes to $FS = 1.34$
Section 3-- $FS = 1.00$ goes to $FS = 1.24$
Section 4-- $FS = 0.99$ goes to $FS = 1.24$
Section 5-- $FS = 1.00$ goes to $FS = 1.11$

The least certainty is for Section 5 where no subsurface investigation was conducted. The work done but Reynolds and Associates (1996) and Jacobs and Associates (1988), tends to indicate that the underlying firm bedrock is closer to the surface at the south end of the site and therefore the stability for Section 5 may be better than what has been calculated in this report.

Factors of safety for earthquake loads are higher than 1.2 if the full short-term undrained-strength is used for the analyses. The higher short-term strength is likely to be available for the short term loading applied during an earthquake.

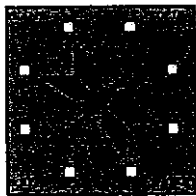
RECOMENDATIONS

- 1) A control-point survey-program could be conducted to monitor whether the site is still subject to down-slope movement, or consolidation. If long term monitoring found that movement was *not* happening the Factor of Safety could be adjusted to show at least 10% more stability, in my opinion.
- 2) Additional subsurface soil sampling and testing could provide a better basis for assessing slope stability. This would be an expensive program as the sampling and testing would have to be extensive and sophisticated.
- 3) A drainage trench could be installed to a depth of about 16 feet in the parking lot, as close to the building as feasible. The trench would angle toward the sewer manhole to a final depth 2 to 3 feet above the sewer pipe. The drainage trench should also extend to the south end of the building and would drain toward the sewer manhole with a depth of 10 to 12 feet. Deeper trenches could be constructed further increasing site stability, but would be more difficult to construct due to the location of the sewer pipe.



- 4) The existing retaining wall should be repaired where it has failed. Deeper piers, possibly with tie-backs should be installed at the location of the failed piers and probably extend at least a distance of two-piers on either side of the failed part of the wall. Stronger lagging should be also be installed. The remainder of the wall should probably be replaced during the next 5 to 10 years with deeper piers and tie-backs.
- 5) The parking area should be sealed and maintained to prevent water from infiltrating into, the soil below.
- 6) Permeable surfaces elsewhere on the site should be covered with impermeable flatwork wherever possible.
- 7) Drainage should be improved and the water carried to a location near the creek where it will not erode the slope. Erosion control measures will be needed at the outlets of drainage pipes.
- 8) The slope below the retaining wall should be vegetated with Redwood trees or some other type of vegetation with extensive root systems and high evapo-transpiration rates. If redwood trees are planted, they should be watered for several years until established and then pruned to maintain a maximum height of 10 to 15 feet.
- 9) If you require greater certainty **for** overall slope stability a system of deep piers extending 10 to 15 feet into bedrock with tie-backs could be installed. You will need to have access to the slopes below the retaining wall to construct an access road sufficiently wide to install the tie-backs. This will be an expensive repair. The cost will probably be in excess of \$300,000 and could much higher. The actual cost will depend on the final design for the wall, which will require further investigation to optimize the depth of embedment of the deep piers and to determine the depth of embedment of tie-backs.

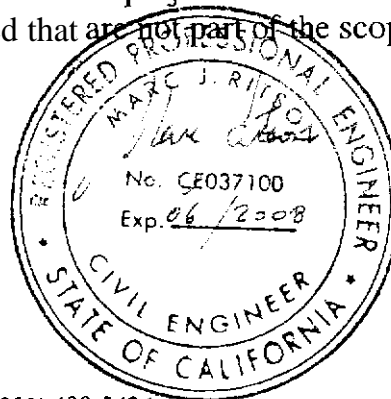
The above recommendations are general and not sufficient **for** construction or design. Please contact Terra Firma for specific recommendations.



LIMITATIONS AND UNIFORMITY OF CONDITIONS

1. The recommendations of this report are based upon professional opinions about site conditions. For the purpose of preparing this report, the findings, and the recommendations it has been assumed that the soil conditions do not deviate from those identified during the subsurface investigation. If any variations or undesirable conditions are encountered in the future from that described in this report, our firm should be notified so that supplemental recommendations can be given.
2. This report is issued with the understanding that it is the responsibility of the owner, or his representative, to insure that the information and recommendations contained herein are called to the attention of the Architects and Engineers for the project and incorporated into the plans, and that the necessary steps are taken to insure that the Contractors and Subcontractors carry out such recommendations in the field.
3. The findings of this report are valid as of the present date. However, changes in the conditions of a property can occur with the passage of time, whether they are due to natural process or the works of man, on this or adjacent properties. In addition, changes in applicable or appropriate standards occur, whether they result from legislation or the broadening of knowledge. Accordingly, the findings of this report may be invalidated, wholly or partially, by changes outside of the control. This report should therefore be reviewed in light of future planned construction and then current applicable codes.
4. This report was prepared upon your request for our services in accordance with currently accepted standards of professional engineering practice. No warranty as to the contents of this report is intended, and none shall be inferred from the statements or opinions expressed.
5. The scope of our services was mutually agreed upon for this project. Terra Firma is not responsible if problems arise for conditions encountered that are ~~not part of~~ the scope of work for the project.

Marc Ritson
Registered Civil Engineer 37 100



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APPLICATION NO. 04-0650

STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

EXHIBIT 4C



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET - 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

July 12, 2006

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Agenda Date: July 26, 2006

item #: 7

Subject: A public hearing to consider an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve application 04-0650; a proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Members of the Commission:

This item is an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's 11/18/05 decision to approve the above listed application and was heard before your Commission on 1/11/06. At that time, you decided to hear the appeal but continued consideration of the appeal to 2/22/06 and directed staff to assemble all of the information available regarding the site and the development permit proposal. At the 2/22/06 public hearing your Commission continued the item to the 3/8/06 agenda at the applicant's request.

Your Commission reviewed the information provided at the 3/8/06 public hearing and the item was continued to the 7/26/06 public hearing to allow for adequate time for the preparation of a geotechnical investigation to address slope stability issues and for Planning Department staff to review this technical information. Due to the abnormally wet rainy season it was not possible to perform the required borings and lab analysis in a timely manner, per the applicant's geotechnical engineer (Exhibit 3A). As a result of the delay in borings and lab analysis, the applicant's geotechnical engineer has not been able to complete the geotechnical investigation and the applicant has requested a continuance to August or September. Per the correspondence received from the applicant's engineer it appears as though progress has been made in preparing the geotechnical investigation requested by your Commission. Due to the need for Planning Department staff to review the geotechnical investigation and a prior scheduling conflicts for the appellant's attorney, it is recommended that this item be continued until the first meeting in October.

Recommendation

Planning staff recommends that your Commission **CONTINUE** the public hearing for Application Number **04-0650** to 10/11/06 allow for the completion of the geotechnical investigation and review by Planning Department staff.

Sincerely,

Randall Adams
Project Planner
Development Review

Reviewed By:

Cathy Graves
Principal Planner
Development Review

Exhibits:

- 3A.** Letter from Randy Zar, dated 7/10/06, with attachments & Correspondence from appellant's attorney, dated 7/12/06
- 3B.** Letter to the Planning Commission, 3/8/06, with Exhibits

Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

July 10, 2006

SUBJECT: Appeal of Application 04-0650 (Randy Zar & Aviar Trust)

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am requesting that you continue this matter for these reasons stated in this letter. You last heard this appeal at your hearing of March 8, 2006. At that time you continued your consideration of this appeal **to** your meeting of July 26, 2006. You also directed that I have a Geotechnical Report completed **for** Planning staff review and cost estimates prepared for any slope stabilization work **6** weeks prior to the next meeting. I immediately hired a geotechnical engineer but we encountered record rainfalls in March and April that slowed our progress. I also understand that the work of County Planning's geologist has been similarly affected by the effects of the high rainfall events during the beginning of the year and he may need more time to review the geotechnical report when it is submitted.

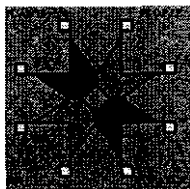
Please find the attached letter from the geotechnical engineer explaining where we are with the reports. For these reasons, I am requesting that the Planning Commission continue this matter to one of its meetings in August or September 2006. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Randy Zar
Trustee, **Aviar** Living Trust

Attachment: 1

cc: Randall Adams
Kim Tschantz
Dave Imai



**TERRA
FIRMA
Engineering
and Science**

July 6, 2006

Randy Zar
2000 McGregor Drive, Aptos, Ca 95001

Dear Randy, at your request I have prepared a description of the project progress. The project was slowed significantly by the almost continuous rainfall during March and April of 2006, and the lack of availability of drillers after the rains ended. Also, the laboratory testing program has taken a long time as a) the laboratory also had a rush after the rains ended; and b) the samples needed to be tested 'drained'. The samples tested have a significant clay content and the time required to drain the samples during testing was long.

- 1) I met with you at the site in March of 2006 and you requested me to work on the project..
- 2) Due to continued rainfall during March and April of 2006, field work could not be conducted until the end of April.
- 3) On April 26, field work started and we were able to do Cone Penetrometer Testing.
- 4) At the beginning of May, Cenozoic Drilling augered and collected samples in the parking lot.
- 5) Cenozoic returned in the middle of May to use there hand-operated portable drilling-rig in areas inaccessible to the truck mounted drilling-rig.
- 6) Soil Sample were submitted to Copper Testing Laboratory shortly thereafter. The testing of the samples is almost completed and results should be available in the next day or two.
- 7) Carey Edmonson (surveyor) prepared a topographic map of the site which was completed in the middle of May.

When I have the test results back I will be able to do detailed slope stability analyses and complete a written report for the project. Unfortunately this is the busiest part of the year for me. I expect that I will need about a month to do engineering analyses of the site, possible remediation schemes, and complete the report.

Marc Ritson
Registered Civil Engineer No. 37100

1
TEL (831) 438-3216 • FAX (831) 438-5426
755 Weston Road • Scotts Valley • California • 95066
e-mail ritson@terra-firma.org

Randall Adams

From: J.R. ZAR INC [jr@jrzar.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2006 12:05 PM
To: Randall Adams; Joseph Hanna
Cc: Kim T; Dave Imai; Marc Ritson
Subject: 2000 McGregor Drive At cost project #13918



lab schedule (2).doc

May 25th 2006

Randall Adams
Santa Cruz County Planning Dept

Hi Randall

Here is an update **to** what is going on with the soils testing on the 2000 McGregor Drive, Aptos CA project

ENGINEERS:

Geotechnical: Terra Firma Engineering and Science (Marc Ritson) Please see attached letter.

The geotechnical testing has been completed. The core samples are still being tested at the lab. I will be sending a attached letter explaining why it is taking so long for these samples to be processed.

Civil: Terra Firma Engineering and Science. No drawing yet we are waiting for the lab work to be complete.

CPT Testing was done by Fisch Drilling They did a total of six Geoprobes in parking area

Core samples were were completed by Cenozoic Exploration Total of four borings were done two in front and two in the the rear portion of the property.

A additional two boring were done by Terra Firma Engineering and Science in the rear.

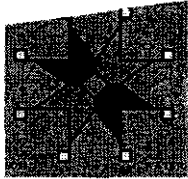
Land Surveying: Cary Edmundson & Associates: Land surveying of the slope County Right of way & the Parcel is complete and has been turned over to soils engineer.

As per Marc's letter we are just waiting on the lab testing which should be done well before the July 21st meeting but short of the six weeks prior that the planning Dept requested.

Also I want to let you know that all of this work has been done by the watchful eye of Jarl Saal. I have invited him to watch and have been talking with him. We are going the extra mile with this to make sure we have plenty of data to backup the engineering that will be done when all the test results are in. We want to be able to go into this next meeting with everything that was asked of us.

Please keep me updated if you need anything else from me

Thank You,
Randy Zar Trustee
Aviar Living Trust



**TERRA
FIRMA**
Engineering
and Science

May 24, 2006

To: Randy Zar
P.O. **Box** 1282
Aptos, Ca. 95001
Tel. **685** 1116

Hi Randy, the soil-laboratory testing will delay the final report. The soil laboratory, where the samples are being tested, tell me that definitely results will be available within one month (possibly in two weeks). So, ... three weeks seems like a reasonable guess.

The samples are being tested at Copper Testing Laboratories, which does high quality work. Given the sensitivity of the project, accurate results are important. I trust Cooper to do a good job.

I should have preliminary data analysis completed in the next two weeks, based on the cone penetrometer and Standard Penetration testing we did. But the confirmation step, via the lab tests, will have to wait until the lab-tests are done. The final report, I hope, will be completed within a week of getting the laboratory tests.

Marc Ritson
Registered Civil Engineer 37100

KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

VOICE: (831) 458-9777
FAS: (831) 159-6127

kentgashburn@compuserve.com

123 Jewell St.
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

July 12, 2006

Mr. Randall Adams
Santa Cruz County Planning Department
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: 2000 McGregor Dr./application 04-0650

Dear Mr. Adams:

This letter confirms our conversation of July 11, 2006 in this matter. You forwarded to me the recent correspondence from the applicant including his request for a continuance. Thank you.

I informed you, and this confirms, that my client would have no objection to a continuance. Since I am set for trial during the last week of September on a case that is not likely to settle I have asked that the continuance date be the first meeting in October. Given the expert's difficulties in bringing the report to a conclusion this should allow county staff and our expert a full opportunity to review the findings and give the Planning Commission their input as well.

Very truly yours,



Kent G. Washburn

APPLICATION NO: 04-0650

STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

EXHIBIT 3B



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET - 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 28, 2006

Agenda Date: March 8, 2006

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: A public hearing to consider an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve application 04-0650; a proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Members of the Commission:

This item is an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's 11/18/05 decision to approve the above listed application and was heard before your Commission on 1/11/06. At that time, you decided to hear the appeal but continued consideration of the appeal to 2/22/06 and directed staff to assemble all of the information available regarding the site and the development permit proposal. Your Commission also directed staff to meet with the applicant and appellant. The item was subsequently continued from the 2/22/06 agenda at the applicant's request.

As requested by your Commission, this report provides a history of activities on the parcel. A discussion of the issues raised by the appellant in the appeal letter submitted on 12/2/05 follows. Additional concerns that have been identified by County staff since the Zoning Administrator's action on 11/18/05 are also presented.

This application was submitted on 12/22/04 to recognize an existing commercial building and associated improvements. The building itself is the subject of a lengthy Code Compliance case because of construction and additions without benefit of development or building permits.

History

A detailed chronology of the grading, violation, and permits issued on the subject property is included as Exhibit 2A.

In summary, a sanitary sewer line was installed along the slope above Borregas Creek between late 1960 and 1961. The sewer line and manhole covers along this section of Borregas Creek were subsequently buried by grading activity which was performed soon after installation (in the early 1960s) possibly in association with the construction of Highway One or the frontage road (McGregor Drive). In 1967 a building permit was issued for a garden sales building and a number of attached shade structures and greenhouses for a plant nursery (Aptos Gardens). The greenhouse area was expanded between 1967 and 1972 without benefit of permits - this is the

general footprint upon which the current proposal is based. Between 1965 and 1989 a small amount of additional fill was placed between the structure and Borregas Creek, with evidence of erosion in later photographs. The plant nursery was converted into a bird aviary during this time.

Starting in the early 1990s, a series of complaints regarding additional grading and construction were made. Site visits by County staff indicated that the greenhouse structures had been converted to buildings, a large deck had been constructed, and additional fill had been placed in the riparian comdor. The tenant of the property, Brent Byard, was conducting commercial uses without the required permits from the illegally converted structure. Further complaints were received by the County regarding commercial activity on the property. No permits were obtained for the Commercial uses or the structures. The current co-owner, Randy Zar, purchased an interest in the property in the mid 1990s. Mr. Zar made an agreement with the Department of Public Works to uncover the buried sewer manhole and to construct retaining walls and a temporary access road. This work was performed under Riparian Exception 96-0396, issued to the Department of Public Works by the Planning Department.

From the mid 1990s until 2003-2004, no permits were obtained for additional commercial activities (including a drinking water company, a deli/grocery store, and trailer/mobile home repair business) and portions of the structure were illegally converted to residential units. The lack of compliance with applicable codes and County requirements resulted in a court judgment in 2004 which ordered a cessation of all residential uses and required the property owners to obtain all required permits for the commercial uses and conversion of the greenhouse structures to buildings. At this time, the Zar family acquired ownership of the entire property, eliminating Byards interest in the property. All residential units were vacated as a result of the Zar acquisition.

The Zar family has since cleaned up the property and an application was made for a Commercial Development Permit (04-0650) to recognize the commercial building and establish the allowed commercial uses. This Commercial Development Permit application was approved by the Zoning Administrator and is now before your Commission on appeal.

Appeal of Zoning Administrator's Action

The attorney for the neighboring property owner (appellant) raised the following issues in the appeal letter, dated 12/2/05 (Attachment 1 to Exhibit 2H). Each issue is addressed below in the same order as raised in the appellant's letter.

Soil Stability & Grading Activity

The appellant has stated that earthwork was improperly performed on the applicant's property and that the neighboring property may have been adversely affected.

The Zoning Administrator considered this issue and discussed the prior earthwork (performed under Riparian Exception 96-0396) with Environmental Planning staff. Based on the evidence presented at that time, it was determined that the prior earthwork and associated improvements were installed as required by County staff. Despite this determination, the Zoning Administrator addressed the neighbor's concerns and included a condition of approval to require the preparation of a geotechnical report with a slope stability analysis **prior** to the approval of a building permit

for the proposed commercial building. The preparation and review of this report, and the requirements imposed by such a review, were intended to address any slope stability issues that may exist on the subject property.

In response to the Zoning Administrator's request for a geotechnical report prior to building permit issuance, the applicant requested estimates **from** geotechnical engineers, prior to choosing a firm to prepare the required report. Although their review of the site was preliminary, and soils borings were not taken, the geotechnical engineers noted what appears to be a significant soil stability issue on the project site. This information was relayed by a geotechnical engineer to the County geologist by telephone shortly after the final action was appealed.

Further analysis **has** since been performed by the County Geologist, who has identified evidence of additional earthwork and potential slope failures on the subject property (Exhibit 2C). The extent of the potential slope failures will require additional geotechnical review in order to identify the appropriate measures to stabilize the project site. Additionally, any grading or additional disturbance needed to remedy stability issues below the existing retaining walls will require a Riparian Exception for the additional encroachment into the riparian corridor of Borregas Creek.

Fairness and Impartiality of the Public Hearing

The appellant has stated that the public hearing was not held in a fair and impartial manner.

The Zoning Administrator held the public hearing according to established procedures. The applicant was provided an opportunity to testify, and the neighbor and other members of the public were allowed a similar duration of time to testify as well. After hearing the testimony of the neighbor, the applicant was given an opportunity to rebut and clarify points raised by the neighbor and the neighbor's representative. The public hearing was then closed.

In order to clarify points raised by the applicant and the neighbor's representative, the Zoning Administrator asked questions of Environmental Planning staff regarding the prior earthwork. The Zoning Administrator amended the conditions of approval based on the testimony at the public hearing. Therefore, staff does not believe that this issue would be an appropriate reason for supporting the appeal.

CEOA Exemption

The appellant has stated that the proposed project is not eligible for a categorical exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act.

Staff believes that the project is exempt **from** further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Either a Class 1 (Existing Facilities) exemption or a Class 3 (Small Structures) exemption would apply to the proposed development. Both categorical exemptions would allow a commercial structure up to 10,000 square feet in size within an urbanized area if all urban services are available and the site is not environmentally sensitive.

In this case, the proposed development is considered as being located within an existing disturbed area even though portions of the project site contain a riparian resource. This is due to

the fact that a prior Riparian Exception (96-0396) was issued for grading and retaining walls within the riparian corridor of Borregas Creek. This work was performed under the direction of the Department of Public Works to uncover a sanitary sewer manhole which had been previously buried on the project site. This earthwork, which was performed for utilities purposes, was exempt from the requirement of a grading permit or other review. This grading activity was ministerial in nature and was, therefore, exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The possibility that additional work occurred within the riparian corridor after the work authorized by Riparian Exception 96-0396 was completed and signed off (or that additional work may be required within the riparian corridor to stabilize the site) does not necessarily disqualify the proposed development from an exemption to the California Environmental Quality Act. Planning Department **staff** will assess potential impacts to the riparian corridor which may be necessary to stabilize the project site and determine if the project requires further review, or is exempt, per the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.

Variance and Coastal Development Permit Findings

The appellant has stated that the necessary findings could not be made for the Variance and the Coastal Development Permit.

The findings were reviewed by the Zoning Administrator and considered as appropriate and valid for the project site and the proposed development given the limited area of the commercial site and the requirement to minimize additional impacts to the riparian corridor. However, if the sewer line is located below the existing building (see discussion below), it would not be in harmony with zoning objectives (Variance Finding #2) to allow the construction of a building over an existing sanitary sewer line. Additional investigation is necessary to determine the exact location of the existing sanitary sewer line relative to the building and other improvements on the subject property.

Additional Concerns

Sanitary Sewer Line Location

Although the earthwork authorized by Riparian Exception was for the purpose of uncovering a sanitary sewer manhole, the location of this main sewer line relative to the existing building is still not known. From the information available from the Department of Public Works (Exhibit 2F) it appears **as** though the sewer line may pass under the southern portion of the building and tie into a second manhole which has yet to be uncovered. ~~Further~~ analysis using cameras, sound, or other locating devices will be necessary to determine the exact location of the existing sanitary sewer main and the second manhole cover relative to the existing building on the project site.

If the building has been constructed over the sanitary sewer line, those portions of the building above the sewer line would likely need to be removed in order to ensure access to the sewer line for maintenance or repair. Although the prior nursery use of the property may have resulted in temporary structures (such as decks, green houses, and screened plant storage and display areas) located over the sewer line, the installation of a permanent building over the sewer line is not in conformance with Department of Public Works standards.

Parking Area

The majority of the parking for the proposed commercial use is located within the County right of way for McGregor Drive. The permit conditions envisioned the property owner needing to acquire the land from the County to have adequate on-site parking outside of the vehicular right of way in order to justify the size of the commercial building. From the more recent analysis performed by the County Geologist (after the Zoning Administrator's action) it appears as though a portion of the parking area may be located on unstable fill material. If this material cannot be properly supported without cutting the slope back into the parking area, the parking for the proposed commercial development would likely need to be reduced. If the parking is reduced in order to stabilize the project site, the scale of the commercial use (and the associated square footage of the commercial building) will need to be reduced accordingly.

Summary

The issues raised by the appellant were appropriately addressed by the Zoning Administrator prior the decision to approve the application on 11/18/05, based upon the available information. Since that time, however, additional site specific information regarding additional earthwork and the stability of the soils on the project site has been received. Further geotechnical analysis will be required to determine the best methods to stabilize the project site and parking area. Additionally, the location of the sewer line relative to the existing building must be determined in order to make an appropriate recommendation regarding the variance.

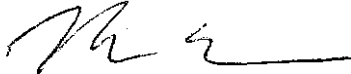
While the overall project may have merit, it is not possible to make that determination without additional technical information. The stability of the project site and the location of the sanitary sewer line will determine the amount of commercial space and associated parking that is appropriate on the subject property. As a result of the receipt of additional information relative to these two issues, a reduction in the overall size of the proposed commercial development may be necessary. Until that information is available, it is not possible to recommend an action relative to the proposed project.

Recommendation

Planning staff recommends that your Commission **CONTINUE** the public hearing for Application Number **04-0650** to a future date, pending receipt of the following information for review by County staff, and direct staff to re-notice the public hearing:


- I. A geotechnical investigation per the guidelines in the memorandum prepared by the County Geologist, dated 1/30/06.
2. A determination of the existing sanitary sewer main line relative to the existing improvements on the project site.
3. Revised plan sets with the sewer main line and any existing easements for the sanitary sewer clearly displayed.

Sincerely,



Randall Adams
Project Planner
Development Review

Reviewed By:



Cathy Graves
Principal Planner
Development Review

Exhibits:

- 2A. Grading, Violation, and Permit History
- 2B. Letter to the Planning Commission, 2/22/06, with Exhibits.
- 2c. Memorandum from Joseph Hanna, County Geologist, dated 1/30/06.
- 2D. Letter from Haro, Kasunich & Associates, dated 1/27/06.
- 2E. Letter from appellant, Kent Washburn, dated 1/18/06.
- 2F. Sanitary Sewer System Diagram, Department of Public Works.
- 2G. Exhibit ~~from~~ Riparian Exception 96-0396.
- 2H. Letter ~~to~~ the Planning Commission, 1/11/06 agenda date, with attachments.

Zar/McGregor - Grading, Violation and Permit History

APN 038-061-06 One property before parcel was split to create existing Zar and First Alarm properties.

- 1960-61 Sewer Line: Sewer line installed (October 1960 date on plans for sewer line installation)
- 1962 Building Permit(s) #: 1594 & 1474 issued to Eva Bernard for relocating a building to be used as a real estate office. This structure was located on what is now the First Alarm property and is not associated with the existing construction on the Zar property.
- 1963 Grading: Initial grading of subject property and adjacent parcel (possibly in conjunction with freeway construction or the construction of McGregor Drive) prior to 1963 as determined from aerial photographs. Most of the grading occurred around the parking area. Sewer manholes likely buried during this time.
- 1965 Grading: Some additional grading near McGregor Drive between 1963 and 1965 evident in aerial photographs.
- 6/13/67 Building Permit(s) #: 3732 & 4617 to erect a garden sales area **5** feet from property line, install 1 hour fire wall on an existing structure which is closer than **5** feet to the property line, and install plastic over existing lath house and walkway. These buildings were built on the current Zar property for an existing nursery use (Aptos Gardens). Nurseries were an allowed use in the zone district with no use permit required. APN 038-061-06 was divided into APNs 038-061-07 & 08 prior to this date by deed. Although the BP was issued on APN 038-061-06, the property line referred to is the boundary between parcels -07 & -08.

APN 038-061-07 Subject property (after division from larger parcel)

- 9/12/67 Assessor Records: 926 square feet of office and greenhouse and 887 square feet of covered area. There is 405 square feet of office, 521 square feet of greenhouse and 887 square feet of covered area indicated on appraiser drawing.
- 1/9/73 Assessor Records: 1,189 square feet of office and greenhouse and 887 square feet of covered area. Increase of 261 square feet of greenhouse, identified in 1973 appraisal.
- 1989 Grading: Small amount of grading between buildings and Borregas Creek between 1965 and 1989. Erosion of fill evident in later aerial photographs.
- 12/27/91 Building Permit #: 101649 issued for relocating a gas meter for a bird aviary.
- 1/29/93 Code Compliance: Complaint received. Construction of 2,044 square foot commercial building and a 400 square foot deck without permits.
- 7/14/93 Code Compliance: Brent Byard (lessee) states that an application will be made for a produce stand. The trucks will be moved when space opens in Aptos Warehouse (approx 2 weeks). The structure did not appear to be habitable but the tenant stated that it had been habitable in the past.
- 10/26/93 Code Compliance: Complaint received. Substantial development in riparian corridor including parking lot built on fill material, retaining walls, and deck.
- 11/22/93 Assessor Records: Byard's purchase property.
- 11/29/93 Grading: Department of Fish and Game concerned regarding 11 truckloads of dirt and debris that were dumped into riparian corridor.
- 11/30/93 Code Compliance: Site visit identified extensive fill with asphalt and concrete debris on slope between existing building and Borregas Creek. Correction notice issued requiring a Grading Permit and Riparian Exception application by 12/30/93, further grading was also prohibited.

10/94 Grading: Phone call from complainant regarding additional grading and a retaining wall under construction within the riparian comdor.

6/95 Code Compliance: Phone calls from complainant stating that structure was converted to residential uses.

10/10/95 Code Compliance: Re-roofing permit held up due to environmental violation. Byard operating Napa Springs Water Company from existing structure.

10/16/95 Code Compliance: Staff conducted, a site inspection and verified environmental violations; partial foundation upgrade and/or replacement and deck. **Also**, identified the addition completed in 1972, with no permit on file. Staff agreed to approve a re-roof permit to protect the structure, with a hold to be placed on the permit until all environmental violations are resolved.

11/1/95 Building Permit #: I 11076 issued for re-roofing on existing single-family dwelling/commercial building. This was an over the counter permit that required no routing.

5/15/96 Assessor Records: Randy Zar purchases interest in property.

6/25/96 Discretionary Permit: Application 96-0396 made by the Department of Public Works for a Riparian Exception to uncover existing sewer manhole buried on the property.

7/1/96 Discretionary Permit: Riparian Exception 96-0396 issued with approximately 50 cubic yards of grading and 3 foot high retaining walls authorized to construct an access road and to uncover and raise the existing sanitary sewer manhole.

1996-1997 Grading: In order to access the sanitary sewer manhole, more than 50 cubic yards of earth were required to be removed and replaced. Additional fill material may have been placed in the parking lot area during this time. Several retaining walls constructed as well.

11/14/96 Building Permit #: 11 1076 (for re-roofing) voided for lack of compliance - permit expired.

6/12/97 Discretionary Permit: Riparian Exception 96-0396 finalized. Department of Public Works project to raise manhole complete.

1997-1998 Code Compliance: Deli/grocery store operating without permits.

11/30/98 Code Compliance: Complaint received. Conversion of existing building to a single family dwelling without permits.

11/28/00 Code Compliance: Complaint received. Tenant has placed a single wide mobile home trailer on the property. 12' x 32' modular mobile trailer.

11/21/01 Code Compliance: Site inspection. Trailer on property. Byard stated that he refurbishes the trailers on site and then sells them. There were no utility connections to the trailer at the time of the inspection.

2/27/01 Code Compliance: Complaint received. Conversion of structure to multiple residential units.

3/13/01 Code Compliance: Site inspection. Evidence of construction to convert to multiple units. Interior inspection refused. Trailer on site connected to utilities.

11/21/01 Code Compliance: Site inspection. Zar and Byard present. Interior inspection identified 4 complete residential units plus two additional rooms with bathrooms.

9/25/03 Code Compliance: Site inspection. Small addition to enclose a concrete patio at the rear of the existing structure (approx. 8 x 10-12 feet). An inflatable dough boy pool was also installed on the project site.

6/4/04 Code Compliance: Complaint received. Interior work without a permit. Complaint determined to not be valid. Work was only interior remodeling and cleanup which did not require a permit.

8/24/04 Code Compliance: Court judgment. Superior Court Judge Robert Attack ruled that all residential uses must cease and tenants must vacate by 9/30/04. Settlement agreement generated for commercial uses to obtain all required development and building permits.

11/15/04 Assessor Records: Byard transfers all remaining interest in property to Zar family.

12/22/04 Discretionary Permit: Intake for Coastal and Commercial Development Permit application 04-0650. Application lacked required number of plans. Plans and fees submitted later for a formal application date of 1/3/05.

2/1/05 Discretionary Permit: Application incomplete. Additional information clarification required on plans and to satisfy Department of Public Works Drainage and Road Engineering requirements.

5/27/05 Discretionary Permit: Application incomplete. Additional information clarification required on plans and to satisfy Department of Public Works Drainage and Road Engineering requirements.

8/25/05 Discretionary Permit: Application complete.

10/7/05 Discretionary Permit: Zoning Administrator hearing. Item continued to 11/18/05.

11/18/05 Discretionary Permit: Zoning Administrator hearing. Coastal and Commercial Development Permit application 04-0650 approved with revised findings and conditions, including the requirement of a geotechnical (soils) report with a slope stability analysis prior to the issuance of a Building Permit.

12/2/05 Discretionary Permit: Coastal and Commercial Development Permit 04-0650 appealed by attorney representing neighboring property owner Jarl Saal.

12/05 Discretionary Permit: Applicant's representative contacts geotechnical engineers to evaluate site. Issues of slope instability are identified. This information is conveyed to County geologist by telephone. Further review of project site by County geologist identifies slope instability and extensive grading work within riparian corridor.

1/11/06 Discretionary Permit: Planning Commission hearing. Recommendation to remand back to Zoning Administrator to consider new information regarding slope instability and the location of the sanitary sewer line relative to the existing building. Commission determines that they must hear the appeal and continues the item to 2/22/06 for a full report.

1/13/06 Discretionary Permit: Site inspection with County geologist and civil engineer. Retaining walls appear to be failing on project site and soil slumps appear to exist on the slope between the walls and Borregas Creek.



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET- 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 13, 2006

Agenda Date: February 22, 2006

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: A public hearing to consider an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve application 04-0650; a proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Members of the Commission:

This item is an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's 11/18/05 decision to approve the above listed application and was heard before your Commission on 1/25/06. At that time, your Commission decided to hear the appeal after consulting with County Counsel regarding appeal procedures, and the actual public hearing was continued until today's agenda.

Request for Continuance

The applicant's representative has been out of state due to a family emergency and has not been able to prepare materials in response to the appellant's concerns in time for this meeting of your Commission. The applicant requests a continuance to 3/8/06 so that he can meet with planning staff and his representative can prepare a response to these issues.

Recommendation

1. Planning Department staff recommends that your Commission CONTINUE the public hearing for Application Number **04-0650** to March 8th, 2006.

Sincerely,

Randall Adams
Project Planner
Development Review

Reviewed By:

Cathy Graves
Principal Planner
Development Review

Exhibits:

- 1A. Letter requesting continuance, prepared by Randy Zar, dated 2/13/06.

February 13,2006

Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

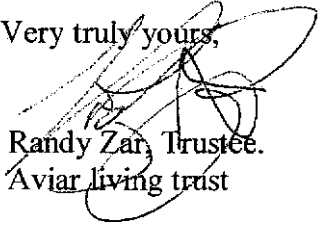
SUBJECT: Appeal of Application 04-0650 (Randy Zar & Aviar Trust)

Dear Members of the Commission,

I ~~am~~ requesting that you continue this matter for the reasons stated in this letter. You first heard this appeal at your hearing of January 11,2006. At that time you continued your consideration of this appeal to your meeting of February 22,2006. You also directed Planning staff to meet with me and members of my project team prior to completion of the next staff report for this item. Prior to January 11, I was scheduled to be out of the country for three weeks beginning January 25. Planning staff would not meet with us prior to my January 25 departure even though we had requested to meet prior to that date. Therefore, I left my planning consultant, Kim Tschantz, in charge of matters in my absence.

I understand a meeting was finally scheduled for Planning staff to meet with Mr. Tschantz on February 7. Unfortunately, Mr. Tschantz had an unexpected family emergency and had to leave the state on February 4. I have just returned from my trip on February 10. This situation makes it impossible for Planning staff to meet with us in a meaningful way prior to preparation of the staff report for the February 22 hearing. For these reasons, I ~~am~~ requesting that the Planning Commission continue this matter to one of its meetings in March 2006. *Thank* you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Randy Zar, Trustee.
Aviar living trust

cc: Randall Adams
Kim Tschantz
Dave Imai

MEM

Date: Monday, January 30, 2006

To: Randall Adams, Planner

From: Joe Hanna, County Geologist, CEG 1313

Re: Zar Property



The following are conclusions based upon site reconnaissance, file research, and aerial photographs.

1. The time frame for the basic elements of the grading that has occurred on this property is as follows:
 - a. The initial site grading occurred before 1963 with most of the grading occurring around the parking area.
 - b. Some additional grading occurred on the property before 1965 near McGregor Drive.
 - c. A small amount of grading occurred between 1965 and 1989 between the buildings and Borregas Creek as identified through the viewing of four aerial photos. The fill is already starting to rill in some of the aerial photos.
 - d. Between 1989 and the mid-1990's a small fill pad was constructed between the building and Borregas Creek.
 - e. Additional grading occurred between the structures and Borregas Creek since the mid 1990's.
2. Several episodes of grading have occurred in and around the time the sewer manhole was raised and included the construction of several retaining walls. Repairs to the retaining walls have occurred within the last two or so years.
3. The whole length of the Borregas Creek embankment on the Zar property is unstable. Slopes range in gradient from 3/4:1 to approximately 1 1/2:1, and the slope failures range from a few feet to nearly 6 feet or more in depth.
4. None of the new on site retaining walls meet appropriate engineering standards, and most have visible signs of distress. In addition to the shallow failures, the walls do not function properly to restrain the brow of the slope, and the brow of the new fill slope is creeping, and/or settling. In response to these forces, the retaining vertical beams have tilted, and near the manhole, the retaining wall lagging is failing as well.

5. The majority of the fill appears to be between the structure and Borregas Creek. Some additional grading appears to have occurred beneath the structure, but I cannot determine the amount of grading beneath the structure.

Conclusions:

Substandard grading and retaining wall construction have resulted in unstable slopes adjacent to Borregas Creek. The characteristics of the subsurface conditions beneath the existing building are unclear.

Consequently, the geotechnical engineering investigation and analysis must first assess the existing site conditions to develop a strategy to repair the slope, and, if necessary, stabilize the structure. After this strategy is developed, a meaningful slope stability analysis can be completed. The stability analysis must assume that the improvements are in place to assure that the repair strategy will work.

The repair strategy must include the following:

1. All of the retaining walls must be replaced with permitted engineered retaining walls.
2. The fill along the face of the fill slope must be stabilized to reduce the amount of slope failure.
3. The toe of the fill will need to be protected from water erosion.
4. The geotechnical engineer must complete a geotechnical analysis that demonstrates both deep and surficial slope stability after the site has been repaired.
5. An engineered grading plan, erosion control plan, and planting plan must be developed for the repair strategy plan.

A note regarding the need for a Riparian Exception: The riparian corridor would be marked from the bottom of the remaining wall lagging. Essentially, the riparian area would be set outside the area of permanent disturbance. Work along the creek below the wall would require a riparian exception.

Project No. SC7503
27 January 2006

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR
RANDALL ADAMS
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Subject: Geotechnical Assessment of Fillslope
Bounding east side of Drainage Ravine

Reference: 1111 Estates Drive and McGregor Drive
Santa Cruz County, California

Dear Mr. Burns and Mr. Adams:

At the request of our client, Jarl Saal we would like to present our observations and conclusions regarding the fillslope which bounds the ravine adjacent to the reference properties. We have worked with Mr. Saal and been to the property off and on for the past six years.

Fifteen months ago Mr. Saal commissioned us to begin a geotechnical investigation of the fillslope which bounds his property and his neighbor's property off McGregor Drive. We had outlined the scope of work that would allow us to bring a rubber tired power driven auger exploratory drill rig to the back of his building on his vacant lot adjacent to the top of the slope. We were in the process of getting permission to drill along the top of the ravine in the County right-of-way, in a paved parking area adjacent to McGregor Drive. The purpose of this subsurface exploration was to determine the depth and consistency of the oversteepen fill soil adjacent the drainage ravine west of the reference properties. Visual observations from field reconnaissances of the fillslope indicate a large volume of fill has been placed on the East side of the drainage gully. The fill has an approximate gradient steeper than 1:1. The fill is approximately 20 feet (\pm) deep. A number of slump slides dot the face of the fill slope. In order to determine the consistency and extent of the oversteepen fill wedge, exploratory borings must be drilled just off of McGregor Drive on the Santa Cruz County right-of-way easement as well as in the back of 111 Estates Drive adjacent to the top of the fill slope. We must also drill on the fill slope with hand augers or portable drilling equipment. Cross-sectional profiles from the flow line at the bottom of the drainage gully to the top of the fill slope and across portions of the reference properties and then the County's easement must be prepared. Appropriate laboratory work will then be performed on select samples of the fill material to aid in stability analysis of the fill slope. This will allow us to

determine the critical geometry of the fill wedge and present measures to stabilize the fill for long term performance. Stabilization measures may include over-excavation and redensification of existing fill materials to proper compaction at a flatter gradient and/or using reinforcing such as tensor grids to allow steeper fill slope gradient. Retaining structures at the base or at the top of the fill slope may be necessary to accommodate flattening the slope gradients and attaining compaction requirements.

At present tension cracks can be seen in the parking pavement area within the County right-of-way indicating lateral movement of the fill and the wood retaining walls constructed at the top of the fillslope adjacent to the parking lot. We had been working with Rich Strauss of Earthworks, a general grading contractor to assess stabilization feasibility related to construction and to estimate cost to stabilize the fillslope. We had met with the Santa Cruz County Sanitary District to determine locations of the sanitary sewer line which crosses the upper regions of the ravine in proximity of the unstable fill. Due to administrative complications and the onset of continuous winter rains, the geotechnical investigation was postponed until further notice by Mr. Saal.

Based on our history with Mr. Saal's property, our initial observations and evaluation of the fillslope on the east side of the ravine, and discussions with Earthworks regarding stabilization we extend the following professional opinions and recommendations:

1. It will be necessary to investigate the fill wedge along the east side of the ravine. This can be accomplished with deep exploratory borings at the top in the vacant lot behind Mr. Saal's commercial building and in the paved parking area, County right-of-way. These borings may be as deep as 25 to 40 feet. A portable drill rig will then be carried onto the slope in select areas to determine the depth of fill and consistency of fill in the lower bounds of the oversteepen fillslope.
2. Cross-sectional profiles across the fill should be constructed to aid in determining the volume and stability of the fill wedge. These cross-sections will also allow an evaluation of how best to remediate and stabilize the fillslope permanently.
3. Some geotechnical slope stability analysis will be done to try to determine the gradients that can be reconstructed either from the base of the fill or utilizing retaining walls to maintain long term stability.

Tom Burns
Randall Adams
Project No. SC7503
1111 Estates Drive and McGregor Drive
27 January 2006
Page 3

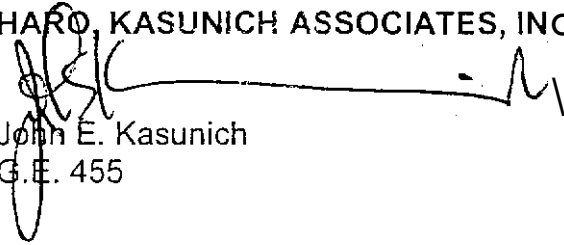
4. A geotechnical investigation presenting the results of field and laboratory work and the geotechnical evaluation with recommendations and design parameters can then be utilized by a civil engineer to prepare a stabilization plan. The cost of the geotechnical engineering work will be in the range of \$7,500.00 to \$10,000.00. Civil engineering profiles (survey work) and a final plan could cost as much as \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00.
5. Based on our visual observations, the fillslope is deep, it encompasses the ravine from the frontage road to beyond the vacant lot of Jarl Saal's and is unstable as evident by the tension cracks in the pavement and recent slump sliding which has occurred since multiple periods of fill placement.
6. The civil engineering plan should also present drainage improvements along the top to collect accumulated storm water and carry it to the bottom of the ravine in a controlled manner to maximize long term stability.

We have been informed that the County is contemplating sale of the excess right of way area which we have described above as showing clear signs of failure. We do not see how the County can possibly Contemplate liability free sale of this property or resolution of red tag issues involving the person who appears to admit he placed the fill there, paves it over, and then used it without permission as his parking area, without a clear answer to the geotechnical questions raised by the history and current failure profile at the site.

If you have any questions, please call our office.

Very truly yours,

HARD, KASUNICH ASSOCIATES, INC.


John E. Kasunich
G.E. 455

JEK/dk

Copies: 1 to Each Addressee
2 to Jarl Saal

KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

VOICE: (831) 458-9777
FAX: (831) 459-6127

kentgwashburn@compuserve.com

123 Jewell St.
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

January 18, 2006

Mr. Tom Bums, Planning Director
Mr. Randall Adams. Staff Planner
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: 2000 McGregor Dr., Application

Dear Mr. Bums and Mr. Adams:

One of the strongest messages I heard from the Planning Commissioners last Wednesday is that they are very concerned about the lack of clarity in the evidence in this matter. They seemed to be directing staff, the applicant and the appellant all to work together to identify issues and come up with as much solid information and agreement as possible, as opposed to mere allegations, in advance of the February hearing.

For the moment the most important way we can cooperate in carrying out the will of the commission, it seems to me, is for me and my client to be full participants in the process. It sounded to me both on the record Wednesday and after the hearing that Mr. Tschantz and his client would prefer to have a series of closed-door meetings with staff from which my client and I are excluded. I believe, to the contrary, that only by careful collaboration of all parties in stating their positions and cooperating to test the evidence, will there be a) intelligent definition of the issues and b) comprehensive marshalling of the facts. To avoid the kind of conflict that clearly frustrated the commission last Wednesday all must be invited in to the table, not just staff and the applicant.

My client and I will do all possible to make ourselves available on short notice to meet with you and any other county representatives to take the next steps. Please include us ASAP,

The second purpose of this letter is to list the main problems and issues at this juncture as we see them, and to give some recommendations for making progress toward the truth. Here they are:

1. Is there evidence that a large quantity of **fill** was placed on the applicant's property and the adjoining part of the McGregor **Dr.** right of way in violation of the law after the riparian exception work was done? The conflict in the evidence could not be stronger. Zar and his wife categorically deny it, but not under oath. My client and the three witnesses whose statements we submitted categorically affirm it *under penalty of perjury*.

We recommend that my client and his witnesses meet with planning staff and the county geologist on the site to point out where they saw the unengineered fill placed after the riparian exception was signed off. By having all parties together in one place – literally on the site – the chances for missed communication and ambiguity will be reduced insofar as it is in our power to do so. We will try to coordinate such a meeting at staffs convenience.

2. **Is** there evidence of slope failure and soil instability on a) the applicant's property and b) the portion of the County's McGregor Dr. right of way he has been allowed to take over as his parking lot? In my opinion both properties must be addressed. It is clear that the application cannot be successful unless Mr. Zar acquires the portion of the right of way, so we cannot do a meaningful job of laying out the issues and needed information for the commission without checking to see if there are signs of soil problems on that parcel as well as Zar's.

3. **Is** there evidence that the applicant has taken over a portion of the County right of way and made extensive alterations to it in violation of the law without any encroachment or other permits from the Public Works Department? It is clear from the materials submitted by the applicant and the statements made at the hearings that he is responsible for whatever was done.

4. Does the evidence – including but not limited to aerial photographs, building permit records, Santa Cruz County Planning Department enforcement files, and Santa Cruz County Assessor's records - show that the 1963 building permit for an 800 square foot structure which Zar claims as being for his structure was actually for a demolished structure that was actually on the appellant's parcel? We believe the best way to address this would be to have a meeting in your offices in the very near future, and to include Jessie Mudgett of the Assessor's office and Kevin Fitzpatrick of Code Enforcement to sort out what the records, diagrams and photos mean.

5. Does the evidence show that the county sewer line or a lateral thereof runs underneath the structure? I believe the best way to address this is to ask Public Works to designate someone to search their files completely and come up with all the evidence they can about the location, and then to make that available to all sides for analysis and comment.

6. What percentage of **the** existing **structure** and other improvements on the Zar property was built **as it now exists** with the county permits required by law at the time of construction? It should be easy to tell from ground level and aerial photos and the Assessor's records just when the building acquired its present configuration and when the other amenities were added. We believe it will show that very, very little of the structure and surrounding site **as it now exists** was built with permits. This bears directly on whether it is possible in all intellectual honesty to give this project an "existing facilities" categorical CEQA exemption. The facilities cannot be said to be pre-existing for CEQA purpose if they were built after CEQA took effect and in violation.

I will be in touch very shortly to try to schedule the first meeting.

Very truly yours,



Kent G. Washburn

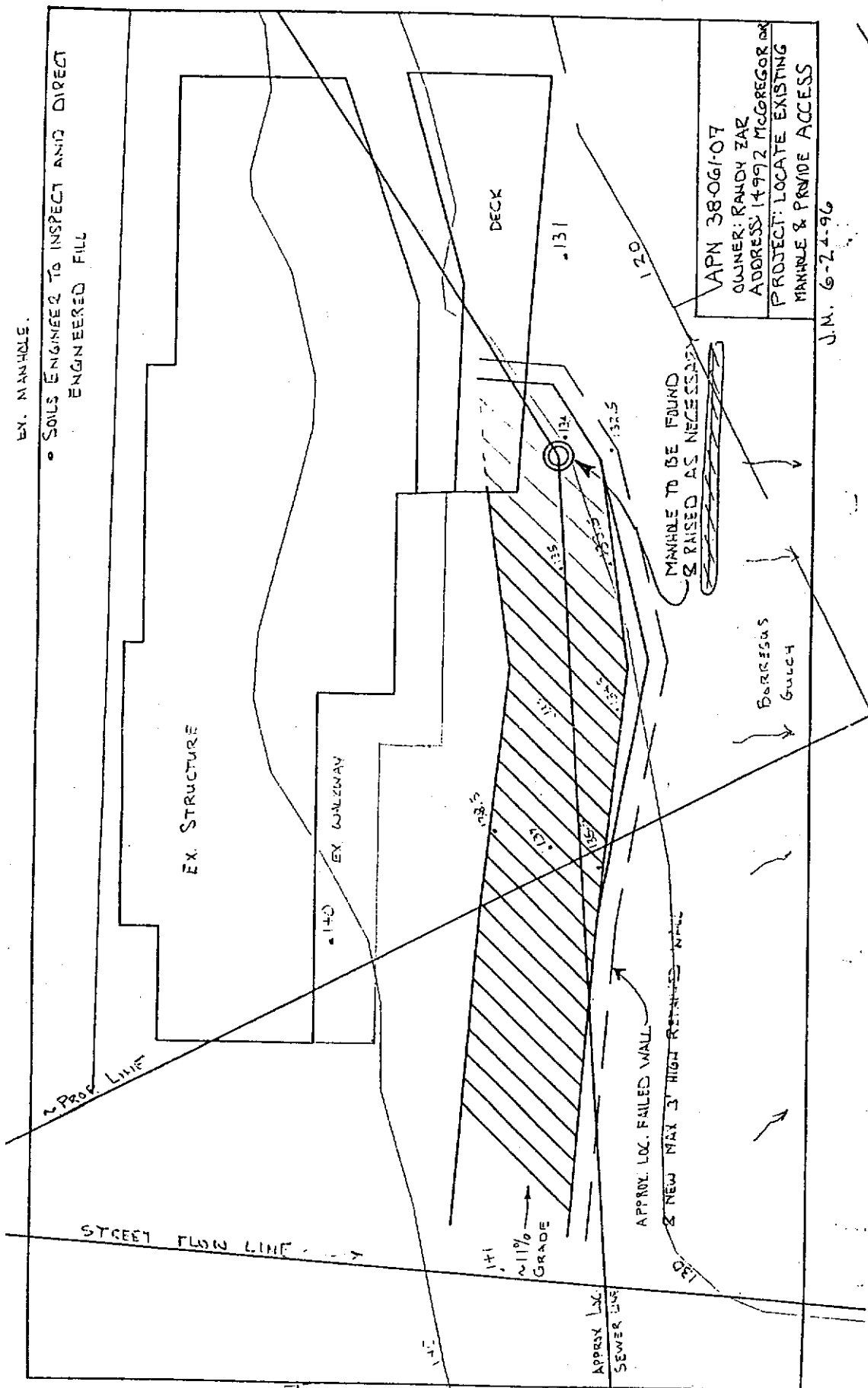
CC: Mr. Imai

- REMOVE FAILED WALL MATERIALS
- REMOVE / REPAIR EXISTING

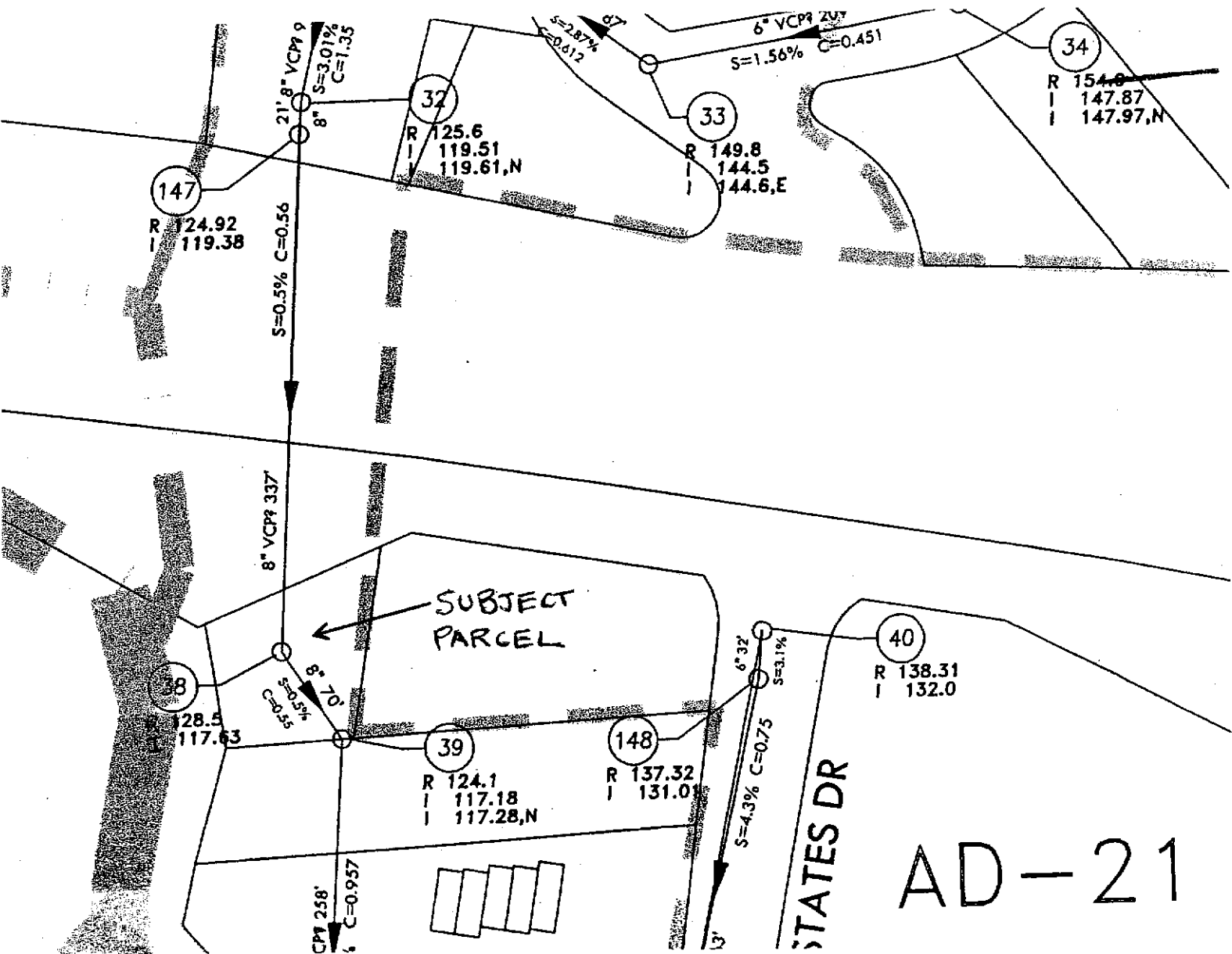
From Above Drawing

BY: MANHOLE.

- SOILS ENGINEER TO INSPECT AND DIRECT ENGINEERED FILL



RIPARIAN EXCEPTION 96-0396



SEWER SYSTEM DIAGRAM

Item 7.1: 04-0650

STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

EXHIBIT 2H

**Letter to the Planning Commission,
1/11/06 agenda date, with attachments**



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET - 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

December 16, 2005

Agenda Date: January **11, 2006**

Planning Commission
County of Santa **Cruz**
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: A ~~public~~ hearing to consider ~~an~~ appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve application **04-0650**; a proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Members of the Commission:

The above listed project for a Commercial Development Permit was reviewed at the 10/7/05 Zoning Administrator hearing. At that hearing, the attorney representing the neighbor requested additional time to prepare written materials related to the proposed development. The hearing was continued to 11/18/05 allow for the neighbor's representative to perform additional research and to prepare additional documentation.

The attorney representing the neighbor provided additional information during the week of the rescheduled public hearing. The applicant's representative provided additional information during this time, as well. Planning Department staff and the Zoning Administrator reviewed the additional information and modified the conditions for the proposed development prior to granting an approval for this item on 11/18/05. The Zoning Administrator heard and considered each of the concerns stated by the neighbor and his representing attorney prior to modifying the project conditions and taking final action on this proposal. The neighbor did not feel that each of the concerns were adequately addressed and an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision was formally made on 12/2/05 by the attorney representing the neighboring property owner.

Soil Stability & Environmental Concerns

The appellant has stated that earthwork has been improperly performed on the applicant's property and that the neighboring property may have been adversely affected.

The Zoning Administrator considered this issue and discussed the prior earthwork (performed under Riparian Exception 96-0396) with Environmental Planning staff. Based on the evidence presented at that time, it was determined that the prior earthwork and associated improvements were installed as required by County staff and that the prior earthwork was not a component of the current proposal. Even with this determination, the Zoning Administrator addressed the neighbor's concerns and required the preparation of a geotechnical report with a slope stability

analysis prior to the approval of a building permit for the proposed commercial building. The preparation and review of this report, and the requirements imposed by such a review, was intended to address any slope stability issues that may exist on the subject property.

Additional Information Received

In response to the Zoning Administrator's request for a geotechnical report prior to building permit issuance, the applicant had the subject property analyzed by geotechnical engineers. Although their analysis was preliminary, and soils borings were not taken, the geotechnical engineers were able to determine that a significant soil stability issue exists on the project site. This information was relayed from the project applicant to the County geologist by telephone shortly after the final action was appealed.

In order to determine what measures are necessary to stabilize the site, further geologic and geotechnical reviews will be necessary. This additional information was not available to Planning Department staff or the Zoning Administrator when the final action was taken on 11/18/05. If Planning Department staff (or the Zoning Administrator) had this additional information at the time that the review was conducted the staff recommendation (and final action by the Zoning Administrator) would have differed and additional geologic and geotechnical review would have been required.

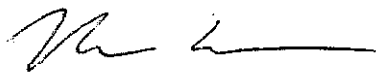
Summary

The issues raised by the appellant were addressed by the Zoning Administrator prior the decision to approve the application on 11/18/05. Since that time, additional site specific information regarding the stability of the soils on the project site has been received. Further geologic and geotechnical analysis will be required to determine the best methods to stabilize the project site. Given the need for further review, the Zoning Administrator would like another opportunity to review this application and to modify the findings and/or conditions as necessary.

Recommendation

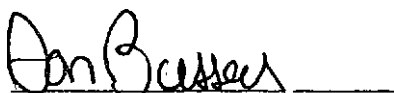
Planning Department staff recommends that your Commission **REMAND** Application Number **04-0650** back to the Zoning Administrator for reconsideration.

Sincerely,



Randall Adams
Project Planner
Development Review

Reviewed By:


Don Bussey
Deputy Zoning Administrator
County of Santa Cruz

Attachments:

1. Appeal letter, prepared by Kent Washburn, dated 12/2/05.
2. Letter from neighbor's representative, prepared by Kent Washburn, dated 11/17/05.
3. Letter from applicant's representative, prepared by Kim Tschantz, dated 11/15/05.
4. Staff report to the Zoning Administrator, originally heard on 10/7/05 and continued to 11/18/05.

KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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kentgwashburn@compuserve.com

113 Jewell Street
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA, 95060

2005 DEC 2 AM 11 55

December 2, 2005

Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: Notice of Appeal/Application # 04-0650 ~~038-061-07~~

Dear Commission:

I represent Jarl Saal. Mr. Saal hereby appeals the decision of the Zoning Administrator on November 18, 2005 to approve the above-referenced application.

Mr. Saal is beneficially interested in this matter in that he owns two parcels adjoining the subject property. One of his parcels, at 1111 Estates Dr. is improved with the First Alarm building which serves the private security needs of so many local individuals, agencies, and businesses.

- There are signs of cracking in the improvements on Mr. Saal's First Alarm property, along its boundary with the parcel of the applicant.

- There is significant evidence that this may be the result of unauthorized construction and unengineered soil placement on the applicant's property.

- There is significant evidence of environmental degradation in the Rorregas Creek arroyo, both on, and downstream of, the applicant's parcel. Mr. Saal owns the parcel immediately downstream from the applicant.

- There is significant evidence, in the form of *sworn statements* from three disinterested local professionals, including the former county employee who was responsible for inspecting work on the applicant's parcel, evidence which the Zoning Administrator disregarded, of the unsupervised and unpermitted placement of hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of cubic yards of unengineered fill on county right of way property and on the applicant's own parcel.

The decisions taken by the Zoning Administrator are appealed because they constituted:

- a prejudicial abuse of discretion,
- there was not a fair and impartial hearing,
- the decision made was not supported by the facts, did not follow the law, and rested in part on mere speculation.

The fairness and impartiality of the hearing is challenged on two grounds in particular:

- after the public hearing was closed and the appellant's opportunity to respond to evidence had been cut off, the Zoning Administrator invited and permitted new testimony but refused to give the appellant a chance to question or rebut that new testimony
- county staff members were present to supply information to the Zoning Administrator, but they refused, despite express requests from appellant, to consider or respond to the evidence that was presented by the appellant.

The following grounds of appeal are asserted as to the particular determinations the ZA made:

As to the **CEQA** Notice of Exemption the applicant was not eligible for a categorical exemption as "existing facilities" because all the evidence showed that about 95% of the "existing structure" was built totally without permits. It stands the entire logic of land use approval completely on its head to say that the careful application of CEQA analysis to an illegally built 2,400 square foot structure built after CEQA was enacted can be avoided altogether because the applicant and his predecessors were so bold as to build the structure in violation of CEQA and all other applicable law! The clear intent of categorical exemption under CEQA, as declared by both the Legislature and the appellate courts, was to exempt "existing facilities" whose actual development came before CEQA. Since all the evidence shows that this structure was built largely without permits after CEQA then CEQA must be applied. No other categorical exemption applies either.

As to the Variance, the necessary findings could not be made and should not have been made on the basis of the evidence presented. The variance seeks to legalize unpermitted construction which invades the setbacks from the riparian corridor and the underdeveloped residential parcel to the rear owned by Mr. Saal. The key fact is that the offending portion of the structure was built without permits. Thus the first finding, that the variance is needed because of special circumstances which would otherwise deprive the property of privileges enjoyed by others, cannot be made. In reality it is illegal construction on the property within county mandated setbacks which makes a variance needed.

The other variance findings cannot be made either. It is a grant of special privilege to exempt unlawful construction from the strictures met by owners who developed in conformity with the law. It is not harmonious with the purposes or intent of the law to permit illegal commercial development to encroach on the setbacks for adjoining residential land because it is sure to impact the level of future use and developability of the adjoining residential land; when commercial use invades the setbacks then either the future residents deal with noise intrusion or the future residential development is cut back to provide more setback on its side of the line.

Coastal Development findings could not and should not have been made. The project:

- conflicts with residential and riparian setbacks,
- affects a parcel where existing environmental and grading violations are unaddressed,
- does not meet normal site coverage and other design criteria.

Development Permit approval was improper because:

- the proposed site coverage and impervious surfaces result in site overdevelopment,
- the proposed development conflicts with significant riparian & open space policies,
- it conflicts with General Plan standards on development proportional to usable area.

In summary please let me say a few candid words about the process and my client's position. This is not a vendetta or grudge match on our part though other will try to make it seem so; my client recognizes that the applicant has as much right to beneficial use of his property as my client does, and we are not proceeding under the illusion that such use can or should be prevented or delayed.

Instead our position is that starting from the standpoint of the more than twelve year history of building, zoning, coastal, grading, environmental health and General Plan violations, nobody should be bending over backwards to smooth the applicant's path or exempt him from the standards applicable to those who obey the law. We invite cynical disrespect for the law if equally situated and law abiding applicants receive unequal treatment. What does it do when a deliberate violator, even if some of the violations were "inherited" from a predecessor or spearheaded by a former partner, receives special treatment? It can only be expected to severely damage confidence in the integrity of the entire decision-making process.

All the declarations of legislative intent for CEQA, the Subdivision Map Act, and the other leading land use standards of the State of California, to say nothing of the appellate court decisions which construe them, speak in terms of good-faith reasoned analysis on the basis of gathering and considering all relevant information. The decision we challenge would turn that around 180 degrees.

Three sworn statements from a) disinterested professionals with b) direct knowledge of what was done to this parcel by c) the applicant himself d) after the riparian exemption was signed off were submitted into the record. Taken together they show that hundreds if not thousands of yards of fill were imported and placed, largely on county property and spilling into a protected riparian corridor, with no proper engineering or supervision.

Good faith reasoned analysis and informed decision making required that this extremely reliable information and the serious questions it raised be addressed *before* giving the applicant CEQA, variance, development, and coastal sign offs. Giving the approval first, before the information is known, hands the applicant an approval which may be contradicted when the soils analysis is completed. More important, handing the applicant an approval before the soils information is in violates both the letter and spirit of the law by depriving the appellant and all other interested members of the public of a significant right afforded them by the law, the right to take a meaningful part in the process by analyzing and responding in public debate to such key information as a report on hundreds or thousands of yards of illegally placed soils. Approval before information is gathered truncates, and even prevents, such informed public debate and decision making. The only way to respect the spirit and letter of land use law is to withdraw the approval of 04-0650 until all the facts are in and have been made known to applicant, appellant and county staff, so that due deliberation and informed decision making, not a rush to judgment, results.

Sincerely yours,



KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

VOICE: (831) 458-9777
 FAX: (831) 459-6127

kentgashburn@compuserve.com

123 Jewell St.
 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060

November 17, 2005

Mr. Don Bussey
 Zoning Administrator
 701 Ocean St.
 County of Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: 2000 McGregor Dr. APN 038-061-07 Application # 04-0650

Dear Mr. Bussey:

Several **weeks** ago I was contacted by the applicant's neighbor to analyze this application **and** the **staff** report which recommended its approval. I believe Supervisor Pirie had previously been approached by both the applicant and opponents of the project, especially in regard to possible purchase of the adjoining county right of way. When **she** learned that I had been retained to look into the matter she asked me **to be sure** to forward my conclusions to her attention. Hence this letter is copied to her. My apologies to all, including the applicant, because the press of court business **has** made the time between this letter and the hearing on November 18 so short.

I. Executive Summary

The parcel **and** its owner have an extensively documented, twelve plus year history of **some** of the most egregious, consistent, and bold violations of county building, zoning and environmental **regulations** ever seen in a parcel of this size in Santa Cruz County! They now **seek** to legitimize these violations through the present application.

My client and **other** neighbors of this parcel oppose the application because it rests on:

- false statements, concealment of the truth and a refusal to cooperate in essential fact finding,
- failure** to expose the **site** improvements to the same scrutiny a law abiding applicant faces,
- issuance of a variance to legitimize illegal construction,
- failure to **address** the environmental impacts of illegal activity by the owners of this site,
- hypothetical** acquisition **of** public property the applicant **has** damaged **and** wrongfully used.

For **these** reasons the application should be denied outright **or** at least deferred until the applicant cooperates at his own expense in finding out the truth.

II. Foundational Misrepresentations

The touchstone of the application is site plan sheet **A 1**, dated December **22, 2004** and revised **as of** July 27, 2005. It is divided into two halves, the existing site plan and the proposed site plan. On the existing site plan there is a note which states "Note: all features represented on this **plan** are existing and permitted except 160 sq. ft. room (shown hatched)." A second note **just** below the first one states "All impervious areas on this plan are existing and permitted except 160 sq. ft. room. See permit numbers and dates below."

These statements are false. The county's enforcement files contain detailed review of the permit history showing that the one building permit mentioned **was** in 1967 for some minor changes to a small nursery building. Over the years that roughly 400 sq. ft. office building was gradually and without benefit of any building permits whatsoever turned into a **2042 sq. A.** building as shown on the plans.

The statements are false in their indication that the riparian exception of 1996 authorized all the impervious surfaces shown on the **plan** sheet. In point of fact that riparian exception **was** not issued to the property owner, but rather to the County of Santa Cruz Public Works. The purpose of that riparian exception was not to address the legitimacy of the various improvements on this site, which Public Works had no jurisdiction whatsoever to seek or obtain, but rather to facilitate locating and resetting a manhole and sewer line which had been buried by past illegal grading on this site around 1993

III. Significant New Evidence

Enclosed under **Tab 1** of the attached materials is a set of three separate declarations under penalty of perjury on the subject of post-riparian exception grading violations. The declarations **are** accompanied by the unsworn letter of a fourth expert.

Several things are noteworthy about these three declarations.

1. They come from totally disinterested parties, not partisan **experts** hired by my client.
2. Each **man** is an expert in a some aspect of soils placement or testing: one is an engineer *another* an engineering contractor, and the third is a soils technician.
3. Each **man** had direct knowledge of the parcel in question at the time in question: one tested the riparian exception soils work, the second refused to sign it off, and the third thinks he contributed excess soil to the site.

The three witnesses conclusively rebut **the** suggestion that the applicant's site work was completely tested and legitimized by the 1996 riparian exception and **has** remained unaltered since. It is respectfully submitted that such categorical and reliable contradiction of the **key** statements on which **this** application rests requires that the application be stopped in its **tracks** until a) the applicant's property and b) the portion of county right of way the applicant has turned into his parking area can be tested at applicant expense for the quality of the underlying soil placement, **and** the results interpreted.

IV. Applicant Refusal of Cooperation

Tab 2 contains an exchange of letters between the applicant and the undersigned. The applicant was asked for voluntary cooperation in soil testing *at my client's sole expense* in light of the evidence that was coming to light. The applicant refused, and attempted to justify the denial on the theory that the applicant is the victim of a baseless vendetta,

Also under **Tab 2** are county records showing past broken promises to comply by the applicant and such resistance of the legitimate exercise of inspection authority that two levels of inspection warrants had to be obtained and the present applicant had to be forced to the brink of a Superior Court trial before agreeing to make this application.

V. Past History of Violations

As discussed below this application seeks special treatment of various kinds. In light of the false statements in the application, the clear evidence from the witnesses, and the refusal of cooperation in information gathering, it is important to summarize the history of violations so that the decision maker has a complete picture.

Tab 3 of the accompanying documents contains reams of reports and memoranda in which various county employees document the history of violations, largely by applicant and his former partner. The following is a bullet-point summary of these violations:

- turning a small nursery office and shed with covered plant sales area into a finished 2042 sq. ft. commercial structure without permits
- dumping of many truckloads of concrete and soil onto and down the Borregas Creek Canyon embankment in or before 1993, causing serious erosion and siltation
- covering county sewer line manholes with unengineered fill
- illegal residential uses inside allegedly commercial structure in violation of C 4 zoning
- illegal food service establishment opened in violation of C 4 zoning
- food service establishment with no permit and numerous environmental health violations
- lengthy (more than one year) refusal to close food service or bring into compliance
- unpermitted encroachment onto & appropriation of county right of way for parking area
- placement of unengineered fill on site w/o permits after riparian exception work completed
- construction of deck in riparian corridor without permits
- installation of residential trailers on site w/o permits in violation of zoning
- further recent retaining wall and drainage work in riparian corridor without permits
- converting commercial structure in C 4 zone to unpermitted office uses
- construction of an illegal substandard shed which encroached on the adjacent parcel to the rear and was used for human habitation.

The staff report practically ignores these violations and describes this as an application to "recognize" or "retain" an existing structure as if its existence was somehow legitimate and deserved recognition or retention. The failure to list, frankly discuss, and deal with the violation is fatal to objective consideration of the application at this time.

The whole idea of the public hearing system in the land use context is for decisions to be made in the open and the full scrutiny of the press and any citizen who wishes to participate

When there is an omission of this magnitude - a twelve year effort to enforce compliance over multiple violations - it is impossible to ~~fulfill~~ the true purpose of public decision making without considering the whole, unpleasant truth.

VI. Current Application

The foregoing summary of the history and the supporting documents are essential to an intelligent, fact and policy-based evaluation of the application as opposed to some conclusory decision not to fully enforce the law against the applicant.

On its face the staff report says that this application seeks to "recognize" an existing commercial building. Nowhere in the staff report is there any discussion as to how site development standards would or should apply to this ~~site~~ if the owner were coming in with a vacant parcel he seeks to develop. There should be at least some effort to compare the existing conditions to what the law would allow a law-abiding applicant to develop on a similar site.

One interpretation of applicant's position, and this could be incorrect, is to see it as saying that since the building and improvements are already there and ~~are upslope~~ of the work which the County was permitted to do under its 1996 riparian exception, it is fine to just treat these improvements as if they were legitimately in existence. I have looked at the riparian exception file and it did ~~not~~ address the applicant's improvements. It was ~~an~~ exception sought by the county at county expense to fulfill a county purpose. Other than the work expressly addressed in the ~~work~~ authorization, nothing on the site was legitimized. A far more principled approach would be to require staff to include in the report an analysis of the application as if it were a new one, applying the ~~same~~ riparian setbacks, site coverage, circulation and parking standards as a law abiding applicant would have to meet for new development on such a constrained site.

County law requires a thirty foot setback of all commercial development from the boundary of a residential parcel. Staff recommends that this be cut in half to accommodate the applicant's ~~illegally~~ constructed building. Once again the history of this parcel and applicant, and the current failure to a) tell or b) cooperate in discovery of the truth call into most serious question whether ~~this~~ is a site or application deserving of special treatment. The ~~staff~~ report is artfully phrased on this point, but when the facts are boiled down it comes to this: in breaking the law to build without permits in the first place the applicant or his partner or predecessor ignored the ~~rear~~ yard site setback standards too, and the applicant ~~now~~ does not want to suffer the expense or inconvenience of complying. It is not at all as the staff report suggests a function of the ~~sire's~~ constraints - the parcel easily could have been developed with a smaller building with proper setbacks in better overall proportion to the developable square footage of the lot. Rather the variance is sought and recommended after the fact to legitimize one of a long list of individually and cumulatively egregious violations. The variance therefore would be a grant of special privilege to a property that was deliberately developed without permits and proper setbacks. The variance should be denied.

The staff report glosses over the Coastal Plan consistency issues as if visual impacts were the sole question. The County's enforcement file as far back as 1993 shows without a

doubt that illegal activity on this site has caused major deterioration of the riparian habitat of Borregas Canyon. This issue of substance must be assessed and addressed in order to state there is or will be LCP compliance, especially where John Kasunich and other reliable witnesses are telling **the** county that the signs of slope failure continue to this day.

The history of **this** parcel and applicant **are** relevant to another issue that seems to be glossed over in the staff report – the “master occupancy program.” The staff report recognizes that even if the applicant should succeed in acquiring the adjacent portion of McGregor Dr. the parking for such a large building will be marginal. **As** detailed in tab 3 above and the county’s enforcement file the history of this parcel is full of structures and uses which were built, used and maintained in complete defiance of the law. What reason is there, in view of the misleading statements on which this application is based and the refusal to cooperate in fact gathering, to suppose that the applicant will limit himself or his future tenants only to uses which need the bare minimum parking proposed? None.

If the site were being used for approved C 4 zone purposes now it might be possible to argue that the applicant might continue to do so in the future. The staff report is silent on this issue, so it **is** not possible for the public and/or opponents of this project to be sure. The staff report should be extensively revised to discuss the present **uses**, compare them **to** what is allowed in this zone, and explain why the county should – or does – allow unlawful uses to continue while an application that is supposed to “cure” violations is being processed.

VII. McGregor Drive County Right of Way

One of the more significant and telling omissions from the staff report is the fact that the **area** proposed for abandonment has been encroached upon, improved without permits and used for parking purposes for many years by the applicant without **any** encroachment permit or other government approval. The complete failure to address this aspect of the past history is further suggestion that the staff analysis partakes more of justifying a predetermined conclusion than a reasoned, objective, and complete, fact and policy-based evaluation.

Since the last hearing October 7 the undersigned has diligently sought from the County Public Works Department any and all information about the proposed abandonment, including the price. At **first** it took days to hear back from staff. Then it took time to locate the file. Next County Counsel’s approval for me to look at the file was needed. When I was shown what was supposed to be **the** file it contained a few form notices and responses and drawings. There was no reference of any kind whatsoever to the issue of valuation. Weeks ago I wrote a pointed confirming letter pointing out the dearth of valuation information. There **has** been no reply at all, not even to say that they have no value information.

Thus the public remains completely in the dark about one of the lynchpins of this proposal – acquisition of the necessary area for parking. It is impossible for the Zoning Administrator to fulfill his duties of **reasoned**, fact and **policy** based analysis without such information. It is also impossible for the public hearing process to fulfill the intended purpose of **open** decision making that withstands court scrutiny if such key Facts **are** not dealt with.

The applicant, seemingly supported by **staff**, **wants** the county to put **the** car “ or cart -

before the horse and approve the site and structure for commercial use before car parking availability is known. On behalf of my clients I would respectfully submit that in view of the past history of this parcel and applicant it would be most unwise to baptize what has been done with approval before the key requirement can be met. Where there has been so much delay and bootlegging of uses it would make far more policy sense to see if the parking can be gained first before approving a plan that totally depends on it.

VIII. Conclusion

The applicant's desire to solve his problems as quickly and cheaply as possible is perfectly understandable. In view of the egregious string of violations which was first identified more than 12 years ago and still remains unresolved while the property continues to be used unlawfully, troubling and unresolved obstacles to objective approval remain.

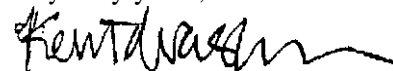
1. It is obvious that the truth is not known about the amount of fill or degree of stability of that fill brought to the site *after the riparian exception*. It is respectfully submitted that soil testing in the area proposed for abandonment and the portion of the site adjacent thereto must be required and the results known and interpreted before an intelligent approval can be given.

2. A manifestly incomplete staff report should be rewritten to address such issues as the rear setback variance, the riparian setback, current uses, damage to and wrongful occupancy of the county right of way, and the degree to which the County-sought riparian exception actually addressed or legitimized the applicant's building or improvements in addition to the sewer line. The staff report does not even discuss the degree to which present use of the site violates C 4 zoning or why those uses have not been terminated.

3. Action should be deferred on this application until after the abandonment is decided,

This has been as difficult and unpleasant a letter to write as it no doubt has been to read. Hopefully most if not all people who will participate in the hearing process at the county or coastal commission levels, the road abandonment process, or any court review will at least endorse the beneficial use of land and regret the necessity for enforcing rules and regulations. Nevertheless to the extent our land use system has and maintains its objective integrity, an application such as this cannot simply be rushed forward before deaf ears and blind eyes. If anything it ought to be subjected to much stricter scrutiny because of all the violations. The applicant will doubtless seek to distract the scrutiny from where it belongs - on a complete look at this property, past and present, before a decision is made. My clients are confident that if, but only if, such scrutiny is given, it will yield a reasonable result.

Very truly yours,



Kent G. Washburn

Cc: Supervisor Pirie, Mr. Imai, Mr. Adams, client

I, Dennis Hurley, say:

1. I am a resident of Santa Cruz County, Ca. I have personal knowledge of the following.
2. I have been employed full time in the profession of soils engineering in the Santa Cruz County area for approximately sixteen consecutive years. During that time I **have** specialized in field work for a number of the leading **soils** engineers and engineering firms in the Santa Cruz area: Myron Jacobs, Reynolds & Associates, Don Tharp & ~~Associates~~ ^{Harold Kusowich} and Mike Kleames of Pacific Crest. I began in the lower levels of field work and have risen to the position of Field Engineer. sometimes known as Senior Engineering Soils Technician.
3. My expertise is in the field operations portion of the soils engineering profession. (I should make it clear that I myself am not a soils engineer: I perform skilled field work for the engineer.) The work I do can be divided into the following main categories:
 - a. making field observations, conducting tests, and gathering data for the soils engineer to use in formulating a plan to accomplish the work for which he **was** hired,
 - b. further observations, tests, data gathering and work observation to ensure contractor compliance with the soil engineer's specifications and the requirements of any government entities with jurisdiction.
4. My professional field responsibilities have always placed a premium on **skilled** observation, careful taking and recording of data, and accurate recollection. If my observations, measurements or other data collection are sloppy or vague there is a high chance that the soils engineer's work will be defective and the structure **will** fail.
5. I was asked by Jarl Saal and his attorney Kent G. Washburn to visit 2000 McGregor Dr., APN 038-061-07 on Thursday, October 13, 2005 at 11:30 a.m. I was asked to do so because in my capacity as a soils field technician while employed with Reynolds and Associates in the 1996-97 time frame, I was assigned to perform extensive work on that precise parcel of property in conjunction with a riparian exception permit that had been approved by the County of Santa Cruz for the parcel in question. My duties for the Reynolds firm on that project included pre-construction observation and testing, construction observation, and post-completion verification of compliance. My recollection is that the riparian exception work was completed to the satisfaction of our firm **and** the county and signed off.
6. I made the October 13, 2005 visit as requested. Mr. Saal, Mr. Washburn and I observed the property at 2000 McGregor from two separate angles, from the Saal parcel at the "rear" of 2000 McGregor and from the "front," the excess county land along McGregor Dr. which **has** been paved over for parking. **As far as I know** our observations did not involve crossing the boundary onto 2000 McGregor. Along with the visual observations I made, I was shown a copy of the one-page site plan submitted by the property owner which claims

that all features as shown are existing and permitted with the exception of a small, cross-hatched portion of the rear of the structure.

7. The site which I observed on October 13, 2005 was and is radically different from the site as I observed it at the conclusion of the work authorized for the county riparian exception back in 1996-97.

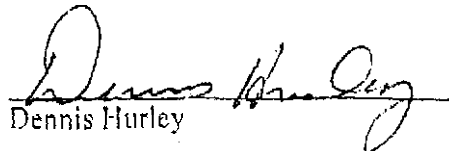
8. My conclusion from comparing the October 13 site conditions with what I remember seeing when I was the field technician for the soils engineer responsible for the work is that a very large quantity of soil has been imported to the site and now underlies the parking area that has been installed on county property.

9. On October 13 I made two observations of what I believe to be signs of failure in the parking lot area. (I say this on the basis of my practical experience in the field and with the caveat that I am **not** a soils or geotechnical engineer.)

- a. One such set of observations consists of signs of soil erosion and slumping on the banks of the riparian corridor below the parking lot.
- b. The other observation is that there are multiple lines of parallel cracking in several different locations in the paved parking lot area on county property.

Taken together and based on my experience these are signs of improper underlying soil placement or drainage and potential failure, and should be investigated by a licensed professional to assess the extent and causes of problems underlying these observations and to recommend remedial measures.

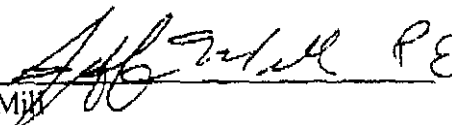
I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and is executed at Santa Cruz County, Ca. on Oct. 25th, 2005.


Dennis Hurley

I, Jeff Mill, say:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
2. I hold **an** engineering degree from the University of California. I was employed for about ten years in the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department.
3. In the course of my duties with Public Works I was assigned to a project near McGregor Dr. in **Aptos**, Ca. There was a sewer line across this property and the manhole had been buried by fill. Because **the** project was **on** the edge of the Borregas Creek riparian corridor the County applied for and authorized a riparian exception to correctly place and engineer fill and a retaining wall in the vicinity of the manhole and the sewer line.
4. The scope of work specified in the riparian exception **was** done and signed off by County Planning. I did not sign off the **site** for Public **Works**, however, because it became apparent to me that the **owner** was going to **far** exceed the scope of work that had been authorized by the riparian exception.
5. I returned to the project location after **the** planning department sign-off. To **the** best of my recollection it **was** about 10 days later. I observed that large quantities of additional fill had been brought **to** the site in the intervening time and an additional retaining wall had been constructed. This added fill and new retaining wall were not within the scope of the riparian exception. It should be possible to accurately calculate **how** much **was** brought in **because** the riparian exception plans showed a slope of about 10% but the finished grade after **the** excess fill was brought in was essentially level. I observed some **signs** of failure and inadequate drainage which the property owner later seemed to correct. The added fill was placed on or adjacent to the slopes down into the Borregas Creek canyon, and nearer to the as-traveled portion of McGregor Dr. than the authorized riparian exception work. This area **is** basically used for parking.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing **is** true and **correct** and is executed at Santa Cruz County, Ca. October **29**, 2006.


Jeff Mill PE

I, Rick Straus, say:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
2. I am the owner of a licensed general engineering contracting firm called Earthworks located at 310 A Kennedy Dr., Capitola, Ca. I have been involved full time professionally in general engineering construction since 1979 and have been the responsible managing officer of my own licensed general engineering contracting company since 1988.
3. My company does site work, soil preparation, and paving work throughout the Santa Cruz County area. Much of our business consists of soil excavation and placement under strict environmental regulation by government agencies and the supervision of soils engineers. In the course of my daily activities it is quite common for me when I pass a construction site to stop by and observe the kind of work we specialize in when it is being done by others. By doing so it is possible to make useful contacts and gain additional knowledge which I am then able to use in my own work.
4. About 8 years ago I observed a very large soil placement project taking place along McGregor Dr. between the First Alarm building and Borregas Creek canyon. I met a man who was operating an old wheel loader and seemed to be in charge of the placement of this large quantity of fill. Several things struck me about the work. It is not approved or good construction practice, for example, to use that kind of equipment to place and compact engineered fill because it is so difficult and time consuming to achieve proper compaction with it. It can be done if the person is patient and careful enough, but it is not likely that people will be. The work was on the edge of the Borregas Creek canyon. The fill was being placed to raise the area adjacent to McGregor Dr. to the level of McGregor Dr. This area I am describing is now occupied by a parking lot. I am told is actually on the county right of way. I believe that we may have contributed some of the soil that was placed there from a job we were doing that needed us to export soil.
5. I am not making this statement because of any animosity to the owner or special friendship with those who may oppose him. I was just asked to tell what I remember so that county officials and/or the courts can make their decisions based on the truth.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Santa Cruz County, Cs, on Nov. 3, 2003

Rick Straus

Rick Straus

CYPRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

P.O. BOX 1844

APTOS CALIFORNIA

Email: kimt@cvpressenv.com

November 15, 20005

Don Bussey, Deputy Zoning Administrator
Randall Adams, Assistant Planner
County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Application 04-0650 (Randy Zar & Aviar Trust)

Dear Messrs. Bussey and Adams,

As you know, application 04-0650 for a Master Occupancy Program for commercial uses at 2000 McGregor Drive, Aptos, will be heard as a continued item at the Zoning Administrator meeting scheduled for November 18. Approval of the project will be one of the final steps in the long road of rehabilitating this property to make it a commercial site Aptos residents can appreciate. On behalf of the project applicants, Randy Zar and the Aviar Trust, I am responding to the issues raised in the letter from Kent Washburn, dated October 6, 2005 and commenting on certain items in the staff report. I hope you will carefully consider the comments below towards making a decision on this project.

Issues Raised by Kent Washburn

Mr. Kent Washburn is the attorney for Jarl Saal, the owner of the First Alarm property which adjoins the Zar/Aviar parcel. Mr. Washburn raises four issues in his letter to you dated October 6 regarding the project and the staff report. They are the bulleted statements below. The issues raised by Mr. Washburn are not germane to a determination for this project as I explain below each one of the bulleted statements.

- Significant omissions from the staff report about the history of violations on this parcel

The staff report does contain a historical land use summary of the parcel, including a summary of land use violations that have occurred on the property in the past. I have been informed by Cathy Graves, Principal Planner, that the staff report was prepared with full input from Planning's Code Compliance staff regarding past zoning and building violations. It should be understood that the vast majority of building violations associated with converting the nursery business building to the current building were done prior to 1972, several years before Zar/Aviar purchased the property. Since purchasing the property, Mr. Zar has been

Environmental Planning and Analysis, Land Use Consulting and Permitting

engaged in a long and costly process of rectifying the building and zoning violations. Most of the violations are now resolved. The final step in this process is approval of application 04-0650 and follow through with obtaining Building Permit and building inspections for renovation of the commercial building on the site.

- Failure to analyze the conformity of this application with the riparian corridor policy

As discussed in the following paragraph, a Riparian Exception was approved for the subject property in 1996. Permit 96-0396, issued to the County Public Works Department on the Zar/Aviar parcel, allowed grading and installation of a retaining wall along the western edge of the Borregas Creek riparian corridor and its associated buffer area to provide access to a sewer manhole and help stabilize a portion of the slope of the corridor. Exhibit A of that permit is attached as Exhibit A to this letter. It shows the location of project work, Zar's main building and the uncovered deck on the parcel. The current project conforms to that shown by Permit 96-0396 in that no new encroachments into the riparian corridor have occurred or will occur by the approval of Application 04-0650. This is consistent with the General Plan/Local Coastal Plan policies to protect riparian corridors.

- Failure to compare the as built structure and current slopes with conditions of the approval of the previous Riparian Exception granted in 1996

As noted above, the current project conforms to the approval of Permit 96-0396. I have learned more about Mr. Washburn's position on "slopes" from discussions with him and expect him to bring this issue up at the hearing; so let me respond to it in advance. Mr. Washburn and his client make the preposterous claim that minor wall cracking at two locations on the adjoining Saal/First Alarm property are due to grading of the slope on the Zar/Aviar property done under Permit 96-0396. They claim the grading done under Permit 96-0650 was not done according to the permit conditions and further want a full geotechnical analysis of the entire riparian slope on the Zar/Aviar parcel. The location of the wall cracks on the Saal property and previous grading work on the Zar/Aviar property are shown on Exhibit B. As shown on this exhibit, the 1997 grading work was not in the proximity of Mr. Saal's building. It should be noted that no wall cracking or ground instability has occurred on the Zar/Aviar property.

County records show that all work done under Permit 96-0396 was completed according to the required permit conditions within 11 months of permit approval. A geotechnical report was prepared by the civil engineering firm of Reynolds Associates for the project in 1996 (Exhibit C) and accepted by the County. Retaining wall construction and grading work for the project was inspected and approved by Reynolds Associates in May 1997 (Exhibit D). The project planner, Cathleen Carr, inspected the site in June 1997 and determined all permit conditions were successfully met (Exhibit E).

Mr. Washburn also states that Mr. Zar has done grading along this slope since final

inspections for Permit 96-0396, but he cannot provide any proof of such grading because there has not been any grading at the site since the permit was finalized in 1997. Clearly, this is an example of project opponent attempting to misuse the permit process by obfuscating the issues

- Failure to gain meaningful access to County records

I understand Mr. Washburn's requests for copies of file records and plans have all been met by County staff.

Recommended Permit Conditions in the Staff Report

There are certain recommended permit conditions in the staff report that need to be revised to make this a viable commercial project in the "C-4" zone. They are discussed below.

- Condition II.A.4 (Plans to be Prepared by a Civil Engineer)

This condition requires grading, drainage and erosion control plans to be prepared by a civil engineer. However, the project does not require these types of plans. Therefore, we ask that this condition be deleted or, as an alternative, revised to state: **If grading/erosion control or drainage and erosion control plans that are prepared, they shall be wet-stamped and signed by a licensed civil engineer.** (Bold indicates added wording and strike-outs indicates deleted wording).

- Condition IV.A (Hours of Operation)

The recommended wording of this condition limits staff use of the building to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is not consistent with most other service commercial uses and certainly not consistent with the adjoining First Alarm business which has 24 hour employee use. We ask that this condition be revised to state: **No use of equipment that can generate noise beyond the site and no deliveries can occur beyond the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.** We believe that this new wording retains the intent of the condition, while not unduly preventing minimal or occasional later hours office work at the site.

- Condition IV.A (No outdoor Storage)

This condition prevents any outdoor storage on this service commercial site. The property owner proposes using a **minor** area for outdoor storage of materials which is totally screened from off site views. This would restrict outdoor storage to inside the screened area shown on Exhibit F. We ask that this condition be revised to state: **Outdoor storage shall be Limited to the screened area shown on Exhibit A of the permit. This storage area shall be visually screened at all times as shown on Exhibit A.**

- Conditions I. II.A.2 & III.B (Variance to Rear Yard Setback/Removal of Building)

These conditions allow a Variance to reduce the required 30 foot rear yard setback to 16 feet but also require the demolition of a 163 square foot portion of the existing building that extends to about 5 feet from the rear property line. While the 163 sq. ft. portion of the building was constructed without a Building Permit, County Tax Assessor records show it was constructed in 1972 long before Mr. Zar purchased the property. (See Exhibit G).

The staff report provides findings to justify the granting a Variance to reduce the rear yard setback, but the recommended conditions limit the Variance to only a portion of the building. There is no language in the Variance findings that support reducing the rear yard setback for the main part of the building while finding it problematic to for the 163 sq. A. addition. In other words, the Variance findings and corresponding permit conditions are contradictory. Unusual circumstances exist on the subject parcel and adjoining parcels that justify the granting of Variance to reduce the rear yard setback to at least 5 feet, as explained below.

The developable area of the site is unusually small for a "C-4" zoned parcel, yet the County has designated it for service commercial uses. The parcel is severely constrained by both size and riparian comdor which limit any development on the site. Nevertheless, the County has zoned the property "C-4" (Service Commercial)—a zoning reserved for larger commercial uses which typically require large site areas for development (e.g. kennels; automobile sales; boat building; contractor shops). The total site area of the parcel is 10,454 sq. ft., just 454 sq. ft. more than the minimum parcel size for the "C-4" zone district. However, when the riparian corridor portion of the parcel is deducted, only a net developable area of 6,212 sq. ft. remains for any project. Even when the excess right-of-way is added to the site to provide parking, as proposed, the total net developable area only increases to 9,157 sq. ft. (Computation: 6,212 sq. ft. + 2,945 sq. A. of R/W = 9,157 sq. ft.).

Reducing the setback to about 5 feet would allow commercial use and activity similar to that occurring on the adjoining "C-4" zoned parcel (First Alarm) and thereby would not constitute a special privilege to the Zar/Aviar project. Development Permit 91-0365 approved the First Alarm project with a building located 30 feet from the same rear property line but with a parking lot and other commercial activities up to the rear property line with no setback for these uses. Not only does regular traffic occur in the First Alarm parking lot 24 hours/day, but the main entrance to the building is located within the rear yard setback. In addition the trash area and a large generator are located just a few feet from the rear property line (Exhibit H). The office activities enclosed inside the 163 sq. ft. addition to the Zar building will generate far less impacts to the adjoining residential parcel than are now occurring by outdoor commercial related activities at First Alarm.

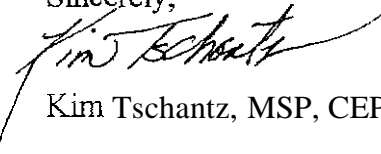
In allowing these uses in the rear yard setback, Permit 91-0365 also required First Alarm to construct a 6 foot high masonry wall along its rear property line; the same property line that separates First Alarm with an adjoining residential parcel. Mr. Zar would also be willing to

construct the same type of wall if allowed to retain the 163 sq. ft. addition.

Buffers and barriers currently exist which protect adjoining parcels from any potential impacts or land use conflicts that could be generated by the 163 sq. ft. addition. Therefore a reduction of the rear yard setback to 5 feet will not be detrimental or injurious to these properties. The 6 foot masonry wall described above also extends along a segment of the side yard of the First Alarm parcel. It provides a substantial barrier between the rear yard of the Zar/Aviar parcel and the proximate portion of the First Alarm site (See Exhibit I). The riparian comdor provides a distance of 63 feet with mature trees between the 163 sq. ft. addition and the parkland on the other side of the forested riparian corridor. The residentially zoned parcel to the rear to Zar/Aviar and First Alarm also contains a segment of the same riparian corridor. The riparian buffer required by the County's Riparian Comdor and Wetlands Protection Ordinance (Code Section 16.30; results in the area directly adjacent to the common property line of Zar and the residential parcel being left in open space. This is further illustrated on Exhibit I. This situation underscores that fact that reduction of the rear yard setback to allow use of the 163 sq. ft. addition will not result in off-site impacts.

The purpose of Variances is to allow variations to the site standards for situations just like those which occur at and proximate to the project. I offer revised findings in Exhibit J, which have been prepared to acknowledge the information in the preceding paragraphs. (Bold and strike-out text to show new and deleted wording). We hope you will use these findings in the approval of this project.

Sincerely,



Kim Tschantz, MSP, CEP

Attachments: Exhibit A – Exhibit A of Permit 96-0396
Exhibit B – Site Plan showing disturbance zone under Permit 96-0396 and location of cracks on First Alarm parcel
Exhibit C – Geotechnical report for Permit 96-0396
Exhibit D – Geotechnical engineer's inspection letter for Permit 96-0396
Exhibit E – County Planning final inspection memo for Permit 96-0396
Exhibit F – Site Plan showing area proposed for outdoor storage
Exhibit G – Tax Assessor record showing date of construction of building addition
Exhibit H – Photo of commercial activities in the rear yard of First Alarm
Exhibit I – Site plan showing buffering between the project and adjoining parcels
Exhibit J – Revised Variance findings

cc: Randy Zar
Alvin Zar
David Imai

EXHIBIT A

PERMIT NO. 9620396

- REMOVE FAILED WALL MATERIALS
- REMNUE/STOCKPILE EARTH + ROCK TILL MANHOLE/ IS FOUND
- REGRADE AS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO EX. MANHOLE.
- SOILS ENGINEER TO INSPECT AND DIRECT ENGINEERED FILL

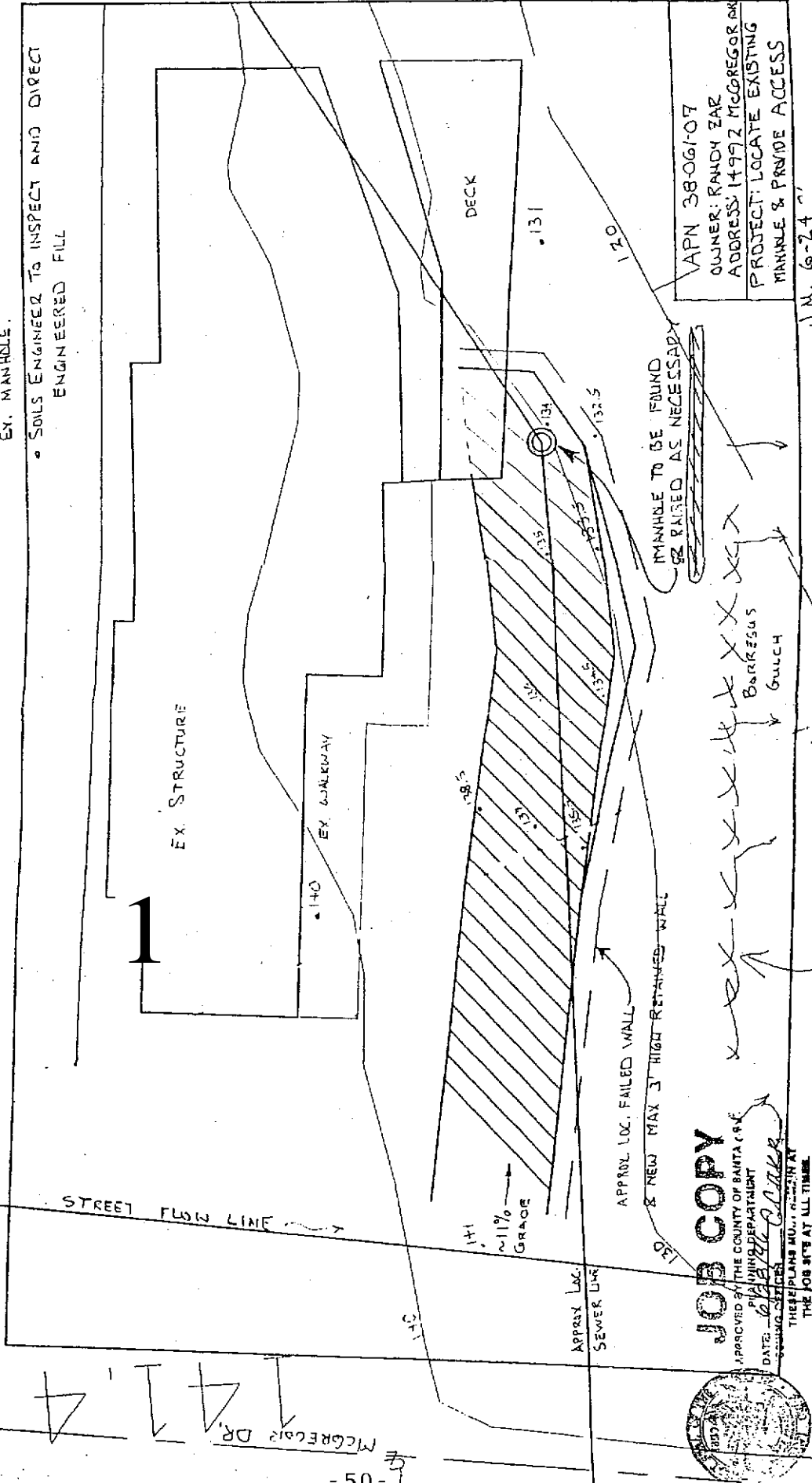
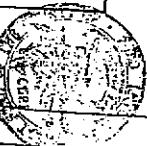


Exhibit A

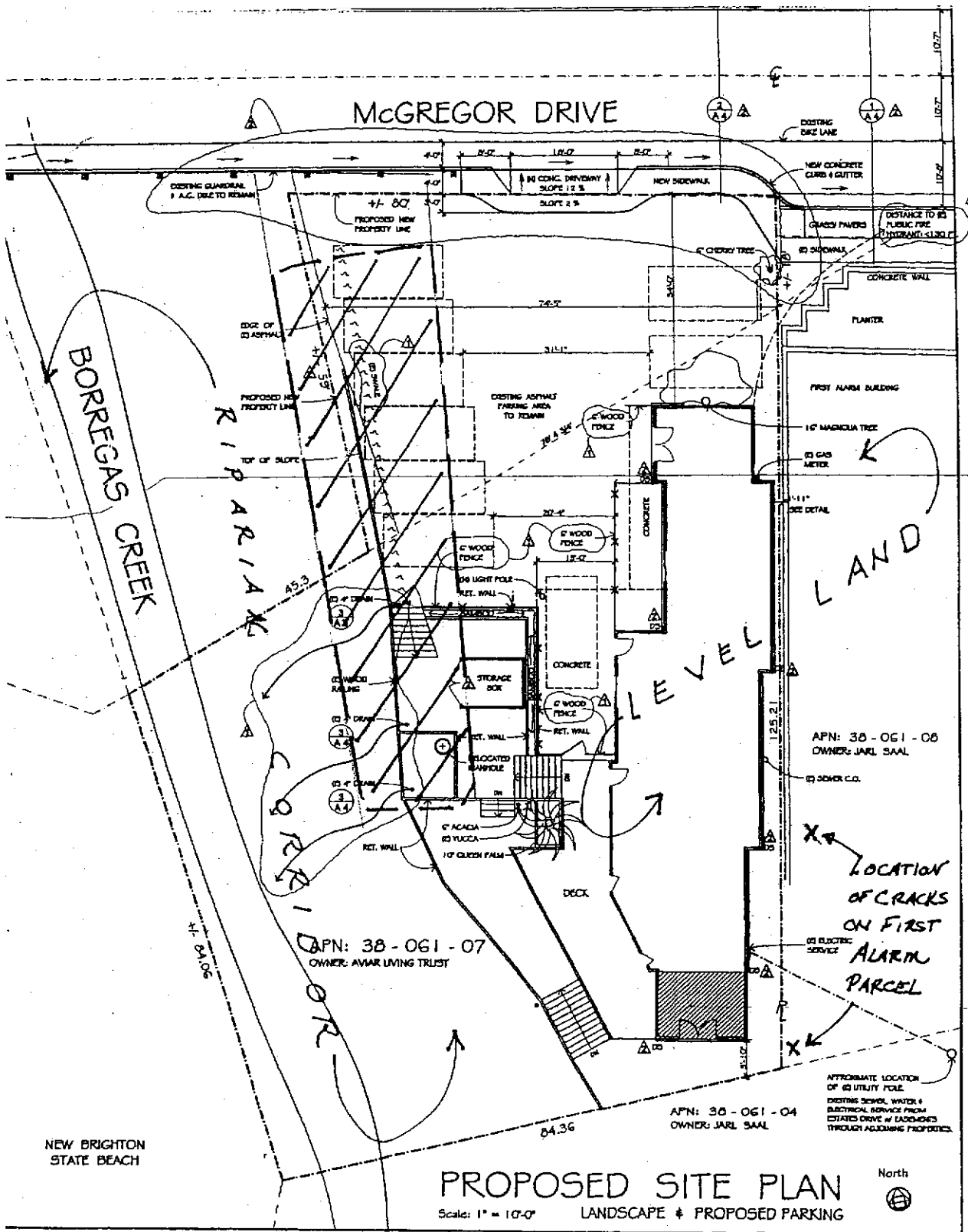
JOB COPY

APPROVED BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
DATE: 6/24/96
DRAWN BY: [Signature]
CHECKED BY: [Signature]
THESE PLANS MUST REMAIN AT THE JOB SITE AT ALL TIMES



Site Plan Showing Disturbance Zone under Permit 96-0396
and Location of Cracks on First Alarm Parcel

Exhibit B



OWNER:
AVIAR LIVING TRUST
P.O. BOX 1282, APTOS, 95003
PHONE: 831-685-1116
RANDY ZAR, TRUSTEE

PROPOSED
SITE PLAN & DATA

Existing BUILDING at
2000-2004 MCGREGOR DRIVE
APTOS, CA. 95003
APN: 038-061-07

DEC. 22, 2004
A. APR. 25, 2005
JULY 27, 2005
OCT. 18, 2005
APPROVED FOR PERMIT

SHEET
A1a
OF 8 SHEETS

GRADING AREA
COMPLETED IN 1997

DATA

EXISTING LOT SIZE: 10454 SQ. FT.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO
LOT APN# 038-061-07: 2945 SQ. FT.

PROPOSED TOTAL LOT SIZE: 13399 SQ. FT.

962234-S61-G6

17 April 1996

Mr. Randy Zar
P.O. Box 1282
Aptos, CA 95001

Subject: Retaining Wall Failure
Zar Residence, McGregor Drive
Santa Cruz County, California

Dear Mr. Zar:

As requested, we have observed the near surface soil conditions in the vicinity of wood retaining wall failure on the subject site. The purpose of our investigation was to determine from a geotechnical standpoint the criteria for the repair and replacement of the existing slope and retaining wall.

It is our understanding that the slope failure occurred during the inclement weather experienced this winter. Based upon our observations, the failure appears to have been caused by saturated soil and excessive hydrostatic pressures behind the retaining wall which exceeded the passive resisting capabilities of the vertical posts. In addition, the embedment depth of the vertical members was probably inadequate due to the relatively loose fill and native soil which comprised approximately the upper five feet (5') of the embedment depth.

Our investigation included the drilling of one boring immediately to the south of the retaining wall, in order to determine the approximate depth of loose fill and the depth to competent native soil. The boring was advanced using hand operated equipment.

Based upon our borings, there is approximately five feet (5') of loose fill and native soil underlain by medium dense yellow-orange sand with clay binder.

Based upon our investigation, we recommend the following criteria for the repair of the retaining wall and slope:

1. It is recommended that the existing fill on the slope below the retaining wall be removed and replaced as engineered fill, followed by the construction of a new retaining wall which will subsequently be backfilled.
2. The observation of any grading or placement of compacted fill at the site should be done as outlined in the recommendations of this report. These recommendations and/or specifications set

forth the minimum standards needed to satisfy the other requirements of this report.

3. The Geotechnical Engineer should be notified at least four (4) working days prior to any site clearing or grading operations on the property in order to coordinate his work with the Grading Contractor. This time will allow for the necessary laboratory testing (compaction curves) that should be completed prior to the start of grading operations.
4. Site preparation should initially consist of stripping all vegetation and debris from the slope below the wall. Based upon our boring, the existing fill soil on the slope is adequate to be replaced as engineered fill.
5. Should the use of imported fill soil be necessary on this project, this material should:
 - a. be free of organics and all deleterious materials,
 - b. be free of rocks in excess of two inches (2") in size,
 - c. have not more than 15% passing the 200 sieve,
 - d. have a sand equivalent of twenty (20) or more, and
 - e. have a resistance "R" Value in excess of thirty (30).
6. Initially a keyway should be excavated at the toe of the fill. It is anticipated that this keyway will be located approximately twenty feet (20') below the failed wall (approximately where the pile of oak branches are located). This keyway should have a minimum width of ten feet (10') and the downslope edge should have a minimum embedment depth of two feet (2') into the firm original ground as determined by the geotechnical engineer at the time of excavation, based upon our boring it is anticipated that the keyway will have a total depth of approximately seven feet (7'). The base of the keyway should be excavated at a negative gradient of 2% into the hillside.
7. Subsequent keyways should be constructed by benching into the native hillside as the fill section is progresses upslope. These bench keys should have a minimum width as required by the configuration of the new fill section, and should be sloped between 1% to 2% into the hillside. These benches will effectively lead to the removal and replacement of the existing unsuitable fill soil and loose top soil on the slope.
8. The fill soil required to achieve the required elevation grades should be placed in uniform lifts not exceeding eight inches (8") in loose thickness or six inches (6") in compacted thickness, moisture conditioned to within 2% of the optimum

17 April 1996

moisture content, and compacted to the minimum required compactive effort of 90%.

9. If this work is undertaken during or soon after the rainy season the on-site soils may be too wet to be used as compacted engineered fill.
10. The percentage of relative compactive effort must be based upon the maximum dry density obtained from a laboratory compaction curve performed in accordance with the procedure set forth in A.S.T.M. Test Procedure #D1557-78. This test will also establish the optimum moisture content.
11. The fill slopes should be graded no steeper than 2:1 (horizontal to vertical).
12. The use of heavy compaction equipment adjacent to the retaining wall after construction is not recommended. The volume of backfill to be placed behind the wall after its construction will be reduced if the fill slope is extended to the parking area elevation prior to the construction of the wall.
13. The following design criteria for the retaining wall are based on the use of granular material for backfill behind the wall. Should backfill soil consist of non-granular soil these criteria may need to be revised.
14. The retaining walls should be fully drained and may be designed to the following criteria:
 - a. Where walls are "flexible," i.e., free to yield in an amount sufficient to develop an active earth pressure condition (about 1/2% of height) design for an active pressure of 36 p.s.f./ft.
 - b. For resisting passive earth pressure having a 2:1 slope below the wall use 250 p.s.f./ft., of depth within the fill; and 350 p.s.f./ft., of depth within the underlying native soil. Neglect the upper two and one-half feet (2½') of embedment. Passive pressures can be considered to act over 1.5 times the pier diameter.
 - c. Any live or dead loading surcharge which will transmit a force to the wall, i.e. automobile loads.
 - d. The retaining wall should be designed for a peak average ground acceleration (PAGA) of 0.42g, and a repeatable high ground acceleration (RHGA) of 0.27g.

15. The above criteria are based on fully drained conditions existing behind the walls. Therefore, we recommend that either Class 2 Permeable Material, meeting CALTRAN Standard Specifications Section 68-1.025, or clean rounded/crushed pea-sized gravel (3/8" by No. 6) be placed behind the wall, for a minimum continuous width of twelve inches (12") and extend the full height of the wall to within one foot (1') of the ground surface. A layer of filter fabric (e.g., Mirafi 140N, or equal) should be placed underneath the bottom of the permeable material up the back face of the wall and over the top of the gravel followed by twelve inches (12") of compacted backfill. A four inch (4") diameter rigid perforated (perforations placed downward) plastic pipe should be installed within three inches (3") of the bottom of the granular backfill and be discharged to a suitable approved location. Suitable clean-outs should also be installed in the system.
16. The retaining wall drain and any other existing drains should discharge into energy dissipators located beyond the fill slope near the existing drainage swale.
17. After completion of the slope construction, proper erosion protection must be provided. This should include track rolling of the slope and the planting of the exposed surface slopes with erosion and drought resistant vegetation.
18. The fill slopes should be constructed so that surface water will not be allowed to accumulate above the slope face or drain over the top of the slope.
19. The recommended gradients do not preclude periodic maintenance of the slope, as minor sloughing and erosion may occur.
20. We respectfully request an opportunity to review the grading plans before bidding to ensure that the recommendations of this report have been included and to provide additional recommendations, if needed.

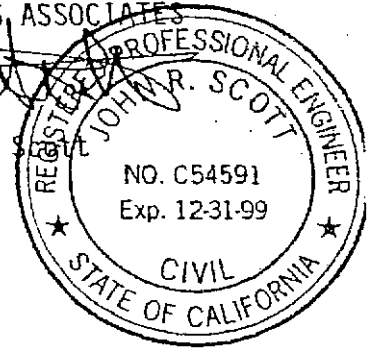
EXCLUSIONS OF WARRANTIES: Our services are to consist of professional opinion only. NO WARRANTY, **EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING ANY IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OF FITNESS FOR THE PURPOSE** is made or intended in connection with our work or by the proposal for consulting or other services or by the furnishing of oral or written reports or findings. If the Owner (client) desires assurances against project failure, Owner agrees to obtain the appropriate insurance through his own insurance broker, which shall include a waiver of subrogation clause as to Reynolds Associates.

962234-S61-G6
17 April 1996

Should you have any further questions, please contact this office.

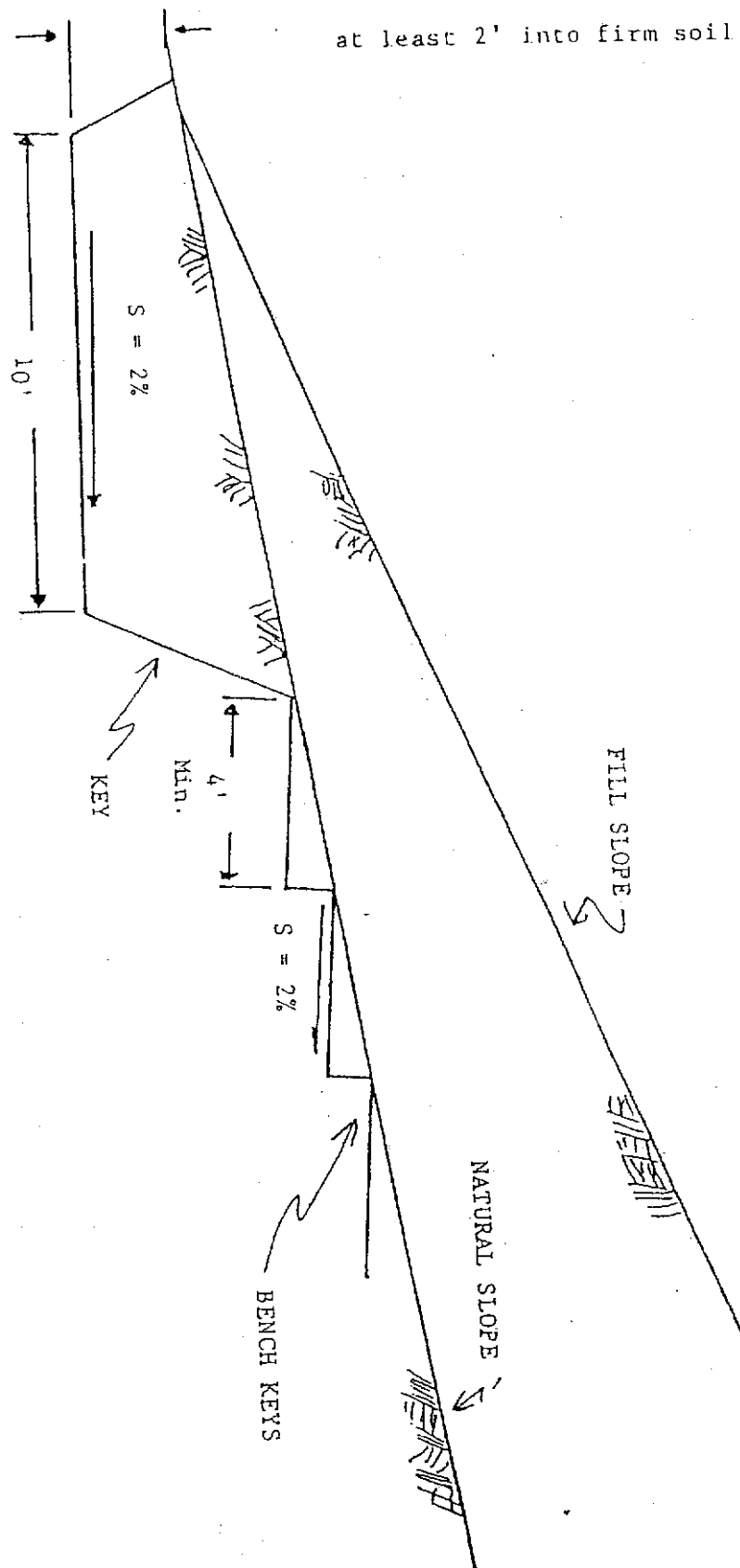
Very truly yours,
REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES

John R. Scott



JRS :js

Copies: 4 to Mr. Randy Zar



TYPICAL KEY AND BENCHES

not to scale.



Geotechnical &
Civil Engineers

Exhibit D

962234-S61-G6
27 May 1997

Mr. Randy Zar
P.O. Box 1282
Aptos, CA 95001

Subject: COMPACTION TEST RESULTS
Permit No. 96-0396, Residence, McGregor Drive
Santa Cruz County, California

Dear Mr. Zar:

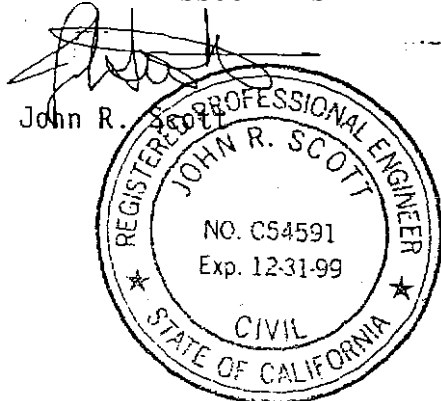
As requested, we have observed the base keyway and have conducted testing services for the rough grading of the slope reconstruction on the subject site.

Field moisture/density tests were compared as a percentage of relative compactive effort to the laboratory tests performed upon the potential fill and native soils in accordance with test procedure ASTM #D1557-78. The results of the laboratory compaction curves and field in-place moisture/density tests are shown on the enclosed Tables I and II. In addition, the relative compactive effort is shown as a percentage of each of the field tests.

It is our opinion that the slope reconstruction has been adequately compacted and is completed. It should be noted that compaction testing associated with the finished driveway and parking area, and observation or testing associated with the new retaining wall construction was outside the scope of the services provided by our office.

Should you have any further questions, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,
REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES



JRS:js
Copies: 4 to Mr. Randy Zahr

TABLE I

Summary of Laboratory Test Results

Sample No.	Description	Max. Dry Density p.c.f.	Opt. Moisture Content %
1	Grey brown SILT w/gravels $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ "	132.5	6.5
2	Light brown Sandy SILT w/gravels $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 1"	116.4	13.8
3	Brown Silty SAND w/ grey hinder & some gravels	121.2	12.6

TABLE II

Summary of Field Density Test Results

Test No.	Date	Location & Description	Lift	Moisture Content %	Dry Density p.c.f.	Relative Compaction %	Soil Ty & Remark
1	7/18	Center of Key & fill	+2.0	14.1	119.3	90.0	[1]
2	7/25	Center of Key & fill West side	+2.0	13.4	121.3	91.5	[1]
3	7/30	Center of fill area 3 parking lot	-5.0 BSG	14.0	113.5	97.5	[2]
4	7/30	New parking Lot Key fill South end	-4.0 BSG	14.2	113.9	97.1	[2]
5	7/30	New parking Lot Key fill Center	-4.0 BSG	14.8	114.9	98.5	[2]
6	7/31	Center of Key & fill	+5.0	12.4	108.5	93.2	[2]
7	8/8	East of Manhole	-2.0 BSG	11.9	118.4	96.9	[3]
8	8/8	Center Parking North- west edge	-2.0 BSG	10.7	109.4	90.0	[3]
9	8/13	North edge Parking lot	-1.0 BSG	13.4	109.8	90.1	[3]
10	8/15	South end 10' west of Manhole	-1.0 BSG	13.4	112.0	96.3	[2]
11	8/15	Center of Parking lot	-1.0	13.4	109.8	94.3	[2]

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

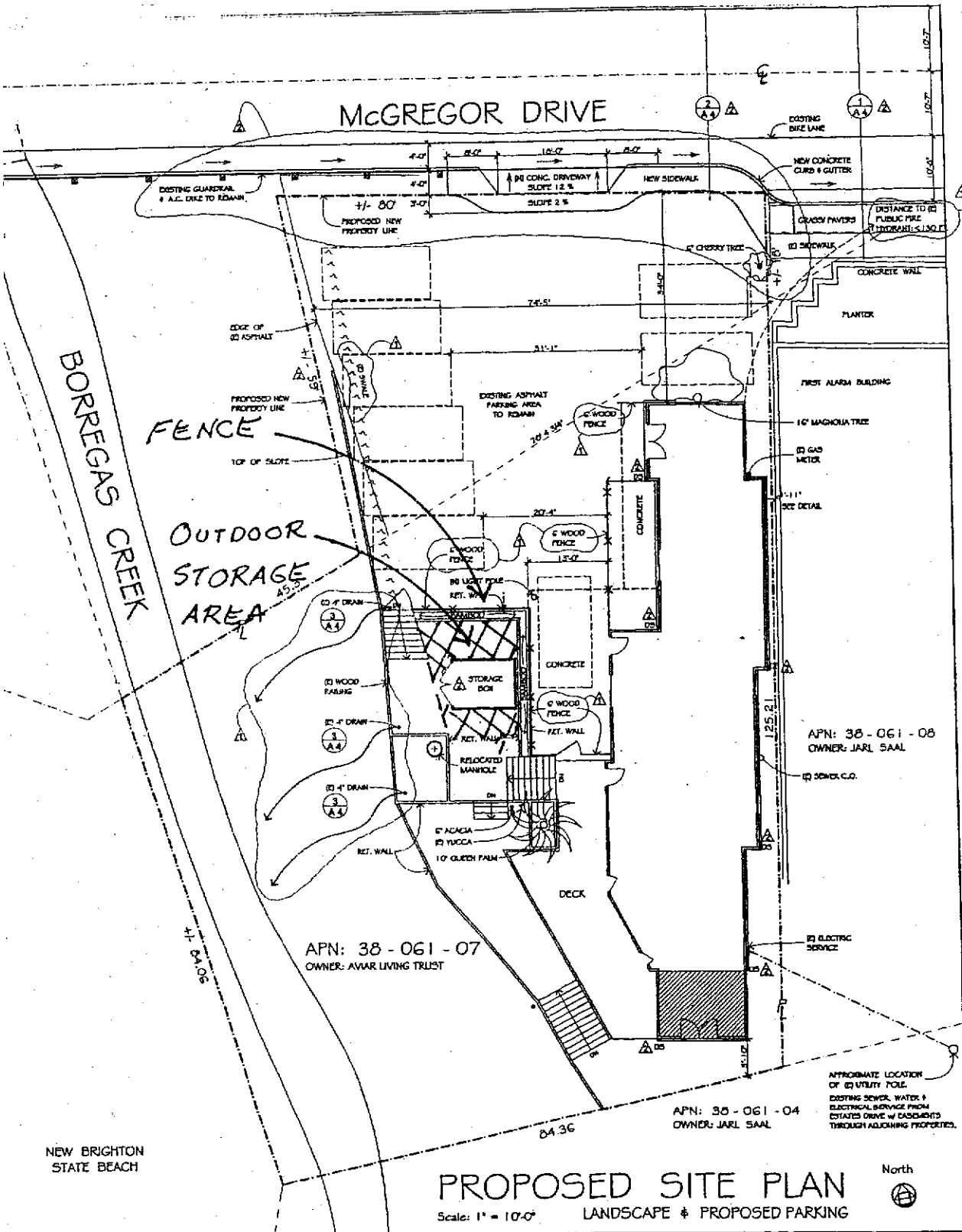
DATE: 6/12/97
TO: Code Compliance
FROM: Catherine Carr, E.P.
SUBJECT: 96-0396 38-061-07

expansion Exception permit
96-0396 apr 038-061-07
is now finalized

cc: OWNER

Site Plan Showing Area Proposed for Outdoor Storage

Exhibit F



OWNER:
AVIAR LIVING TRUST
P.O. BOX 1282, APTOS, 95003
PHONE: 831-685-1116
CELL: 234-8858
RANDY ZAR, TRUSTEE

PROPOSED
SITE PLAN & DATA

Existing BUILDING at
2000-2004 MCGREGOR DRIVE
APTOS, CA. 95003
APN: 038-061-07

DATA

EXISTING LOT SIZE: 10454 SQ. FT.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO LOT APN# 038-061-07: 2945 SQ. FT.

PROPOSED TOTAL LOT SIZE: 13399 SQ. FT.

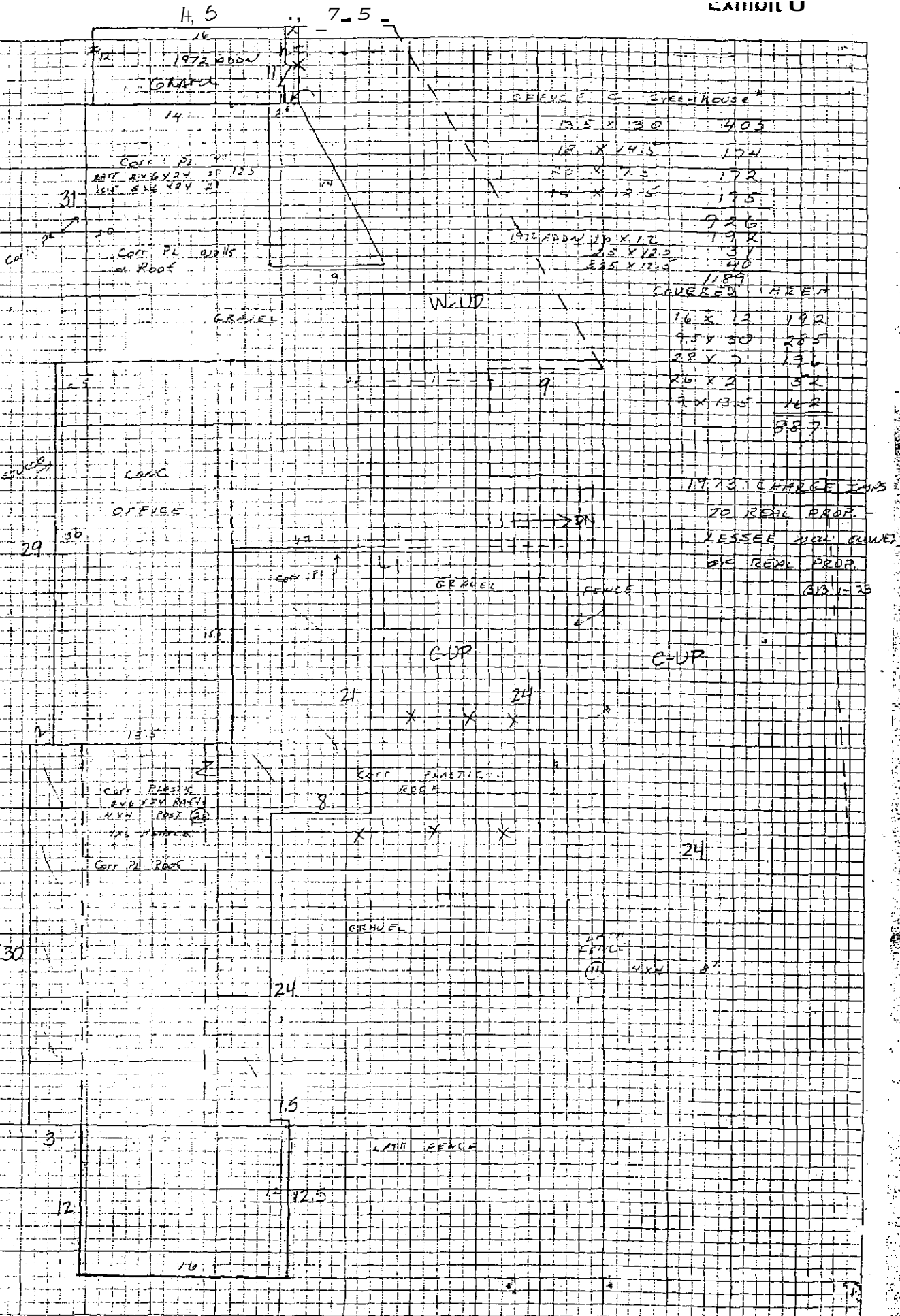
DEC. 22, 2004
APR. 25, 2005
JULY 27, 2005
OCT. 18, 2005
NO. 038-061-07

SHEET

A1a

OF 8 SHEETS

ATTACHMENT



35-0161-20

SHEET 21 OF 21 SHEETS

B-E 244080, 244081

Note added by Kim Tschantz:
These two columns show in 1973 the assessor's appraiser changes the floor area of bldg. #1 from 926 sq. ft. to 1,189 sq. ft. This is an increase of 163 sq. ft. The diagram on the other sheet shows the location of the "1972 addition"

Appraiser - Date				1967 INDEX				1972 INDEX				1977 INDEX			
Bldg. No.	Area	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.		
1	287	2.50	100	331.5	2.50	88	2600	6.00	7132	72	5000	87	2640		
2	887	1.00	100	887	1.35	88	1000	2.50	2217	72	1500				
Total				3202	3600				6500						
Appraiser - Date				03/10/94	1993.5										
Bldg. No.	Area	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.		
1	1189			4000											
2	887			1000											
Total				5000											
CHIT															

35

ATTACHMENT

View of 30 foot rear yard setback area of the First Alarm parcel

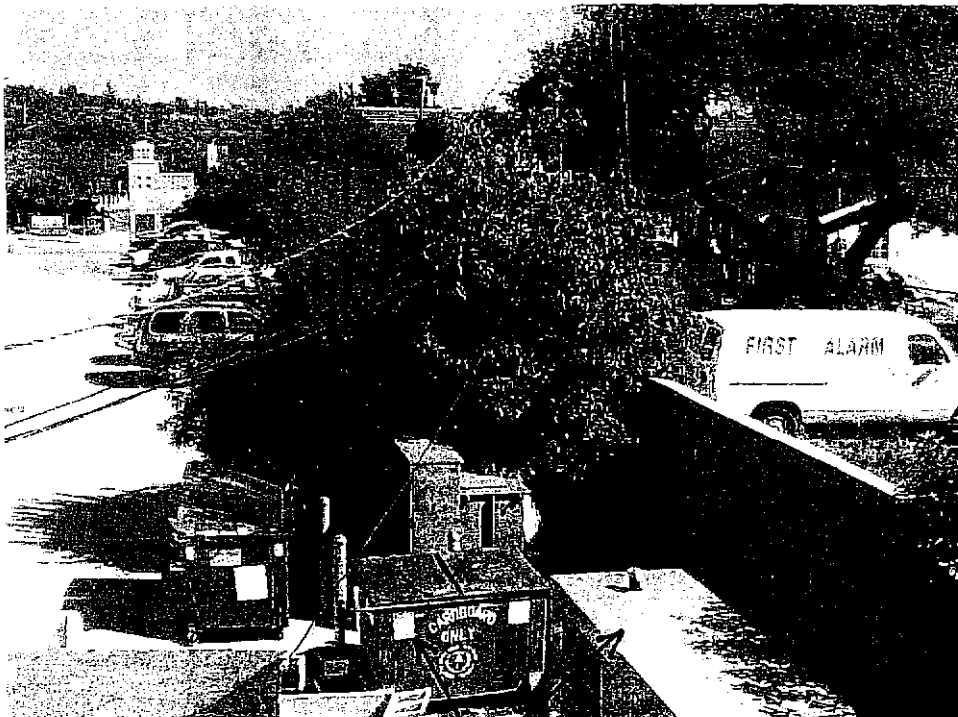
EXHIBIT 4



Trash area

Main building entry

Residential parcel

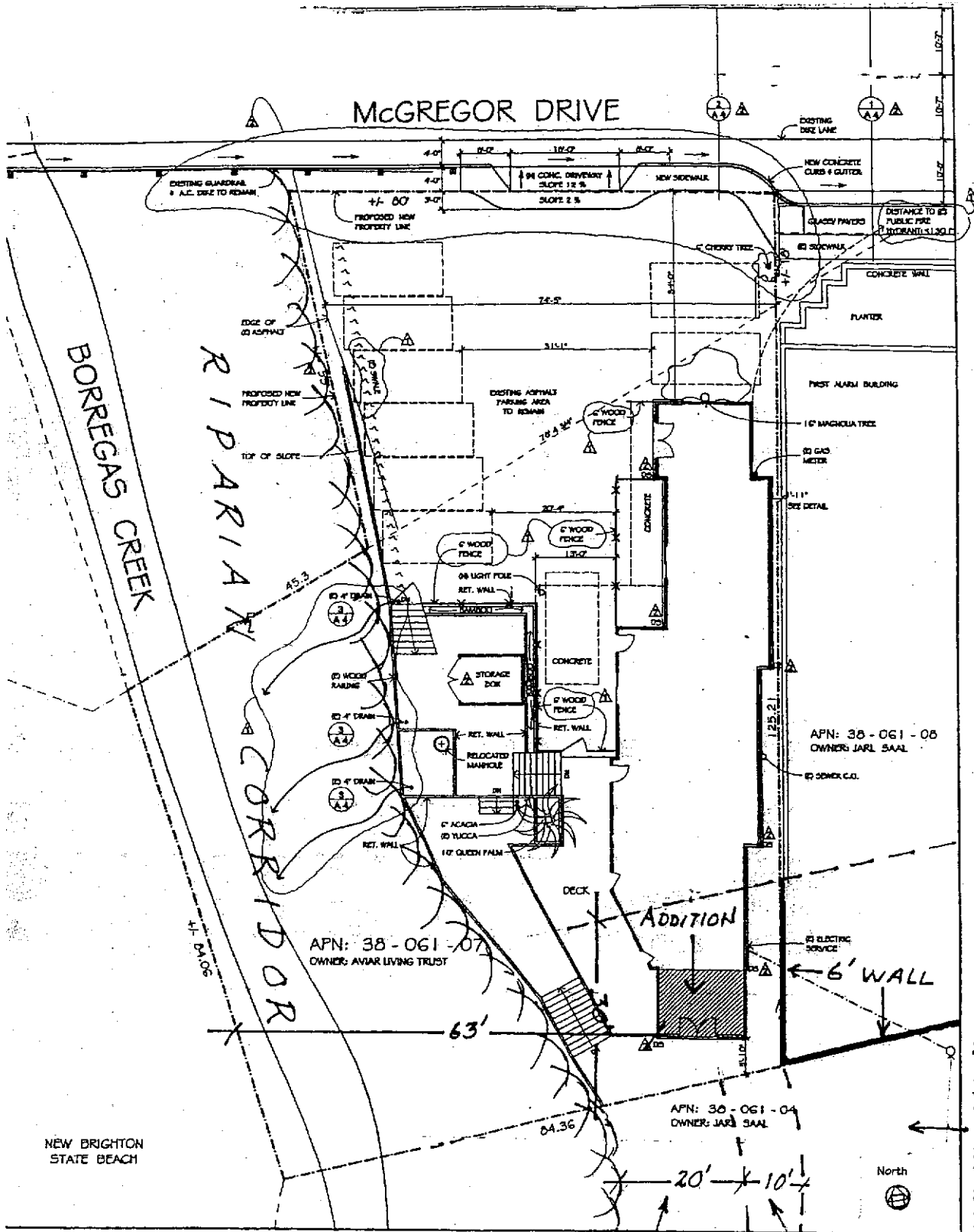


Trash area and generator

Wall at property line

Site Plan Showing Buffering Between the Project
and Adjoining Parcels

Exhibit I



Heavy dashed line shows the regular
30 ft. rear yard setback.

Residential parcel continues to the east
for an additional 236 ft. beyond the riparian
protection zones

RIPARIAN
BUFFER
SEPARATION
BETWEEN
BUFFER +
BLDGs.

-65-

37

OWNER:
AVIAR LIVING TRUST
P.O. BOX 1282, APTOS, 95003
PHONE: 831-685-1116
RANDY ZAR, TRUSTEE
CELL: 234-8858

PROPOSED
SITE PLAN & DATA

Existing BUILDING at
2000-2004 McGREGOR DRIVE
APTOS, CA. 95003
APN: 038-061-07

DEC. 22, 2004
APR. 24, 2005
JULY 27, 2005
OCT. 18, 2005
REVISIONS

SHEET
A1a
OF 8 SHEETS

ATTACHMENT

3

VARIANCE FINDINGS

1. THAT BECAUSE OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES APPLICABLE TO THE PROPERTY, INCLUDING SIZE, SHAPE, TOPOGRAPHY, LOCATION, OR SURROUNDINGS, THE STRICT APPLICATION OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE DEPRIVES SUCH PROPERTY OF PRIVILEGES ENJOYED BY OTHER PROPERTY IN THE VICINITY AND UNDER IDENTICAL ZONING CLASSIFICATION

This finding can be made, in that the commercial development is constrained by the riparian corridor and associated steep slopes, at the west side of the project site. This riparian corridor results in a net developable area of approximately 6,212 square feet. Even if the excess right-of-way area is added to the site, as proposed, the net developable area would only increase to **9,157** sq. ft. The minimum parcel for a new "C-4" (Service Commercial) zoned parcel is 10,000 sq. ft. Both the General Plan/Local Coastal Plan and zoning designate this parcel for service commercial land uses.

2. THAT THE GRANTING OF THE VARIANCE WILL BE IN HARMONY WITH THE GENERAL INTENT AND PURPOSE OF ZONING OBJECTIVES AND WILL NOT BE MATERIALLY DETRIMENTAL TO PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE OR INJURIOUS TO PROPERTY OR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE VICINITY

This finding can be made, in that the required 30 foot setback is intended to provide a separation between commercial and residential uses and the majority of commercial activities (including parking, loading and unloading) will be located at the front portion of the subject property. The location of the commercial development and use is sufficiently separated from the adjacent residential development to avoid commercial/residential use conflicts. The reduction of the rear yard setback will allow a use limited to a **400 sq. ft.** extension of a one-story building. In addition, no development can occur on that portion of the adjacent residential parcel that adjoins the rear property line of the subject parcel due to the presence of a riparian corridor, riparian buffer and 10 foot separation between the buffer and building construction. These factors ensure that there will not be any negative impacts to the adjacent residential parcel not any other adjoining parcel.

3. THAT THE GRANTING OF SUCH VARIANCES SHALL NOT CONSTITUTE A GRANT OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES INCONSISTENT WITH THE LIMITATIONS UPON OTHER PROPERTIES IN THE VICINITY AND ZONE IN WHICH SUCH IS SITUATED.

This finding can be made, in that the useable area of the subject property is constrained due to the presence of the riparian corridor and the encroachment of the existing structure into the 30 foot yard setback will allow a **similar** level of commercial use as found on **similarly** zoned parcel of the same size. The granting of the variance to reduce the rear yard setback to about **5** feet will not constitute a grant of special privileges in that the adjoining commercial property contains a higher level of commercial activities within its 30 foot rear yard setback than will occur at the subject parcel.

(Note: Bold text indicates recommended new wording)



Staff Report to the Zoning Administrator

Application Number: **04-0650**

Applicant: Randy Zar
Owner: Alvin Zar, et al.
APN: 038-061-07

Agenda Date: 11/18/05
Agenda Item: 2
Time: After 8:30 am

Project Description: Proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Requires a Coastal Development Permit, a Commercial Development Permit, and a Variance to reduce the required **30** foot rear yard to about 5 feet.

Location: Property located on the south side of McGregor Drive 200 feet west of the intersection with Estates Drive. (2000 McGregor Drive)

Supervisory District: 2nd District (District Supervisor: Ellen Pine)

Permits Required: Coastal Development Permit, Commercial Development Permit, Variance

Staff Recommendation:

- Approval of Application 04-0650, based on the attached findings and conditions,
- Certification that the proposal is exempt from further Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibits

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---------------------------|
| A. | Project plans | E. | Assessor's parcel map |
| B. | Findings | F. | Zoning map |
| C. | Conditions | G. | Comments & Correspondence |
| D. | Categorical Exemption (CEQA determination) | | |

Parcel Information

Parcel Size:	10,454 square feet (+ 2,945 square feet of R/W)
Existing Land Use - Parcel:	Commercial businesses
Existing Land Use - Surrounding:	Commercial business, residential development. Highway One, and riparian/open space.

Project Access: McGregor Drive
Planning Area: Aptos
Land Use Designation: C-S (Service Commercial)
Zone District: C-4 (Commercial Service)
Coastal Zone: X Inside Outside
Appealable to Calif. Coastal Comm. X Yes No

Environmental Information

Geologic Hazards: Not mapped/no physical evidence on site
Soils: No report required
Fire Hazard: Not a mapped constraint
Slopes: 2-10 % at building site & 15-40% in riparian corridor
Env. Sen. Habitat: Riparian woodland (Borregas Creek)
Grading: No grading proposed
Tree Removal: No trees proposed to be removed
Scenic: Highway One scenic corridor
Drainage: Existing drainage adequate
Archeology: Not mapped/no physical evidence on site

Services Information

Urban/Rural Services Line: X Inside Outside
Water Supply: Soquel Creek Water District
Sewage Disposal: Santa Cruz County Sanitation District
Fire District: Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District
Drainage District: Zone 6 Flood Control District

History

The subject property had been used as a commercial nursery which was an allowed use on the subject property at the time the nursery was established. Building Permits were issued to allow the nursery buildings and no use approval was required at that time. As the nursery was in operation some additional construction occurred, with no evidence of the required permits for such expansion. Over time, the nursery use transitioned to other commercial and residential uses, again without evidence of the required permits. The property owners' were notified of their lack of compliance with County regulations and, as a result of this action, the use of the property and structures has been modified to reflect the current proposal. The applicant is now seeking a development approval to recognize the existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program for the commercial use of the property.

Project Setting

The subject property is located along McGregor Drive, a frontage road adjacent to the Highway One comdor to the north. Borregas Creek passes through the western half of the subject property, which significantly limits the development potential of the property. Vacant land is located to the west of Borregas Creek, with commercial development to the east and residential

development to the south of the subject property

Zoning & General Plan Consistency

The subject property is an approximately 10,500 square foot lot, located in the C-4 (Commercial Service) zone district, a designation which allows commercial uses. The proposed commercial service development is composed of allowed uses within the zone district and the project, as conditioned, is consistent with the site's (C-S) Service Commercial General Plan designation,

Road Abandonment - McGregor Drive

The proposed development relies upon the abandonment of approximately 3000 square feet of excess right-of-way of McGregor Drive by the County to the property owner for parking purposes. This road abandonment is currently in process with the Department of Public Works. The staff recommendation for this application is based on the granting of the excess right-of-way to the property owner. **If** the County ultimately decides not to grant the excess right-of-way to the property owner; the proposed development would not be feasible as it is currently proposed.

Commercial Development Permit - Master Occupancy Program

The proposed commercial development is general in nature. The applicant is proposing to conduct commercial services allowed within the **C-4** (Commercial Service) zone district. Three commercial units are within an existing commercial building (proposed to be recognized through this development application) and 9 parking spaces will be provided to serve the proposed commercial development.

Many of the uses allowed in the C-4 (Commercial Service) zone district may not be appropriate on the project site without further regulation, due to the limited parking available. The number of units further complicates the types and intensities of commercial uses that would be appropriate on the project site. It is recommended that the commercial uses be restricted to those which are small in scale and which do not have significant parking generation. Uses which do not require customers to visit the project site, or service/delivery vehicles to be stored on the project site are recommended. This results in a situation where the uses that are allowed in the C-4 zone district can be considered, if a strict parking program is observed. Staff recommends that the parking for each commercial unit be limited to no more than two vehicles for each unit (including service vehicles and/or employee parking) and each unit have one parking space available for customers and deliveries. This results in a total of 3 parking spaces for each unit and a total of 9 parking spaces which are all provided on the project site.

Variance

This application includes a variance request to encroach into the required 30 foot yard setback from the rear property line. A 30 foot setback is required from the rear property boundary due to the adjacent residentially zoned parcel. Due to the small size of the property and the location of the riparian comdor, it is appropriate to allow some reduction of the required setback. Portions of the prior commercial nursery were constructed in the required setback, but more recent additions have been built. Staff recommends that the newer additions be removed and the

structure be cut back to about 16 feet from the rear property boundary.

Local Coastal Program Consistency

The proposed commercial development is in conformance with the County's certified Local Coastal Program, in that the structure is sited and designed to be visually compatible, in scale with, and integrated with the character of the surrounding neighborhood. The project site is located between the shoreline and the first public road, with public beach access at New Brighton and Seacliff State Beaches, and is not identified as a priority acquisition site in the County's Local Coastal Program. Consequently, the proposed project will not interfere with public access to the beach, ocean, or other nearby body of water.

Design Review & Scenic Resources

The subject property is located within the viewshed of the Highway One scenic corridor. The proposed development is set back from the roadway and is adjacent to other existing commercial development. The proposed commercial development complies with the requirements of the County Design Review Ordinance and General Plan policies related to scenic resource protection, in that the existing structure uses muted natural tones and materials to blend with the surrounding development and landscape.

The existing sign-located along the property frontage is not in compliance with the requirements of the sign ordinance (due to a height over 7 feet) and creates an unnecessary visual impact to the Highway One scenic corridor. It is recommended that this sign be removed and a revised sign ~~plan~~ submitted which complies with the requirements for signs in commercial zone districts.

Conclusion

As proposed and conditioned, the project is consistent with all applicable codes and policies of the Zoning Ordinance and General Plan/LCP. Please see Exhibit "B" ("Findings") for a complete listing of findings and evidence related to the above discussion.

Staff Recommendation

- **APPROVAL** of Application Number **04-0650**, based on the attached findings and conditions.
- Certification that the proposal is exempt from further Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Supplementary reports and information referred to in this report are on file and available for viewing at the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, and are hereby made a part of the administrative record for the proposed project.

The County Code and General Plan, as well as hearing agendas and additional information are available online at: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Report Prepared By: Randall Adams
Santa Cruz County Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor
Santa Cruz CA 95060
Phone Number: (831) 454-3218
E-mail: randall.adams@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Coastal Development Permit Findings

1. That the project is a use allowed in one of the basic zone districts, other than the Special Use (SU) district, listed in section 13.10.170(d) as consistent with the General Plan and Local Coastal Program LUP designation.

This finding can be made, in that the property is zoned C-4 (Commercial Service), a designation which allows commercial uses. The proposed commercial service development is composed of allowed uses within the zone district, consistent with the site's (C-S) Service Commercial General Plan designation.

2. That the project does not conflict with any existing easement or development restrictions such as public access: utility, or open space easements.

This finding can be made, in that the proposal does not conflict with any existing easement or development restriction such as public access, utility, or open space easements in that the development is sited away from the existing sanitary sewer line which passes through the property.

3. That the project is consistent with the design criteria and special use standards and conditions of this chapter pursuant to section 13.20.130 et seq.

This finding can be made, in that the development is consistent with the surrounding commercial development in terms of architectural style; the site is adjacent to other commercial development; the colors shall be muted natural tones and complementary to the site; the development site is not on a prominent ridge, beach, or bluff top.

4. That the project conforms with the public access, recreation, and visitor-serving policies, standards and maps of the General Plan and Local Coastal Program land use plan, specifically Chapter 2: figure 2.5 and Chapter 7, and, as to any development between and nearest public road and the sea or the shoreline of any body of water located within the coastal zone, such development is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act commencing with section 30200.

This finding can be made, in that the project site is located between the shoreline and the first public road with public beach access at New Brighton and Seacliff State Beaches. Consequently, the commercial development will not interfere with public access to the beach, ocean, or any nearby body of water. Further, the project site is not identified as a priority acquisition site in the County Local Coastal Program.

5. That the proposed development is in conformity with the certified local coastal program.

This finding can be made, in that the structure is sited and designed to be visually compatible, in scale with, and integrated with the character of the surrounding commercial development. Additionally, commercial uses are allowed uses in the C-4 (Commercial Service) zone district of the area, as well as the General Plan and Local Coastal Program land use designation.

Variance Findings

1. That because of special circumstances applicable to the property, including size, shape, topography, location, and surrounding existing structures, the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance deprives such property of privileges enjoyed by other property in the vicinity and under identical zoning classification.

This finding can be made, in that the commercial development is constrained by the riparian comdor, and associated steep slopes, at the west side of the project site.

2. That the granting of the variance will be in harmony with the general intent and purpose of zoning objectives and will not be materially detrimental to public health, safety, or welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the vicinity.

This finding can be made, in that the required 30 foot setback is intended to provide a separation between commercial and residential uses and the majority of the commercial activities (including parking, loading, and unloading) will be located at the front portion of the subject property. The location of the commercial development and use is sufficiently separated from the adjacent residential development to avoid commercial/residential use conflicts.

3. That the granting of such variances shall not constitute a grant of special privileges inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the vicinity and zone in which such is situated.

This finding can be made, in that the usable area of the subject property is constrained due to the presence of the riparian corridor, and the encroachment of the existing structure into the 30 foot yard setback will allow a similar level of commercial use as found on similarly zoned parcels of the same size.

Development Permit Findings

1. That the proposed location of the project and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or the general public, and will not result in inefficient or wasteful use of energy, and will not be materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

This finding can be made, in that the project is located in an area designated for commercial uses. Construction will comply with prevailing building technology, the Uniform Building Code, and the County Building ordinance to insure the optimum in safety and the conservation of energy and resources.

2. That the proposed location of the project and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will be consistent with all pertinent County ordinances and the purpose of the zone district in which the site is located.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed location of the commercial development and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will be consistent with all pertinent County ordinances and the purpose of the C-4 (Commercial Service) zone district in that the primary use of the property will be for commercial service uses and a parking program will be established to prevent parking or traffic impacts to adjacent properties.

3. That the proposed use is consistent with all elements of the County General Plan and with any specific plan which has been adopted for the area.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed commercial use is consistent with the use requirements specified for the Service Commercial (C-S) land use designation in the County General Plan.

The proposed commercial development will not adversely impact the light, solar opportunities, air, and/or open space available to other structures or properties, and meets all current site and development standards for the zone district as specified in Policy 8.1.3 (Residential Site and Development Standards Ordinance), in that the commercial development will not adversely shade adjacent properties, and will meet current setbacks with the exception of the proposed variances for the zone district that ensure access to light, air, and open space in the neighborhood. (Amended at ZA 11/18/05)

The proposed commercial development will not be improperly proportioned to the parcel size or the character of the neighborhood as specified in General Plan Policy 8.6.1 (Maintaining a Relationship Between Structure and Parcel Sizes), in that the proposed commercial development will comply with the site standards for the C-4 zone district (including setbacks, lot coverage, floor area ratio, height, and number of stories) and will result in a structure consistent with a design that could be approved on any similarly sized lot in the vicinity. (Amended at ZA 11/18/05)

A specific plan has not been adopted for this portion of the County.

Application #: 04-0650

APN: 038-061-07

Owner: Alvin Zar, etal.

4. That the proposed use will not overload utilities and will not generate more than the acceptable level of traffic on the streets in the vicinity.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed commercial development is to be recognized in place of an existing prior commercial use. No increase in traffic generation or use of utilities will result from the proposed development.

5. That the proposed project will complement and harmonize with the existing and proposed land uses in the vicinity and will be compatible with the physical design aspects, land use intensities, and dwelling unit densities of the neighborhood.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed structure is located in a mixed neighborhood containing a variety of architectural styles, and the proposed commercial development is consistent with the land use intensity and density of the neighborhood.

6. The proposed development project is consistent with the Design Standards and Guidelines (sections 13.1 1.070 through 13.11.076), and any other applicable requirements of this chapter.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed commercial development will be of an appropriate scale and type of design that will enhance the aesthetic qualities of the surrounding properties and will not reduce or visually impact available open space in the surrounding area.

Recording requested by:

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

When recorded, return to:

Planning Department
Attn: Randall Adams
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Conditions of Approval

Development Permit No. 04-0650

Property Owner: Alvin Zar, etal.

Assessor's Parcel No.: 038-061-07

Exhibit A: Project plans, !'Existing Building at 2000-2004 McGregor Drive"; 8 sheets, dated 7/27/05.

- I. This permit authorizes the construction of a commercial building, and the installation of a parking area and associated improvements per the approved Exhibit "A" for this project; and a variance to reduce the required rear yard setback from 30 feet to about ~~16~~ 5 feet. (Amended at ZA 11/18/05)

Prior to exercising any rights granted by this permit including, without limitation, any construction or site disturbance, the applicant/owner shall:

- A. Sign, date, and return to the Planning Department one copy of the approval to indicate acceptance and agreement with the conditions thereof.
- B. Obtain a Building Permit from the Santa Cruz County Building Official *for all structures on the site. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*
- C. Obtain an Encroachment Permit from the Department of Public Works for all off-site work performed in the County road right-of-way.
- D. Obtain final water service approval from the Soquel Creek Water District.
- E. Obtain final sewer service approval from the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District.
- F. *Obtain clear title (or long term lease, of a term acceptable to County Planning staff, which includes a parking indenture) for the excess right of way from the County as note on Exhibit A. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*
- G. *No grading which would require a permit is authorized by this permit. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*

- II. Prior to issuance of a Building Permit the applicant/owner shall:

- A. Submit final architectural plans for review and approval by the Planning Department. The final plans shall be in substantial compliance with the plans marked Exhibit "A" on file with the Planning Department. Any changes from the approved Exhibit "A" for this development permit on the plans submitted for the Building Permit must be clearly called out and labeled by standard architectural methods to indicate such changes. Any changes that are not properly called out and labeled will not be authorized by any Building Permit that is issued for the proposed development. The final plans shall include the following additional information:
1. Identify finish of exterior materials and color of roof covering for Planning Department approval. Any color boards must be in 8.5" x 11" format.
 2. ~~Revised site plans, floor plans, and elevations which clearly depict the~~
~~about 11 feet to the rear (south) of the existing building. (Removed at ZA~~
~~1/18/05)~~
 3. A final sign plan for the proposed commercial building shall be submitted for staff review and approval. Signage for the proposed commercial building must comply with the current requirements of the County Code. The existing monument sign along the property frontage must be removed and the supporting pole taken down.
 4. Grading, drainage, and erosion control plans, that are prepared, wet-stamped, and signed by a licensed civil engineer. Grading and drainage plans must include estimated earthwork, cross sections through all improvements, existing and proposed cut and fill areas, existing and proposed drainage facilities, and details of devices such as back drains, culverts, energy dissipaters, detention pipes, etc. Verify that the detention facilities are adequate to meet County requirements for release rates.
 5. Engineered improvement plans for all on-site and off-site improvements. All improvements shall be submitted for the review and approval by the Department of Public Works.
 6. A lighting plan for the proposed development. Lighting for the proposed development must comply with the following conditions:
 - a. All site, building, security and landscape lighting shall be directed onto the site and away from adjacent properties. Light sources shall not be visible from adjacent properties. Light sources can be shielded by landscaping, structure, fixture design or other physical means. Building and security lighting shall be integrated into the building design.
 - b. All lighted parking and circulation areas shall utilize low-rise light standards or light fixtures attached to the building. Light standards to a ~~maximum~~ height of 15 feet are allowed.

- c. Area lighting shall be high-pressure sodium vapor, metal halide, fluorescent, or equivalent energy-efficient fixtures.
- 7. All rooftop mechanical and electrical equipment shall be designed to be an integral part of the building design, and shall be screened.
- 8. Utility equipment such as electrical and gas meters, electrical panels, junction boxes, and backflow devices shall not be located on exterior wall elevations facing streets unless screened from streets and building entries using architectural screens, walls, fences, and/or plant material.
- 9. Details showing compliance with fire department requirements.
- 10. *The wall at the south side of the structure shall have no opening or windows other than one solid door. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*
- B. Submit four copies of the approved Discretionary Permit with the Conditions of Approval attached. The Conditions of Approval shall be recorded prior to submittal, if applicable.
- C. Meet all requirements of and pay all applicable fees to the Soquel Creek Water District.
- D. Meet all requirements of and pay all applicable fees to the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District.
- E. Meet all requirements of and pay Zone 6 drainage fees to the County Department of Public Works, Drainage. Drainage fees will be assessed on the net increase in impervious area.
- F. Meet all requirements and pay any applicable plan check fee of the Aptos/La Selva Fire Protection District.
- G. Pay the current fees for Child Care mitigation for 910 square feet of general commercial space. Currently, these (Category II) fees are \$0.23 per square foot, but are subject to change.
- H. Pay the current Aptos Transportation Improvement Area (TIA) fees for Roadside and Transportation improvements. Currently, these fees can be calculated as follows, but are subject to change:
 - 1. The development is subject to Aptos Transportation Improvement (TIA) fees at a rate of \$400 per daily trip-end generated by the proposed use with a credit of 1.8 trips ends from the prior nursery use. The Department of Public Works Road Engineering staff will determine the appropriate number of trip ends for the **type** of proposed use, **or** will require a traffic report to establish the number of trip ends. The total TIA fee is to be split evenly between transportation improvement fees and roadside improvement fees.

- I. Provide required off-street parking for a minimum of 9 cars. Parking spaces must be 8.5 feet wide by 18 feet long and must be located entirely outside vehicular rights-of way. Parking must be clearly designated on the plot plan.
 - J. Submit a written statement signed by an authorized representative of the school district in which the project is located confirming payment in full of all applicable developer fees and other requirements lawfully imposed by the school district.
 - K. For any parking lot drain inlets, complete and file a silt and grease trap maintenance agreement with the Department of Public Works. The final plans shall specify the location of an EPA approved silt and grease trap on site, through which storm runoff must pass. The trap shall be inspected to determine if it needs cleaning or repair prior to October 15 of each year, at minimum intervals of one year. A brief annual report shall be prepared by the trap inspector at the conclusion of each inspection and submitted to the Drainage Section of the Department of Public Works within 5 days of the inspection. The report shall specify any repairs that have been done or that are needed to allow the trap to function adequately.
 - L. *A soils report for the project site including the former right of way area which includes a slope stability analysis shall be submitted to the County for review and acceptance. All recommendations of the approved report shall be incorporated into the project design. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*
- III. All construction shall be performed according to the approved plans for the Building Permit. Prior to final building inspection, the applicant/owner must meet the following conditions:
- A. All site improvements shown on the final approved Building Permit plans shall be installed.
 - B. ~~The approximately 160 square foot addition that projects out about 11 feet to the rear (south) of the existing building must be removed and the resulting opening properly finished. (Removed at ZA 11/18/05)~~
 - C. All new utilities to serve the proposed development shall be installed underground.
 - 1. Pad-mounted transformers (as part of the underground electrical service distribution system) shall not be located in the front setback or area visible from public view, unless they are completely screened by walls and/or thick landscaping, and shall not obstruct views of traffic from tenant spaces or driveways, or views to monument signs. Underground vaults may be located in the front setback area for aesthetic purposes.
 - D. Back flow devices and other landscape irrigation valves shall not be located in the front setback or area visible from public view, unless they are completely screened by walls and/or thick landscaping, and shall not obstruct views of traffic from tenant spaces or driveways, or views to monument signs.

- E. **All** inspections required by the building permit shall be completed to the satisfaction of the County Building Official.
- F. Pursuant to Sections 16.40.040 and 16.42.100 of the County Code, if at any time during site preparation, excavation, or other ground disturbance associated with this development, any artifact or other evidence of an historic archaeological resource or a Native American cultural site is discovered, the responsible persons shall immediately cease and desist from all further site excavation and notify the Sheriff-Coroner if the discovery contains human remains, or the Planning Director if the discovery contains no human remains. The procedures established in Sections 16.40.040 and 16.42.100, shall be observed.

IV. Operational Conditions

- A. **Master Occupancy Program:** Given the location of the project with respect to existing residential and commercial uses, only the uses listed below may be processed at Level 1, based on the parking available on site:

All of the uses listed in the in the current **C-4** (Service Commercial) use charts with the parking restrictions listed below.

The following additional restrictions apply to all uses:

Parking is restricted to only 2 parking spaces for each of the three commercial units (including service vehicles and/or employee parking) and 1 parking space available for each unit for customers and deliveries. This results in a total of 3 parking spaces for each of the three commercial units, which is a total of 9 parking spaces which must all be provided on the project site.

Parking or storage of vehicles associated with the commercial service uses off of the subject property is not allowed. All parking of vehicles associated with the commercial services uses authorized by this permit must occur on the project site and may not occur on surrounding streets or parcels. *No trailers are allowed to be stored or parked on the project site. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*

Businesses occupying any of the three commercial units must comply with the parking requirements as established by this Master Occupancy Program.

~~Hours of operation are limited to the hours between 7 AM and 6 PM. No commercial service related activities are allowed outside of these hours of operation.~~ *No use of equipment that can generate noise beyond the project site and/or no deliveries can occur beyond the hours of 7AM to 6 PM. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*

Retail uses that are not ancillary to an approved commercial service use are prohibited.

All noise generated by or associated with the allowed commercial service uses may not exceed 65db at the property boundary.

~~No outdoor storage is permitted.~~ Outdoor storage is limited to screened areas surrounding the storage box shown on Exhibit A of this permit. All outdoor storage must be screened from public view. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)

- B. In the event that future County inspections of the subject property disclose noncompliance with any Conditions of this approval or any violation of the County Code, the owner shall pay to the County the full cost of such County inspections, including any follow-up inspections and/or necessary enforcement actions, up to and including permit revocation.
- C. *This permit will be reviewed if any lease agreement with the County of Santa Cruz of the excess right of way held by the **County** of Santa Cruz is terminated. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)*
- V. As a condition of this development approval, the holder of this development approval ("Development Approval Holder"), is required to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the COUNTY, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any claim (including attorneys' fees), against the COUNTY, its officers, employees, and agents to attack, set aside, void, or annul this development approval of the COUNTY or any subsequent amendment of this development approval which is requested by the Development Approval Holder.
 - A. COUNTY shall promptly notify the Development Approval Holder of any claim, action, or proceeding against which the COUNTY seeks to be defended, indemnified, or held harmless. COUNTY shall cooperate fully in such defense. If COUNTY fails to notify the Development Approval Holder within sixty (60) days of any such claim, action, or proceeding, or fails to cooperate fully in the defense thereof, the Development Approval Holder shall not thereafter be responsible to defend; indemnify, or hold harmless the COUNTY if such failure to notify or cooperate was significantly prejudicial to the Development Approval Holder.
 - B. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the COUNTY from participating in the defense of any claim, action, or proceeding if both of the following occur:
 - 1. COUNTY bears its own attorney's fees and costs; and
 - 2. COUNTY defends the action in good faith.
 - C. Settlement. The Development Approval Holder shall not be required to pay or perform any settlement unless such Development Approval Holder has approved the settlement. When representing the County, the Development Approval Holder shall not enter into any stipulation or settlement modifying or affecting the interpretation or validity of any of ~~the~~ terms or conditions of the development approval without the prior written consent of the County.
 - D. Successors Bound. "Development Approval Holder" shall include the applicant and the successor(s) in interest, transferee(s), and assign(s) of the applicant.


Minor variations to this permit which do not affect the overall concept or density may be approved by the Planning Director at the request of the applicant or staff in accordance with Chapter 18.10 of the County Code.

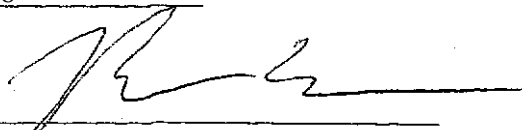
Please note: This permit expires ~~two~~ one years from the effective date unless you obtain the required permits and ~~commence construction~~. all final clearances shall be obtained in a timely manner. (Added at ZA 11/18/05)

Approval Date: 11/18/05

Effective Date: 12/2/05

Expiration Date: 12/2/06


Don Bussey
Deputy Zoning Administrator


Randall Adams
Project Planner

Appeals: Any property owner, or other person aggrieved, or any other person whose interests are adversely affected by any act or determination of the Zoning Administrator, may appeal ~~the~~ act or determination to the Planning Commission in accordance with chapter 18.10 of the Santa Cruz County Code.

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Application Number: 04-0650

Assessor Parcel Number: 038-061-07

Project Location: 2000 Mc Gregor Drive

Project Description: Proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and establish a master occupancy program.

Person or Agency Proposing Project: Randy Zar

Contact Phone Number: (831) 234-8858

- A. _____ The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.
B. _____ The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).
C. _____ **Ministerial Project** involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.
D. _____ **Statutory Exemption** other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).

Specify type:

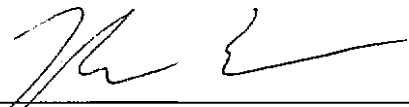
E. X **Categorical Exemption**

Specify type: Class 1 - Existing Facilities (Section 15301)

F. Reasons why the project is exempt:

Recognizing an existing commercial facility in an area designated for commercial uses

In addition, none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.



Randall Adams, Project Planner

Date: 4/18/05

APTO'S RANCHO
 POR. SECS. 12 & 13, T.11S., R.1W., M.D.B. & M.

Tax Area Code
 69-273

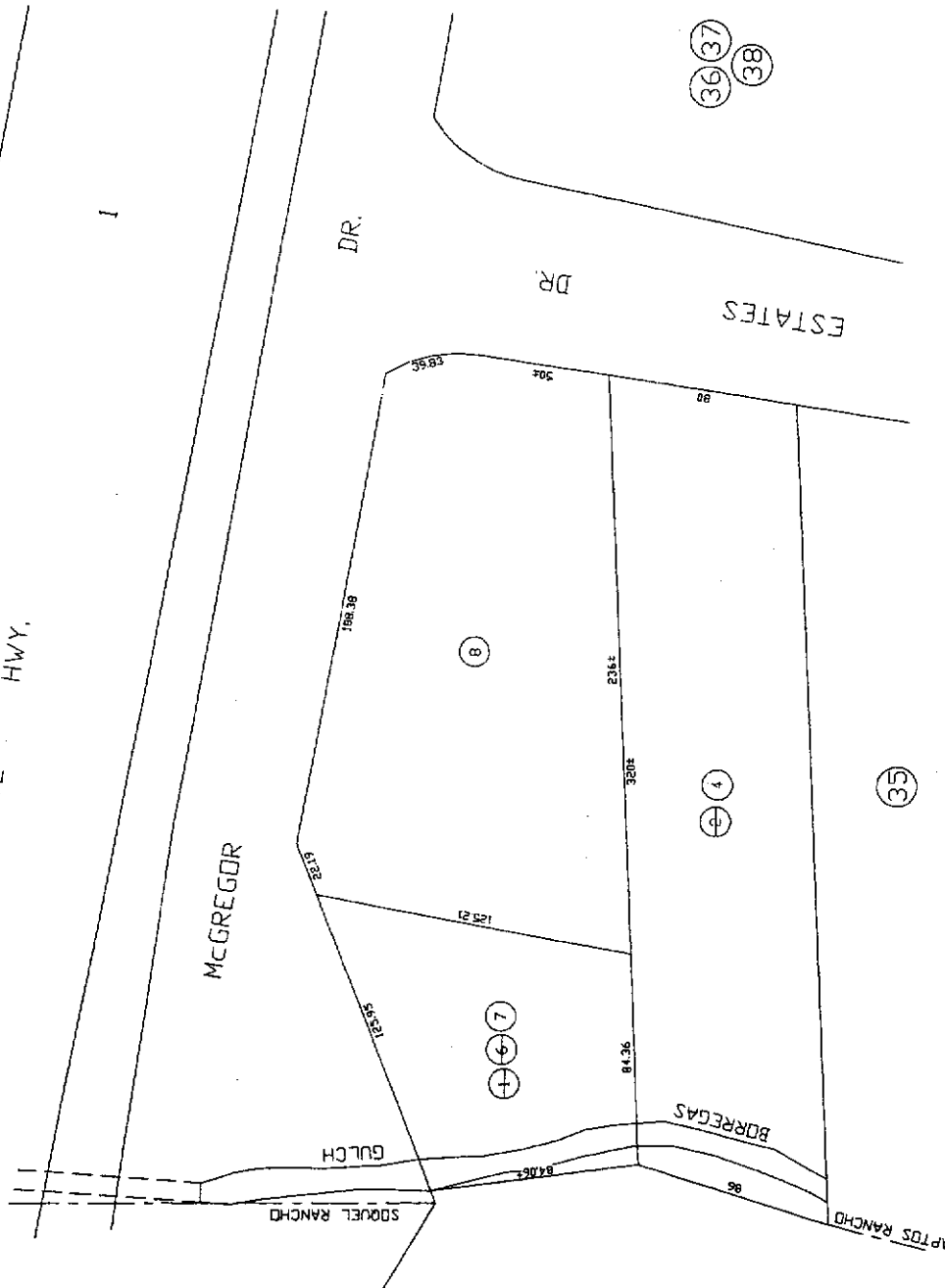
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SEACLIFF ESTATES
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STATE HWY.



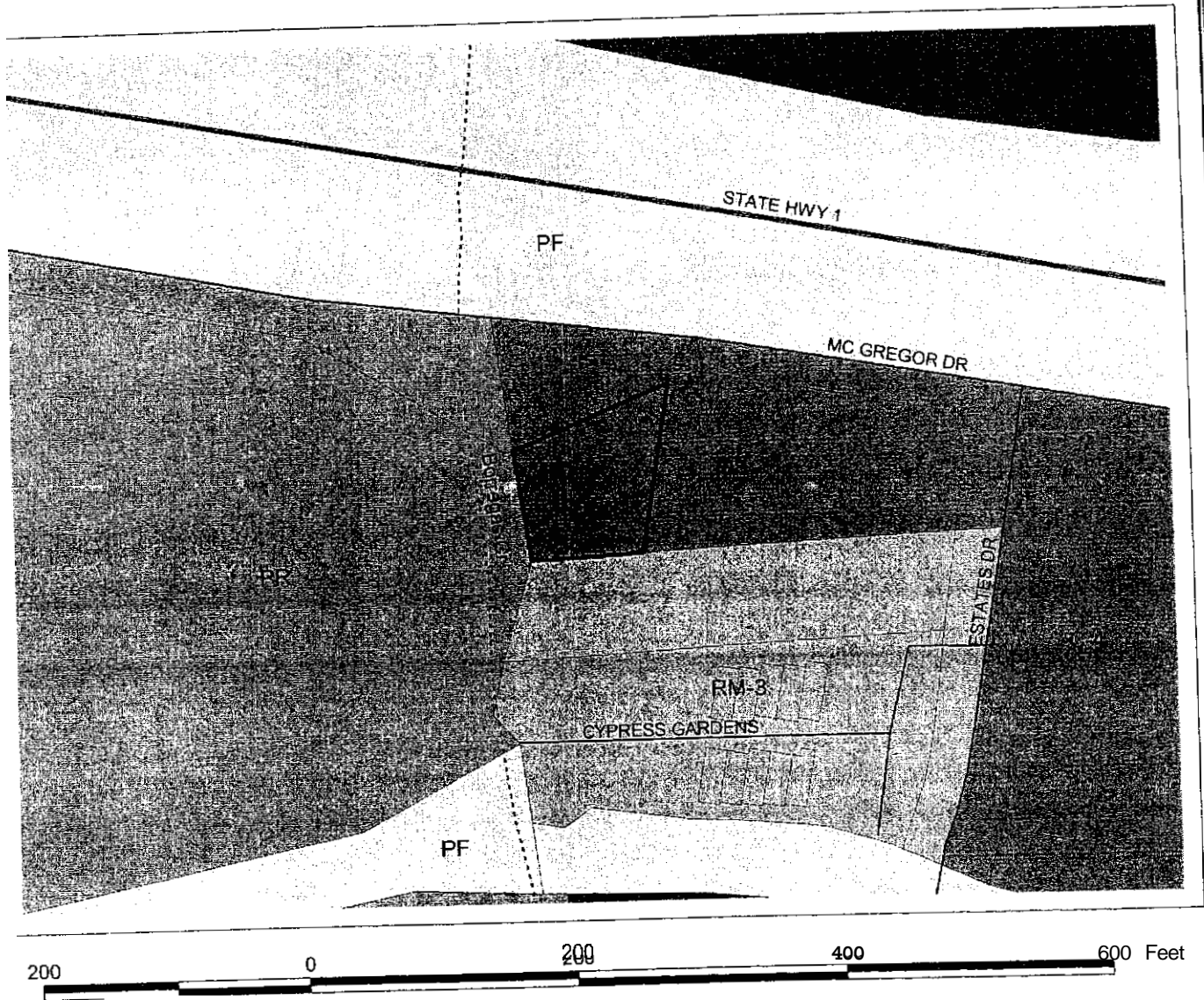
Note - Assessor's Parcel & Block
 Numbers Shown in Circles.

Assessor's Map No. 38-06
 County of Santa Cruz, Calif
 Oct, 1997

EXHIBIT E

ATTACHMENT 4

Zoning Map



Legend

- APN 038-061-07
- Parcel boundaries
- Streets
- State Highway
- Intermittent Stream
- R-1-10
- RM
- C-4
- VA
- PR
- PF



Map created by Santa Cruz County
Planning Department:
January 2005

EXHIBIT F

C O U N T Y O F S A N T A C R U Z
D I S C R E T I O N A R Y A P P L I C A T I O N C O M M E N T S

Project Planner: Randall Adams
Application No.: 04-0650
APN: 038-061-07

Date: September 2, 2005
Time: 11:33:23
Page: 1

Environmental Planning Completeness Comments

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 25, 2005 BY ROBIN M BOLSTER =====

Although the development covered by this application encroaches into the 30-foot riparian corridor, the Riparian Exception Permit (96-0396) **granted** to grade and construct a retaining wall, contained mitigation measures which adequately protected riparian resources. The current application does not propose any new development and thus does not constitute a negative impact to riparian resources.

Any new development within the corridor or buffer area will require a Riparian Exception

Environmental Planning Miscellaneous Comments

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 25, 2005 BY ROBIN M BOLSTER =====
NO COMMENT

Code Compliance Completeness Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

----- REVIEW ON JANUARY 4, 2005 BY KEVIN M FITZPATRICK -----
NO COMMENT

The present structure was built without building permits. This application is to recognize the existing commercial use but not the structure. Building permits for the structure will be required after the Development Permit is approved. This fully addresses the posted violation of a use without a development permit. (KMF)

Code Compliance Miscellaneous Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE **NOT** YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 4, 2005 BY KEVIN M FITZPATRICK =====
NO COMMENT

As part of a settlement agreement the deck is recognized as legal. (KMF)

Dpw Drainage Completeness Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE **NOT** YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 20, 2005 BY ALYSON B TOM ===== Plans dated 12/22/04 have been received. Please address the following:

1) Please clarify on the plans what features are permitted. All impervious surfaces (roof, concrete, asphalt, etc.) should be labelled either existing and permitted, existing and unpermitted, or proposed

2) Please provide a drainage plan that describes how all of the proposed or unpermitted impervious areas are to drain. Describe the downstream flow paths (on and

Discretionary Comments - Continued

Project Planner: Randal Adams
Application No. : 04-0650
APN: 038-061-07

Date: September 2, 2005
Time: 11:33:23
Page: 2

off-site) and demonstrate that they are adequate to handle the added runoff. If the runoff from these areas will flow into the drains shown on the plans additional information describing where these drains lead and demonstrating that the facilities are in good working order and are adequate to handle the added runoff.

3) All runoff from parking and driveway areas must go through water quality treatment prior to discharge from the site. A recorded maintenance agreement will be required if a structural device is used for treatment.

4) Describe how this project minimizes proposed impervious areas and mitigates for any added impervious areas

5) Zone 6 fees will be assessed on the net increase in impervious area due to the project. For credit for existing, permitted impervious areas documentation demonstrating that the area was permitted (or installed/built prior to 1986) is required.

All submittals for this project should be made through the Planning Department. For questions regarding this review Public Works stormwater management staff is available from 8-12 Monday through Friday

Additional issues/details may be required at the building permit stage

===== UPDATED ON MAY 10, 2005 BY ALYSON E TOM ===== Application with plans revised on 4/25/05 has been recieved. Please address the following:

1) Previous comment No. 2 has not been addressed. How will the proposed/unpermitted building area drain? The gutter system was shown on the roof details, but there are no notes on the site plan describing where the new/unpermitted roof area discharges

2) Previous comment No. 3 has not been addressed. All runoff from parking/driveway areas should go through water quality treatment prior to discharge to the creek. The inlet to the most northerly 4-inch drain should be retrofitted to include water quality treatment such as the county standard silt and grease trap or other type of device. A recorded maintenance agreement for this device will be required prior to building permit issuance.

===== UPDATED ON AUGUST 2, 2005 BY ALYSON B TOM ===== Application with plans revised on July 27, 2005 has been recieved and is complete with regards to drainage for the discretionary stage. The application now includes adding water quality treatment for the parking/driveway runoff and per conversation with applicant on 8/2/05. roof runoff from the unpermitted section drains to a downspout and splashblock that overflows to the creek via a concrete and rock section without impacting adjacent properties. Please see miscellaneous comments for issues to be addressed prior to building permit issuance.

Dpw Drainage Miscellaneous Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

----- REVIEW ON JANUARY 20, 2005 BY ALYSON B TOM ===== See completeness comments.

Discretionary Comments - Continued

Project Planner: Randal Adams
Application No.: 04-0650
APN: 038-061-07

Date: September 2, 2005
Time: 11:33:23
Page: 3

===== UPDATED ON AUGUST 2, 2005 BY ALYSON B TOM ===== The following should be addressed prior to building permit issuance:

- 1) Please add notes to the plans describing the runoff path for the roof discharge of the unpermitted section of building
- 2) Please submit a copy of a notarized, recorded maintenance agreement for the proposed silt and grease trap.
- 3) Please provide documentation that all of the paved areas on site are permitted. Zone 6 fees will be assessed on the net increase in permitted impervious area due to this project.

For questions regarding this review Public Works storm water management staff is available from 8-12 Monday through Friday. All submittals should be made through the Planning Department

Dpw Road Engineering Completeness Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 27, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

The project proposes perpendicular parking directly off of McGregor Drive. Perpendicular parking off an arterial such as McGregor Drive with its existing limited access and relatively high speeds is not recommended. A standard commercial driveway aligned with the existing curb face is recommended. A sidewalk should wrap around the back of the driveway ramp. asphalt concrete transition shall be necessary from the end of the sidewalk to the pavement.

If you have any questions please contact Greg Martin at 831-454-2811. ===== UP-DATED ON MAY 16, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

Previous comments still apply. ===== UPDATED ON AUGUST 15, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

The proposed plan shows a driveway 18 feet wide. The minimum width required is 24 feet. The existing guardrail shall need to be modified to accommodate a sidewalk transition to properly terminate the proposed sidewalk. A licensed civil engineer is required to evaluate and design the modifications. A four foot landscaping strip is recommended behind the sidewalk. The proposed plan is contingent upon acquisition of the underlying right-of-way from the County. The new right-of-way line shall go behind the sidewalk. ===== UPDATED ON AUGUST 15, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

Dpw Road Engineering Miscellaneous Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 27, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

===== UPDATED ON MAY 16, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

===== UPDATED ON AUGUST 15, 2005 BY GREG J MARTIN =====

Environmental Health Completeness Comments

Discretionary Comments - Continued

Project Planner: Randal Adams
Application No.: 04-0650
APN: 038-061-07

Date: September 2, 2005
Time: 11:33:23
Page: 4

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE **NOT** YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 24, 2005 BY JIM G SAFRANEK =====
NO COMMENT

Environmental Health Miscellaneous Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE **NOT** YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON JANUARY 24, 2005 BY JIM G SAFRANEK ===== EHS review fee is
\$231, not \$462. for Commercial Dev. w/ Public ~~Services~~

Aptos-La Selva Beach Fire Prot Dist Completeness C

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE **NOT** YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON MARCH 23, 2005 BY ERIN K STOW =====

DEPARTMENT NAME: Aptos/La Selva Fire Dept. APPROVED

The fire alarm system shall be evaluated and upgraded or repaired as necessary in accordance with the Uniform Fire Code Section 1007 and NFPA Pamphlet 72. Plans shall be submitted to the Aptos/La Selva Fire Department and approval obtained prior to submittal.

All Fire Department building requirement: and fees will be addressed in the Building Permit phase.

Plan check is based upon plans submitted to this office. Any changes or alterations shall be re-submitted for review prior to construction.

Aptos-La Selva Beach Fire Prot Dist Miscellaneous

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE **NOT** YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

===== REVIEW ON MARCH 23, 2005 BY ERIN K STOW =====
NO COMMENT



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 310, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831)454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD (831)454-2123
TOM BURNS, DIRECTOR

February 26, 2004

Randy Zar
2000 McGregor Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

Dear Mr. Zar,

Thank you for the opportunity to discuss methods to rectify the Code Compliance issues on your property located on McGregor Drive. As a result of that meeting, it ~~is~~ clear that there is a way to resolved the outstanding issues, based on:

- Bringing the uses into conformance with the C4 zone district, including removing residential uses from ~~the~~ property;
- Providing adequate parking on the site to meet the required needs of the remaining uses; and
- Meeting the setbacks and other site standards.

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on a couple of issues discussed at that meeting.

You requested a fee estimate for processing an application for a Commercial Development permit to recognize a contractor's business office and associated storage. Commercial Development permit applications are processed "at-cost" which means that the Planning Department collects a deposit against which the actual cost of processing the application is billed. The actual costs include analysis, site visits, staff report production and other ~~tasks~~ that are necessary to complete the total processing of the permit, including the public hearing and any required follow-up for compliance with conditions of approval (should the application be approved).

The estimated fees as of today (fees are subject to change upon approval by the Board of Supervisors) are as follows:

Commercial Development Permit & Variance (deposit)	\$5,000.00
Environmental Health review fee	280.00
Application Intake "B"	136.00
Records Management Fee	15.00
DPW Road Planning review fee	750.00

DPW Drainage review fee
Total

770.00
\$6,951.00

Please note, however, that the deposit may or may not cover the actual cost to process the application. A review of recent Commercial Development Permits indicate that between \$5,000 and \$6,000 of staff time is required to process an application that includes almost all of the necessary information at the time of submittal. Missing or incomplete information at submittal will result in additional staff time and additional expense to the applicant.

In addition to the fees noted above, our records indicate that approximately \$8,500.00 of Code Enforcement charges have also accrued. It is our practice to require payment of those charges at the time an application is submitted.

There will also be fees associated with your building permit application, if the Commercial Development Permit is approved. Those fees can be calculated later, as the existing structure may be altered in response to issues raised during processing of the development permit. At building permit issuance, Capital Improvement fees will be assessed for the change in use and increase in building area, to a current size of 2,000 square feet. At this time, we estimate the following Capital Improvement fees would apply. As with all County fees, these fees are subject to change upon action by the Board of Supervisors.

- Drainage. Approximately \$900.00 based on 1,070 square feet of new impervious area.
- Roadway & Transportation Improvements. Approximately \$3,280.00, based on the change of use from plant nursery (1.8 trip ends for 1,810 s.f. @ \$400 per trip end) to industrial office (10 trip ends for 2,000 s.f. @ \$400 per trip end).
- Child Care. Approximately \$130.00 based on 1,070 square feet of new enclosed structures.

You indicated that you would be meeting with Scott Loichinger in Real Property to discuss acquisition of a portion of the McGregor Drive right-of-way. Clearly, a positive outcome from those discussions would greatly assist us in resolving the pending issues.

I think that it would be helpful if we met again, in two months, after you have had an opportunity to meet with Scott. Please call Bernice Romero, at 454-3137 to set up an appointment. I would like to meet again on or about April 26, 2004 to discuss your progress.

Sincerely,


Tom Burns

Planning Director

cc: David Imai
311 Bonita Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

100

1972 additions

263sf

Office Area

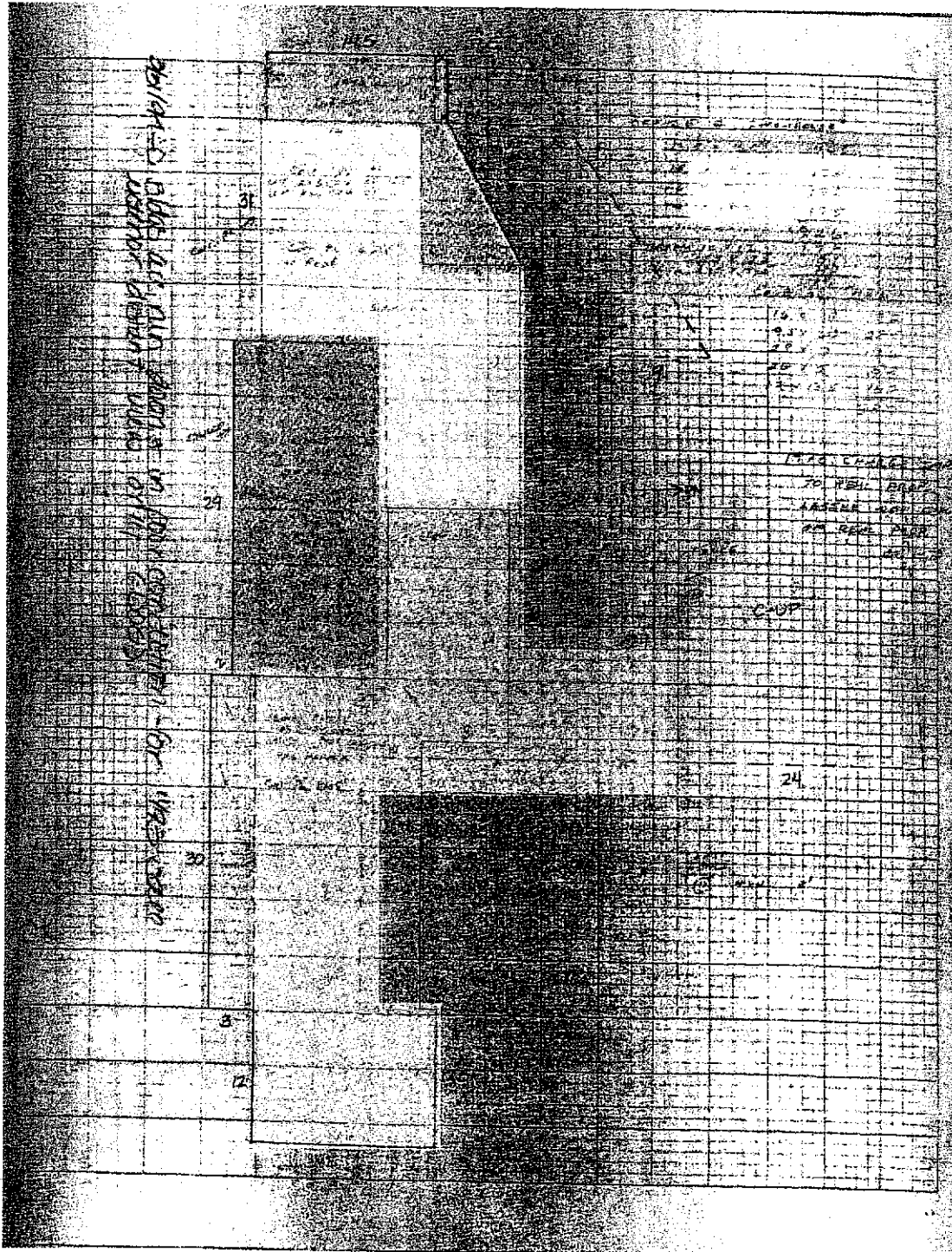
405sf

Greenhouse

521sf

Open Area

887sf



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 30, 2004

To: Mark Oeming, Planning Department

From: Real Property, Scott Loichinger *SL*

Subject: MCGREGOR DRIVE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY - PROPOSED SALE AND ABANDONMENT
ADJACENT TO APN 038-061-07 - 2000-2004 MCGREGOR DRIVE, APTOS

The owners of the above referenced parcel have requested purchasing the excess right of way shown on the attached map. They have paved the area in question and use it for parking.

Please make a determination whether the sale is in conformance with the General Plan. We believe that it is categorically exempt from CEQA under exemption 12 (Surplus Government Property Sale).

Your help in expediting this matter would be appreciated.

SL

Attachments

FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY

THE ASSESSOR MAKES NO GUARANTEE AS TO MAP ACCURACY NOR ASSUMES ANY LIABILITY FOR OTHER USES. NOT TO BE REPRODUCED. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

© COPYRIGHT SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ASSESSOR 1997

APTOS R.

POR. SECS. 12 & 13, T.1

Bk.39
15

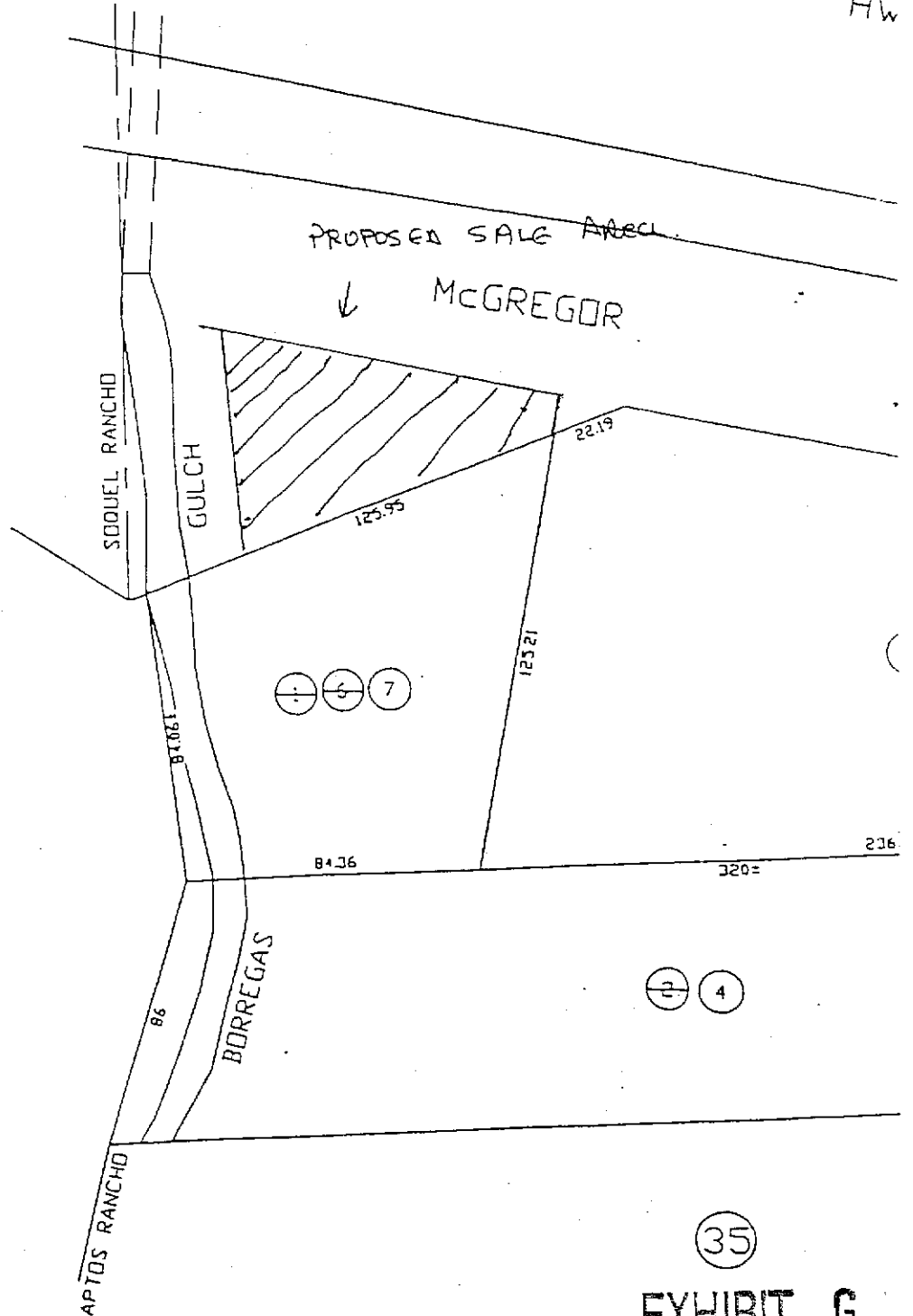
STATE

HW

PROPOSED SALE AREA



MCGREGOR



05

2 4

35

66-94-

EXHIBIT G

ATTACHMENT 4

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

Date: April 30, 2004

To: Advanced Planning

From: Real Property, Scott Loichinger *SL*

Subject: MCGREGOR DRIVE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY - PROPOSED SALE AND ABANDONMENT
ADJACENT TO APN 038-061-07 - 2000-ZOO4 MCGREGOR DRIVE, APTOS

We have received a request from the owner *of* the above referenced APN to acquire a portion *of* excess road right of way on McGregor Drive (see attached map). Please indicate on the attached maps or on the memo whether you have any objections to the sale or if the County should retain all or any portion of the right *of* way. Please notify us as soon as possible of your determination.

SCL

Attachments

FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY

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APTOS RA

POR. SECS. 12 & 13, T.1

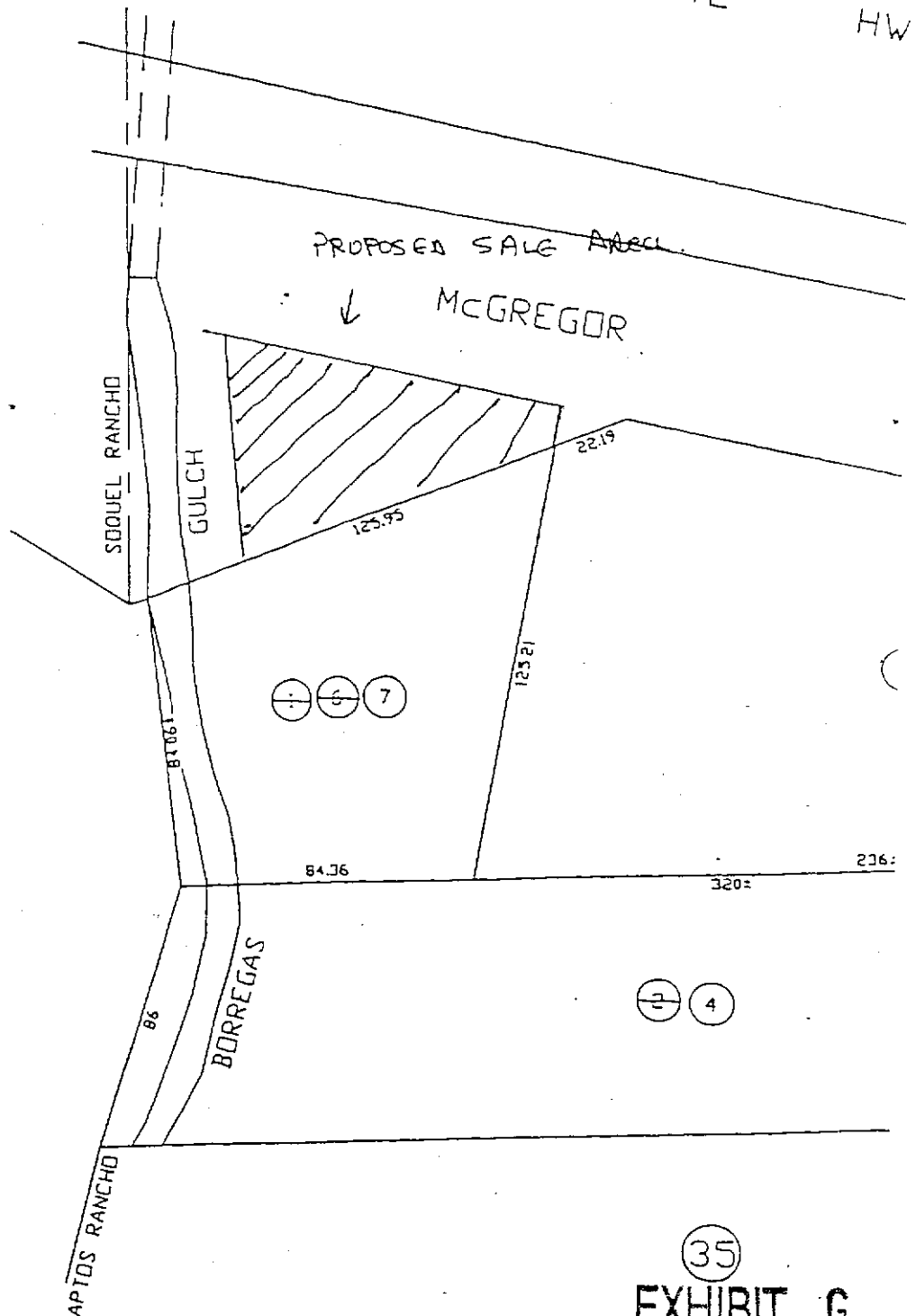
Bk.39
15

STATE

HW

PROPOSED SALE AREA

↓
MCGREGOR



05

3 4

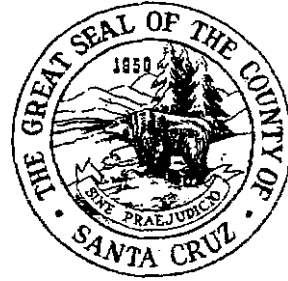
35

EXHIBIT G

Note - Assessor
ATTACHMENT 4

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE



DATE: May 4, 2004

TO: Scott Loichinger, Real Property, DPW

FROM: Mark Deming, Planning *MD*

SUBJECT: McGregor Drive Right of Way

The sale of this piece of property within the McGregor Drive Right of Way is consistent with the County General Plan. The land use designation of the adjacent property (APN 038-061-07) is Service Commercial, with a zoning of C-4. The minimum parcel size in this zone district is 10,000 square feet. Although the parcel size exceeds this minimum (10,454sf), much of the property is located with the Borregas Gulch riparian area and is unavailable for commercial use. The addition of the excess County property to the adjacent property will make the property more conforming to the General Plan and zoning designation.

cc: Cathy Graves

ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF'REPORT FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Item 10: 04-0650

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

CYPRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

P.O. BOX 1844

APTOS CALIFORNIA

(831) 685-1006 kim@cypressenv.com

December 23, 2005

Members of the Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT: Application 04-0650 (Randy Zar & Aviar Trust)

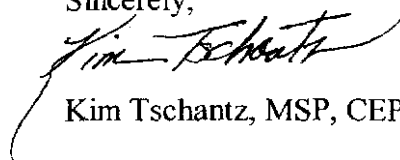
Dear Members of the Commission,

I represent Randy Zar and the Aviar Trust who are the applicants for a commercial project on McGregor Drive, Aptos (05-0650). The appeal of the Zoning Administrator's approval of 04-0650 has been scheduled for your Commission's meeting of January 11, 2006. *We are requesting a continuance of this item to your meeting of February 22, 2006*

This request is being made for several reasons. We learned on December 21 that Planning staff was changing their recommendation on the project to one recommending its return to the Zoning Administrator for additional consideration of soils issues on the site. We also learned on the same day that staff has new concerns about soils issues that we believed were resolved during the Zoning Administrator hearing on November 18. It is important that the small project team have an opportunity to discuss these issues before the project is back in the public hearing arena. Due to the holidays and associated vacations, the project team cannot meet in a meaningful way until February 8. In addition, the resurgence of **soils** issues requires the applicant to hire a geotechnical engineer. We do not believe that a geotechnical engineer can be hired and become minimally familiar with the site by the January 11 hearing date.

I will return from a brief vacation on December 30. Please have Planning staff contact me if you have concerns regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Kim Tschantz, MSP, CEP

cc: Randy Zar
David Imai
Randall Adams

Environmental Planning and Analysis, Land Use Consulting and Permitting

DAVID Y. IMAI, ESQ.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

311 BONITA DRIVE
APTOS, CALIFORNIA
95003

TELEPHONE: (831) 662-1706
FACSIMILE: (831) 662-0561
EMAIL: davidimai@shglobal.net

December 28, 2005

Re: Appeal re Application #04-0650 038-061-07
Applicant: Aviar Trust, Zar

Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California
95060

Dear Members of the Commission,

introduction

My office represents permit applicants Aviar Trust and Randy Zar regarding the above matter. I am writing regarding the Notice of Appeal filed by attorney Kent G. Washburn, who represents third party Jarl Saal. The appeal is taken from the Zoning Administrator hearing held November 18, 2005, in which Coastal Zone and Variance Permit was granted for property at 2001 MacGregor Drive Aptos, with conditions,

While Planning staff has decided to refund the appellant's appeal fees and is apparently recommending the project be remanded back to the Zoning Administrator, we nonetheless write to correct some misunderstandings in Mr. Washburn's letter and to make sure that the Commission has before it all the pertinent information regarding the property and this application. The project is currently under appeal under the provisions of County Code Section 18.10.330 and Mr. Washburn and Mr. Saal remain the appellants.

Many of Mr. Washburn's allegations were addressed by the letter from Kim Tschantz, Cypress Environmental and Land Use Planning, dated November 15, 2005 when the project was before the Zoning Administrator. I understand Mr. Tschantz' letter will be attached to the staff report to your Commission regarding this appeal. However, since Mr. Washburn has repeated his positions and added additional allegations in his letter of appeal, it is necessary to provide you with this letter to provide a record of the real facts regarding the project.

Background

History Of The Structure

Contrary to Mr. Saal's allegation, the building in question was not 95% "built totally without permits." In fact, Building Permits 147411594 and 3732 were issued for most of the footprint of the existing building in 1962 and 1967 respectively. (See Exhibit A), Plumbing Permit 101649 was issued in 1991 to relocate a gas line to the building (Exhibit B). This permit acknowledges there was a store on the parcel in 1991.

The County Planning Department's code inspector Kevin Fitzpatrick determined that permits for 1,813 sf of the existing footprint of the building were properly issued after he had closely reviewed the issued permits and relevant tax assessor's records. Mr. Fitzpatrick provided his analysis and conclusions under oath during deposition taken June 29, 2004. I provide herewith relevant portions of Mr. Fitzpatrick's deposition taken last year, along with exhibits thereto. (Exhibit C, p. 20:9-13) Admittedly, the building looks different than it did at the time of its completion in the 1960's, and the proposed usage is also different. Of course, this is the reason Mr. Zar submitted Application 04-0650. Nonetheless, the validity of 1,813 sf of the basic footprint of the building is not reasonably in dispute.

County Litigation Against The Property

My clients Randy Zar/Aviar Trust purchased a one-half interest in the subject property in or about 1996. The other co-owner of the land was Mr. Brent Byard. By contract, Byard had complete control of the back half of the property. Prior to 1996 Mr. Byard remodeled the structure which included converting the rear portion of the building to two residential units without permits. When my clients purchased a half interest in the property, Byard maintained residential tenants which were solely his responsibility and under his exclusive control. Mr. Zar had nothing to do with those tenants.

The County of Santa Cruz sued both Mr. Zar and Mr. Byard, for lack of building permits and for the unlawful maintenance of the residential units in contradiction to allowed uses in the "C-4" (Service Commercial) zone district. After discovery and investigation by the parties, it was agreed that valid Building Permits were issued for most of the footprint of the building in question in 1962 and 1967. A portion of the permitted building included a partially enclosed structure for nursery plants. The roofing and walls of this portion were altered without permit to enclose the structure. New non-permitted additions were no more than 263 square feet. Mr. Zar agreed to submit applications for permits for the changes to the building since 1967, and a settlement

agreement was signed by County which specifically recognized building permit no. 3732 issued in 1967.

The County's case went to trial in August of 2004 on the issue of Mr. Byard's illegal tenants (which he had refused to give up), and on Zar's cross action against Byard for indemnity against expenses and any penalties incurred as a result of Byard's tenants and other damages relating to his co-ownership. As a result of the judgment favoring Zar and County against Byard, Zar was able to remove the illegal tenancies and to gain sole ownership of the property. Mr. Zar is now attempting to obtain permits for the property, as per the settlement agreement with County.

Mr. Zar is in good faith in trying to bring the property into compliance, starting with the elimination of Mr. Byard's illegal tenants, and applying for a project that contains uses allowed in the "C-4" zone district.

The Appellants' Concerns

Alleged Damage To Saal Building

In 2001, When Mr. Saal first alleged that his building may have suffered cracks because of work on Mr. Zar's land, his attorney at the time was provided with a copy of a soils report prepared for a 1996 project on the Zar parcel and the subsequent inspection report showing adequate soil compaction at the top of the slope. Neither Mr. Saal nor his attorney took any action on his complaint and the statute of limitations on any such action has long passed. ***Mr. Saal has never provided any support for such a claim, and it has only ever been offered as conjecture.*** If Mr. Saal's complaint held any validity, it begs the question as to why he took no action, given that he has unsuccessfully sued the Zars no less than three times in the past on unrelated matters. Mr. Washburn was provided a copy of the August 8, 2001 letter and soils report prior to the Zoning Administrator's hearing on November 18, 2005 (Exhibit D).

It is also important to understand that at no time during the several County inspections that have occurred on the property during 1996-2005 has anyone ever observed evidence of similar cracking to the Zar building or soil settlement problems under the Zar building (which is the alleged cause of the cracking at the Saal building). Rational logic would dictate that any structural cracking caused by slope instability at the top of the Borregas Creek arroyo would not be limited to the First Alarm building constructed in 1992, but would also occur at the Zar building located between the First Alarm building and the arroyo slope.

Soil Placement on the Zar Parcel

Contrary to Mr. Washburn's statement, there has never been any evidence that structural problems with the First Alarm building have been caused by activities or natural processes on my client's property. As stated previously in this letter and supported by research done by County staff, the vast majority of unpermitted building construction did not include new foundation work or manipulation of the substrate, but rather new walls and roofing of a permitted partially enclosed structure. A retaining wall was also constructed at the top of the Borregas Creek arroyo on my client's property, but this violation was corrected during the implementation of Riparian Exception Permit 96-0396 (Exhibit E). All grading or related soils work that have occurred on the Zar property and the adjoining right-of-way in recent years was done under Riparian Exception 96-0396. This permit also included a *de facto* grading approval for the Sanitation District, a division of the County Public Works Department. County Code Section 16.20.050(k) exempts the Public Works from the need to obtain a Grading Permit for most grading work.

As discussed in Mr. Tschantz's November 15 letter, this Riparian Exception was approved in 1996 to allow the County Sanitation District to grade, refill and recompact a strip of land at the top of the arroyo on the County right-of-way and my client's parcel to locate a sewer manhole that had been buried for several years. A geotechnical report was prepared for the project as required by the Riparian Exception and the grading work was inspected by the geotechnical engineer as required by conditions 6 and 11 of the permit. The compaction test results (which are attached to the forementioned Tschantz letter) show that the excavation and refilling work was inspected by the project engineer. County Planning staff signed off the 1996 permit in June 1997 demonstrating that all requirements of that permit have been met. Now the appellant is attempting to re-open a permit that was finalized 8 years ago to frustrate the process on a current project unrelated to the previous Sanitation District project.

Environmental Degradation in Borregas Creek

The appellant fails to state what degradation problem he feels exists in Borregas Creek. This creek is an ephemeral stream in a naturally incised arroyo. The slope on both sides of this arroyo are extremely steep. Some erosional slumping has occurred on the slope, which is a process that can and does occur as part of a natural process. The stream corridor is totally vegetated with both native and non-native species. Otherwise, it is a natural stream corridor without any limitations to its functioning as a wildlife habitat, recipient of surface runoff and conveyance channel for flood waters.

CEQA Determination

As stated above, the appellants' contention that 95% of the existing structure was built without permits is not true. Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines allow a Class 1 categorical exemption for a project consisting of minor alterations of an existing facility, including negligible expansion of use. (See Exhibit F). Section 15301 provides 16 examples of types of projects that fit the Class 1 exemption from Environmental Review. They include:

- a) Interior or exterior alteration involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing and electrical conveyances; and
- b) Additions to existing structures provided the addition will not result in an increase of more than 50% the floor area or 2,500 square feet, whichever is less,

The project meets these two examples and therefore Planning staffs CEQA determination for a Class 1 Categorical Exemption is appropriate. The floor area of the entire structure is approximately 2,044 square feet. Expansion of the permitted building footprint was restricted to an approximately 263 foot addition to the rear of the building. The remainder of the building footprint was constructed in two phases under Building Permits that were issued by the County in 1962 and 1967 as discussed above. CEQA was enacted by the California legislature in 1970.

Variance Findings

Variance findings were made for this project as specified in County Code Section 31.10.230. The findings made in the Zoning Administrator staff report recognize that any project on the subject parcel would be severely constrained due to the physical characteristics of the parcel. These characteristics include a undevelopable riparian corridor covering approximately 4,242 square feet which reduce the net developable site area of the parcel to about 6,212 square feet. Even when the adjoining excess right-of-way area is added to the site, as proposed, the net site area is only increased to 9,157 square feet. Section 13.10.333 of the County Zoning Ordinance requires a minimum parcel size of 10,000 square feet for new "C-4" zoned properties. The types of uses allowed in the "C-4" (Service Commercial) zone are the types of commercial uses that typically require large site areas such as automobile sales, kennels, boat building and contractor shops. Clearly, the County's designation of the small site for "C-4" uses by both the Zoning Ordinance and the General Plan/Local Coastal Plan necessitates approval of a Variance to permit a viable "C-4" use. The Variance approval is limited to allowing building encroachment into the rear yard setback. Both the findings and Tschantz November 15 letter explain why this encroachment will not affect surrounding

properties and how it generates less off-site impacts than the approved site design of the adjoining First Alarm property

Coastal Zone Findings

The Washburn letter makes several claims regarding a second set of findings made to approve the project. These claims are blatantly false. Similar to the Variance findings, findings for the approval of a Coastal Zone Permit for this project were made by Planning staff in accordance with County Code Section 13.20.110. Contrary to Mr. Washburn's letter! there are no residential setbacks associated with the project. The project proposes only commercial uses. There is no need for a Riparian Exception as the project will not place development within the Borregas Creek riparian corridor or buffer beyond that approved by Riparian Exception 96-0396 in 1996. The adopted site standards for the "C-4" zoning district (Section 13.10.333) do not include lot coverage standards. The project was reviewed by Planning staff for consistency with the County's Design Review Ordinance (Code Chapter 13.11).

Development Permit Findings

Similar to other claims made by the Washburn letter pertaining to findings, there is no substantiation provided for statements disagreeing with Development Permit findings made to approve the project. Planning staff made findings as required by Code Sections 13.10.220 and 18.10.230 to approve a Development Permit for the project. As stated in these findings, there are no conflicts with adopted County policies and standards as the Washburn letter purports. The project is consistent with the Riparian Exception approved in 1996. As shown on the project plans 41% of the parcel will be retained in open space to conserve the riparian corridor.

Conclusion

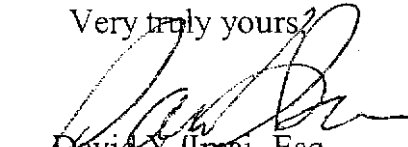
When Mr. Zar first bought into this property it was nearly a blighted site, with buildings in partial decay and badly in need of repair. He has since successfully removed unlawful residences at his own expense and made great improvements and repairs to the point that the structures are now clean, modern and ready for lawful usage within the parameters of the current zoning. The County of Santa Cruz, in settlement of their litigation has encouraged the current permit application and has agreed to recommend the necessary actions to allow granting of the permits.

Mr. Saal is incorrect when he claims that the building was never permitted. To the contrary, it was stipulated during litigation that permits were issued for the basic

footprint of the vast majority of the building. Further, Mr. Saal has never; in five years, offered any shred of evidence that alleged damage to his building is related to the Zar property in any way. Granting permits for this building cannot be held to be a "prejudicial abuse of discretion" under any standard, and is fully supported by the facts.

Thank you for your attention

Very truly yours,



David Y. Gmai, Esq.

Exhibits: **A - Building Permit**
 B - Building Permit
 C - Portion of Fitzpatrick Deposition
 D - Letters To K. Washburn: R. Boroff regarding geotechnical report
& inspections
 E - Riparian Exception Permit 96-0396
 F - CEQA Guidelines, Section 15301

DYI:wp
CC: R. Zar
 Kim Tschantz
 Randall Adams
 Kent Washburn
051220pc.wp

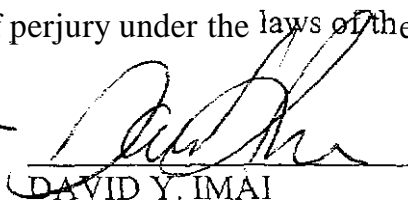
DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION 04-0650 038-061-07

I, David Y. Imai, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law duly licensed to practice before all the courts of the State of California, and am an attorney for ALVIN ZAR, Sr., TRUSTEES, RANDY ZAR, TRUSTEES, AVIAR REVOCABLE TRUST.
2. I make this declaration on facts known to me personally, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.
3. Attached hereto as exhibit "A" is a true and correct copy of Building Permits 147411594 and 3732 issued by the County of Santa Cruz for the property in issue in County of Santa Cruz application number 04-0650 038-061-07.
4. Attached hereto as exhibit "B" is a true and correct copy of Plumbing Permit 101649, issued in 1991 to relocate a gas line to the building in issue.
5. Attached hereto as exhibit "C" is a true and correct copy of relevant portions of County of Santa Cruz Code Compliance Officer Mr. Kevin Fitzpatrick's deposition taken June 29, 2004, along with exhibits thereto.
6. Attached hereto as exhibit "D" is a true and correct copy of a letter to Mr. Kent Washburn dated November 7, 2005 from myself, which had enclosed a copy of an August 8, 2001 letter to Mr. Ralph Boroff and a soils report regarding the subject property.
7. Attached hereto as exhibit "E" is a true and correct copy of Riparian Exception Permit 96-0396 regarding the subject property.
8. Attached hereto as exhibit "F" is a true and correct copy of Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines regarding Class 1 categorical exemptions for a project consisting of minor alterations of an existing facility, including negligible expansion of use.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED: 12/28/05



DAVID Y. IMAI

Attorney for ZAWAVIAR TRUST

EXHIBIT “A”

OWNER: EVA BERNARD		PARCEL NUMBER 38-061-6
LOCATION 799 Estates Drive, Aptos	TYPE (for moved bldg)	VALUATION 700.00
		Foundation 20x40 for office and slab

CONTRACTORS

BUILDING		PLUMBING AND GAS		ELECTRIC	
NAME	OWNER	NAME	PERMIT NUMBER	DATE	PERMIT NUMBER
		Jimmie Smith			
PERMIT NUMBER 1594	DATE 6-13-62	PERMIT NUMBER 1474	DATE 6-7-62		

INSPECTIONS

BUILDING		PLUMBING AND GAS		ELECTRIC	
FOUNDATION	ROUGH	ROUGH	ROUGH	ROUGH	ROUGH
OK. 7-6-62 E.D.	OK. 7-6-62 E.D.				
FRAME	VENT				
STUCCO WIRE	FINISH				
LATH	GAS - ROUGH				
FLUES	GAS - P.T.				
	OK. 7-6-62 E.D.				
FINISH COMPLETE	GAS - FINISH				
OK. 7-16-62 E.D.	OK. Cleared 7-16-62 E.D.				
BUILDING INSPECTION JOB RECORD B.L.D. - 3 (REV.)	REMARKS ON REVERSE				

Building Inspection Division

Owner: A. N. Lenhart 434 - Ewell kptos		Applicant: L. G. Thompson		Location of Job: Frontage Rd. Nr. Estates Dr. Aptos	
BUILDING					
Contractor L. G. Thimpson		Lic. No. 194401		Assessor's Parcel No. 38-061-6	
Permit to Erect Garden Sales Area 5' From Property Line and Install 1 Hr. Fireresistive wall on existing structure which is closer than 5' to prop. Line				Valuation \$ 4,000.00 Bldg. Fee \$ 22.50	
SEWER CONNECTION		PLUMBING & GAS		ELECTRIC	
Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____		Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____		Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____	
Contractor _____		Contractor _____		Contractor _____	
District _____		Permit \$ _____		Permit \$ _____	
Annexation required? _____		Fixtures _____		Lights _____	
If "Yes", date petition filed _____		Water Heater _____		Fixtures _____	
Type of service, units, etc.: _____		Water Piping _____		Switches _____	
		Gas - Min. 5 _____		Plugs _____	
		Gas - Over 5 _____		Range _____	
		Appliance tags:		Oven _____	
		Over 50M BTU _____		Dryer _____	
		Under 50M BTU _____		Water Heater _____	
		Permit issued subject to receipt of permission to use adjoining sanitary facilities 		Space Heater _____	
Annexation \$ _____				Motors _____	
Connection _____				Power Pole _____	
Inspection _____					
Other _____					
Total \$ _____		Total \$ _____		Total \$ _____	

DRIVEWAY OR ROAD OPENING - Road No. _____

Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____

Contractor _____

Insurance _____

Driveway	Length	Width	Depth	\$
Road opening	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total				\$ _____

Total Fees Received \$ **22.50**

By Cashier's validation

JUN-10-37 12920 A I - 22

Permits applied for as above are based on certain plans and specifications filed with the Department of Public Works and are subject to all county ordinances, state laws, and conditions stated on the reverse hereof, which conditions are hereby accepted.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

EXHIBIT “B”

BUILDING PERMIT



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
701 OCEAN STREET • SANTA CRUZ, CA • 95060
408-425-2751 • FAX 408-458-7139

THIS PERMIT WILL BECOME VOID IF THE FIRST REQUIRED INSPECTION IS NOT COMPLETED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE AND A REQUIRED INSPECTION IS MADE WITHIN EACH YEAR THEREAFTER. PROPERTY LINES WILL BE CHECKED AT THE FIRST INSPECTION. A SURVEY MAY BE REQUIRED.

DO NOT COVER WALLS OR CEILINGS UNTIL THE BELOW INSULATION HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND SIGNED OFF.

FOUR NO CONCRETE UNTIL THE BELOW HAVE BEEN INSPECTED AND SIGNED OFF

SOILS REPORT _____

SETBACKS _____

FOUNDATION _____

SLAB _____

MASONRY _____

CASSIONS _____

GRADE BEAMS _____

HOLDDOWNS _____

DO NOT INSTALL SUBFLOOR UNTIL THE BELOW HAVE BEEN INSPECTED AND SIGNED OFF

UF FRAMING _____

UF PLUMBING _____

UF MECHANICAL _____

UF GAS PT _____

UF INSULATION _____

DO NOT COVER WALLS OR CEILINGS UNTIL THE BELOW INSULATION HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND SIGNED OFF.

SHEAR _____

HOLDDOWNS _____

ROUGH FRAME _____

ROUGH PLUMBING _____

ROUGH MECH _____

ROUGH ELECT _____

GAS PT _____

ROUGH FIRE SPRK _____

UNDERGROUND FIRE SPRK _____

DO NOT COVER WALLS OR CEILINGS UNTIL THE BELOW INSULATION HAS BEEN INSPECTED AND SIGNED OFF

WALL _____

CEILING _____

ROOF _____

SHEET ROCK _____

STUCCO WIRE _____

SCRATCH COAT _____

DO NOT OCCUPY BUILDING UNTIL THE BELOW HAS BEEN SIGNED AND UTILITIES HAVE BEEN CLEARED

STRUCT FINAL _____

PLUMB FINAL _____

ELECT FINAL _____

MECH FINAL _____

FIRE SPRK FINAL _____

FIRE AGENCY FINAL _____

SWIMMING POOLS _____

STEEL _____

BONDING _____

ROUGH PLUMB _____

ROUGH ELECT _____

PREPLASTER FENCE _____

GAS PT _____

FINAL _____

OTHER _____

TPP _____

PROGRESS _____

SERV. UPGRADE _____

GAS METER _____

DEMOLITION _____

JOB COPY (TO BE POSTED AT JOB SITE)

UTILITIES CANNOT BE CLEARED UNTIL THE AGENCIES CHECKED BELOW HAVE APPROVED THIS PROJECT

APPLICATION NO: 050000 PERMIT NO: 101042 DATE: 12/27/01

ASSESSOR'S MAP NO: 039-063-07

STREET: 14911 W. GILBERT DR. APN: 05000

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: PLUMBING

RELOCATE AND RECONNECT GAS METER FOR REAR ATTACH. ON SIDE WITH STONE

OWNER: J. WILLIAM WILLIAMS JR. 545
P.O. BOX 1411
CAPITOLA, CA 95010

COMMENTS:

THIS PERMIT IS VOID IF IT IS USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE OR FOR ANY OTHER PROJECT.

DATE: 12/27/01
BY: [Signature]

DATE: 12/27/01

DATE: 12/27/01

EXHIBIT “C”

Certified Copy

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, a political)
subdivision of the State of)
California,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

ALVIN ZAR, Sr., TRUSTEES, RANDY) No. CV 141816
ZAR, TRUSTEES, AVIAR REVOCABLE)
TRUST, BRENT BYARD and DOES 1)
through 50, INCLUSIVE,)

Defendants)

AND RELATED CROSS-ACTION.

DEPOSITION OF KEVIN FITZPATRICK

Aptos, California

June 29, 2004

Taken on behalf of the Defense at 311 Bonita Drive,
Aptos, California, before Melinda Nunley, CCR #9332, a
Notary Public within and for the County of Monterey, State
of California, pursuant to Notice.

McB
MCBRIDE & ASSOCIATES

1 states.

2 MR. IMAI: The witness had an opportunity to
3 qualify 2nd answer how he wished when he answered the
4 question.

5 MS. COSTA: Well, I --

6 MR. IMP:: So I don't know if you want to testify
7 or not, but I'll -- the question has been asked and it's
8 been answered.

9 BY MR. IMAI: Q. The building itself, as far as
10 building permits, is legal at least up to 1813 square feet;
11 is that correct?

12 A. As of the date of that permit, as constructed
13 under permit 3732.

14 Q. Correct.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Okay. All right. And I'll allow you to qualify
17 this however you like, but given that that -- given that,
18 what is it about the building itself, other than the
19 residences, is the county complaining of?

20 A. The building was constructed under permit 3132 as
21 a garden sales area and described as plastic over lath
22 house, and the building now is a fully finished commercial
23 and residential building, block walls

24 Q. Okay. Can you explain to me what the difference
25 is --

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- as what you describe what's permitted as *to*
3 what it is currently?

4 A. Yes. I would do it by example. San Lorenzo
5 Lumber on River Street has a garden ares. If you lock at
6 that garden ares, there's a little area That has a roof
7 over it that is the sales area and the rest of it is
8 nursery area and greenhouse area. That's what this was
9 constructed as as Aptos Gardens. What it is now is a full
10 enclosed structure.

11 Q. So you're saying that the permitted square footage
12 of 1613 square feet was not completely enclosed at that
13 time?

14 A. That is correct.

15 Q. And what parts were not enclosed?

16 A. I need to review.

17 Q. Please.

18 A. There was 405 -- excuse me. There were 405 square
19 feet of enclosed office area, there were 521 square feet of
20 greenhouse area, and there was 887 square foot described as
21 open area.

22 Q. I'm sorry. 405 square feet of office area?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. This is at the time that the permits were issued?

25 A. This *is* at the time that the permits were final

1 A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat that again?

2 Q. Yeah. As a result of your inspection of the
3 building in question, I assume that you are alleging that
4 the floor of the building is no longer gravel, correct?

5 A. That is correct.

6 Q. So at some point you're saying that the flooring
7 was changed?

8 A. Ths: is correct.

9 Q. And that the change was unlawful -- unpermitted I
10 should say?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you have sny information that any defendant in
13 this action made those changes?

14 A. I do not.

15 Q. Do you know who did?

16 A. I do not.

17 Q. Do you know when it was made?

18 A. I don't know when it was made.

19 MR. IMAI: Do we have -- here.

20 BY MR. IMAI: Q. I'm looking at page 1 of Exhibi
21 1, Determination of Appeai on Notice of Violation which was
22 drafted by you. The bottom of the first page, it says,
23 'The office and greenhouse area was increased from 926
24 square feet to 1,189 square feet as noted on the property
25 assessment on 1/9/73.'" Do you see that?

1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. How did you arrive at that conclusion? Strike
3 that. First of all, were you reviewing Exhibit 2, the back
4 of page 3 that says "Miscellaneous Building Record?" Were
5 you referring to this document when you made that
6 statement?

7 A. I don't believe I was.

8 Q. Okay. What were you referring to, if anything?

9 A. I would have to research my notes.

10 Q. Would you like to do that now?

11 MS. COSTA: Do you mean does he want to go back to
12 the office and research it? Because he does look at his
13 computer files too.

14 MR. IMAI: Well, I'm asking him if he has -- if he
15 believes he has the record which he relied on in making
16 that statement in his file today. If so, I'll give him all
17 the time he needs to find it.

18 MS. COSTA: Let the record reflect that he is
19 looking through his planning file.

20 (Recess taken.)

21 THE WITNESS: Yes it is. It's page 3 of the
22 assessor's records is what I was referring to with that.

23 BY MR. IMAI: Q. Meaning page 3 of Exhibit 2?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Which says "Miscellaneous Building Record"?

A. Yes.

Q. What is it about that document which led you to believe there was an increase in January of 1973 of Building Number 1 from 326 square feet; to 1,189 square feet?

A. Under the second row of computation in the second column which says "1973," and then you go back to the first column where it has 926 feet crossed out and the new amount is 1,189 square feet.

~~Q. The -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.~~

A. If you divide the 2972 by 2.50, you should come close to the 1189.

Q. Where it says "Cost"?

A. Yes.

Q. Why would that be divided by 50?

A. \$2.50. They do the cost and then they have a unit cost. The unit cost would be \$2.50.

(Recess taken.)

MR. IMAI: it does come very close to that. I just ran those numbers through a calculator. They came out to about 1,189 rounded off.

BY MR. IMAI: Q. This part of the document that you referred to where it says 926 scratched out to 1189, that's at the -- under the subheading "computation," and on the far left part of that subheading "Building Number 1,"

1 it says "area," but then it says "Appraiser Date" above
2 that and it says "9/12/67." Do you see that?

3 A. Yes, I do.

4 Q. Wouldn't that indicate reasonably that -- that the
5 1189 square footage was existent in 1967?

6 A. If you -- if you divide the cost, 2313, by the
7 unit cost of 2.50 as of 9/12/67, I believe you're going to
8 come up with close to 926.

9 Q. Do you know why this would have been scratched off
10 as 1189 -- rather as showing 1189 under the 1967 heading
11 and not designated somewhere under the '73 heading?

12 A. That would be best answered by the county
13 assessor. It appears that's how they do it.

14 Q. So if there's a change made at some point down the
15 road, they go back and change the square footage for all
16 prior assessments, even those that were of smaller square
17 footage than the subsequent change?

18 A. That is --

19 Q. Do you know?

20 A. It's a procedure of the assessors. I don't
21 know.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. The assessor's office.

24 Q. Going further to the right under this same
25 computation subheading, there's also a -- it says "1977

1 index" for an assessment apparently made in 1978, and it
2 looks like there's one that was made also on the far right
3 in December of 1987. Is it possible that those changes
4 could have been made -- changes to the square footage could
5 have been made in any of those years as well? I mean --

6 A. I don't think so because the change -- the change
7 came -- according to the cost and the unit cost, the change
8 occurred in January 1973.

9 Q. Okay. Do you have an idea of what -- strike that.
10 Do you have an idea of where the additions to the square
11 footage were made?

12 A. Going to the back of page 3 in the assessor's
13 records --

14 Q. Uh-huh. Going to this diagram?

15 A. Yes, going to the diagram, I believe the addition
16 was at the top of the page where it says -- excuse me,
17 nineteen -- "1972 Addition."

18 Q. I see.

19 A. And I believe it to be the top rectangle and the
20 right triangle.

21 Q. It says -- looks like it's "16 by 12"?

22 A. "16 by 12" at the top, and the triangle I'm
23 referring to is 9 by 14 I believe.

24 Q. With a 2-and-a-half by -- at the top there, a
25 little --

1 A. 2-and-a-half at the top, yes.

2 Q. Okay. I want you to tell me with as much detail
3 as you can muster specifically whzt it is that you are
4 alleging was improved upon this property from its permitted
5 state to its current state.

6 A. Specifically this property wen: from what was
7 permitted as a garden sales *area* that, according to the
8 records, had approximately 400 square feet of office, the
9 rest being greenhouse and open area, to a totally enclosed
10 what I would consider commercial building. It has the
11 normal construction of a building such as we're in here,
12 complete roof and complete walls, floor.

13 Q. Okay. Roof, walls, floor. We know that there was
14 at least roofing on some of the building and walls and
15 floor on some of the building as it existed in 1967, '68.
16 I'm asking for you to tell me specifically what it is that
17 is not permitted as it currently stands of those 3 things,
18 roof, walls and floor.

19 A. As the building currently stands, nothing out
20 there is permitted.

21 Q. Okay. In light of the fact that we have evidence
22 of permits for some roof, some walls, some floors, why is
23 none of it permitted?

24 A. Because it's a change. It's a change of use.
25 It's a change of structure. It's a change of building.

1 Although there may be some old framing left over here and
2 there, it's a completely new structure, completely
3 finished.

4 Q. Well, in fact the records show thar 1189 square
5 feet was permitted, correct, in 1967, correct?

6 A. Correct, as constructed then.

7 Q. At some point we know that odditions were made to
8 the property, I guess it's the north end of the property,
9 in 1973, correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Sc the only -- at least in terms of square
12 footage, rhe only thing that's different is ticse additions
13 that were made in 1973, correct?

14 A. in terms of square footage.

15 Q. ~~Yeah, square footage.~~ So why does that make the
16 entire structure illegal?

17 MS. COSTA: The question has been asked and
18 answered. He said as it was constructed back then, it was
19 permitted as constructed back then and permitted. It's on
20 entirely different structure right now. He's already
21 answered that.

22 MR. IMAI: Well, I'm trying to point out to him
23 that it's not an entirely different structure, that there
24 were --

25 MS. COSTA: I appreciate you wanting to try to

1 Q. Do you know what the dates of ownership were for
2 Mr. O'Neill and Mr. Kiderowski?

3 A. It looks like Mr. Kiderowski boughr it in August
4 of 1978 and owned it through May of 1.987, and Mr. O'Neill
5 owned it from May of 1987 through November of 1993.

6 Q. Okay. Going back to Exhibit 2, the second page,
7 front of the second page says "Commercial Building Record"
8 at the top and describes parcel 38-061-07. Do you know how
9 the dara on this page wis obtained?

10 A. I don't know exactly.

11 Q. The -- the bottom section of this page says
12 "Computation" as a subheading, and it says "1995S," and it
13 indicates an area, a square footage area apparently of
14 2,044. Do you see that?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. Do you know how that was arrived at?

17 A. Generally it would be from an appraisal visit, an
18 assessment.

19 Q. Do you know how they obtained the square footage?
20 Is it just by asking the owners or did they actually
21 measure it off or how?

22 A. I don't know that answer.

23 Q. And you've never actually -- you or anybody
24 working with you on your investigation, have yoc ever
25 measured it off, the square footage of the building?

1 A. I believe I did measure it off.

2 Q. And you came to the 2,076?

3 A. I might have come down to -- well, somewhere
4 between 2,044 and 2,076.

5 Q. You don't remember exactly?

6 A. I don't remember exactly.

7 Q. All right. Let's do this: I'm looking at the
8 documents which the county produced pursuant to our Request
9 for Production Set 1 in this action, and I see that there
10 was some notes, handwritten notes produced to us. It says
11 "Zar" at the top. I'll show them to you.

12 MS. COSTA: Which ones?

13 BY MR. IMAI: Q. Do you recognize the writing?

14 MS. COSTA: Is this when you made a copy of the
15 code enforcement file, you obtained these?

16 MR. IMAI: No, I got these from you.

17 MS. COSTA: You did?

18 MR. IMAI: Yeah.

19 THE WITNESS: I don't recognize it.

20 BY MR. IMAI: Q. So this is not your writing?

21 A. That's not my writing, no.

22 Q. And you don't know who it might be?

23 A. Possibly Dave Laughlin.

24 Q. I'm not going to ask you to speculate as to what
25 Mr. Laughlin might be thinking, but I'm going to read off

1 A. I'm sorry. Would you repeat that?

2 Q. Let me put it this way: Permit Number 1594 which
3 is Exhibit 4, do you *see* Exhibit 4 where it says typed "for
4 moved building"?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Do you understand that to mean chat an existing
7 structure was relocated onto the property?

8 A. Yes, I do understand that.

9 Q. Going back to permit Number 3732, It says "erect a
10 Garden Sales Area," correct?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Do you understand that to mean chat a new
13 structure was being built pursuant to this permit?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So is it your understanding that this permit would
16 not necessarily be limited In square footage to the
17 previous permit Number 1594?

18 A. That **is** correct.

19 MR. IMAI: Next in order.

20 (Deposition Exhibit 7, marked and indexed.)

21 BY MR. IMAI: Q. Next is number 4617. This is
22 dated 3/14/67. Do you see this?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. It says "permit to install plastic cover over lath
25 house and walkway." The lath house that this is

OWNER A. N. IENHART PARCEL NUMBER 38-061-6 VALUATION 1,000

LOCATION Frontage Rd. near Estates Dr., Aptos TYPE erect garden sales area 5' from property line & install 1hr. fire-resistant wall on exst. structure

CONTRACTORS install plastic over 1st house and walkway 200

BUILDING		PLUMBING AND GAS		ELECTRIC	
NAME	PERMIT NUMBER	NAME	PERMIT NUMBER	NAME	PERMIT NUMBER
L. G. Thompson	3732	P. G. PLUMBING	4490	Oliver L	3861
DATE	6-13-67	DATE	8-4-67	DATE	6-21-67
INSPECTIONS	4617	INSPECTIONS	4617	INSPECTIONS	4617

BUILDING		PLUMBING AND GAS		ELECTRIC	
NAME	PERMIT NUMBER	NAME	PERMIT NUMBER	NAME	PERMIT NUMBER
FOUNDATION	OK 5-31-67 28.	ROUGH	OK 8-23-67 28.	ROUGH	OK 8-15-67 28.
FRAME	OK 7-27-67 28.	VENT		FINISH	OK 8-15-67 28.
STUCCO WIRE	OK 7-27-67 28.	FINISH		FIXTURES, ETC.	OK 8-15-67 28.
LATH		GAS, ROUGH			

Lenhart
Ewell

Applicant:

L. G. Thompson

Frontage Rd. Nr. Estates
Dr. Aptos

BUILDING

L. G. Thompson 194401

Lic. No.

Assessor's 38-061-6

Parcel No.

Code Area

Valuation \$ 4,000.00

Bldg. Fee \$ 22.50

to Garden Sales Area 5' From Property Line
Install 1 Hr. Fireresistive wall on existing
structure which is closer than 5' to prop. Line

SEWER CONNECTION

Date

PLUMBING & GAS

Ref. B.P.#

Date

Contractor

Permit

\$

Fixtures

Water Heater

Water Piping

Gas - Min. \$

Gas - Over \$

Appliance tags:

Over 50M BTU

Under 50M BTU

Permit issued subject to
receipt of permission to
use adjoining Sanitary Facilities

Total

\$

ELECTRIC

Ref. B.P.#

Date

Contractor

Permit

\$

Lights

Fixtures

Switches

Plugs

Range

Oven

Dryer

Water Heater

Space Heater

Motors

Power Pole

Total

\$

ROAD OPENING - Road No.

Date

Total Fees Received

\$ 22.50

By

Customer's validation

Length

Width

Depth

\$

\$

and for as above are based on certain plans and speci-
fied with the Department of Public Works and are subject
to ordinances, state laws, and conditions stated on the
plans, which conditions are hereby accepted.

Signature of Applicant

Date

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S DIVISION

EXHIBIT

RECEIVED - BAYCOUNTY, N. J.

men 6/29/04

JILDING RECORD
ADDRESS 14992 McGregor Dr.

19955

- 130 -
102

MISCELLANEOUS BUILDING RECORD

PARCEL 35-061-7

BOX 93 ADIOS

ADDRESS ESTATES DR @ FORT WAGG RD

SHEET 2 OF 2

BEARDED, EVA

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDINGS

Bldg. No.	Structure	Size	Found.	Wall & Exterior	Roof	Floor & Interior Detail	Second Story or Loft	Year Built	Est. Tot Life Yr
1	OFFICE & GREENHOUSE		CONC.	CONC. PL. V-RUSTIC	TYPE SHED	GRAVEL CONC. STUCCO & WALLS	1150 (Cost)	1968	OR 30
2	COVERED AREA		W/S	CONC. PL. OFFICE	HIP	GRAVEL	14000	"	OR 30

COMPUTATION

Appraiser - Date		1967 INDEX			1972 INDEX			1977 INDEX			1977 INDEX		
Bldg. No.	Area	Unit Cost	Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.	Unit Cost	Cost	% Good	R.C.N. L.N.D.
1	784	2.50	2315	100	2315	2.50	2972	88	2600	6.00	7132	72	5000
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Borregas Gulch



OWNER: EVA BERNARD		PARCEL NUMBER 38-061-6	
LOCATION 799 Estates Drive, Aptos		TYPE (for moved bldg)	
		VALUATION 700.00	
		Foundation 20x40 for office and slab	

CONTRACTORS			
BUILDING		PLUMBING AND GAS	
NAME	NAME	NAME	ELECTRIC
OWNER	Jimmie Smith		
PERMIT NUMBER	PERMIT NUMBER	PERMIT NUMBER	DATE
15914	1474		
DATE	DATE		
6-13-62	6-7-62		

INSPECTIONS			
BUILDING		PLUMBING AND GAS	
FOUNDATION	ROUGH	ROUGH	ELECTRIC
OK-7-6-62 FD	OK-7-6-62 DR		
FRAME	VENT		
STUCCO WIRE	FINISH		
LATH	GAS - ROUGH		
FLUES	GAS - P.T.		
	OK-7-6-62 DR		

EXHIBIT
4
MAY 6 1964

EXHIBIT “D”

DAVID Y. IMAI, ESQ.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

311 BONITA DRIVE
APTOS, CALIFORNIA
95003

TELEPHONE: (831) 662-1706
FACSIMILE: (831) 662-0561
EMAIL: davidimai@sbcglobal.net

November 7, 2005

Re: 2000 MacGregor Road

Rent G. Washburn
Attorney at Law
123 Jewell Street
Santa Cruz, California
95060

Dear Mr. Washburn:

Thank you for your letter of October 31 regarding your client Mr. Jarl Saal's interest in my client Randy Zar's attempt to obtain County permits regarding 2000 MacGregor Road.

At the outset, I would like to correct some misunderstandings about our telephone conversation which are cited in your letter. We take all allegations made against Mr. Zar or the property very seriously and will deal with them appropriately. That applies to the charges made in your letter, just as it applied to the three previous lawsuits brought by Mr. Saal against the Zars. **All** three of those actions ended in favor of the Zars, two by way of judgment and one which was voluntarily dismissed after Mr. Saal failed to produce any supporting evidence during a site inspection.

I mention these previous lawsuits not necessarily to suggest a "vendetta", but for a number of reasons. First, as you note, we are indeed refusing your request for destructive testing on my client's property. *You* have not provided any evidence to support your claim that damage *to* your client's property was due to any condition on Mr. Zar's land. I cannot imagine why we should allow drilling on the land merely to indulge an unsupported desire by Mr. Saal to hunt for a reason to sue him again.

More importantly, as I stated there has already been a site inspection of the properties during one of Mr. Saal's previous lawsuits. During that inspection Mr. Saal first mentioned his belief that his property was damaged by subsidence of my client's land, just as he alleges now per your letter. I provided Mr. Saal's then attorney Ralph Boroff with the County's permit and a soils report regarding the work done on the property. Although he did not divulge his specific reasons, Mr. Boroff dismissed the

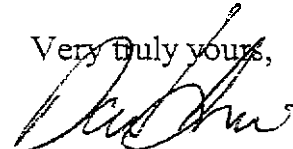
K. Washburn
November 7, 2005
P. 2

complaint and did not refile to include lack of subjacent support or damage to Saal's property. I include herewith a letter dated August 3, 2001 from me to Mr. Boroff in which these issues are discussed and a copy of the dismissal dated October 15, 2001. As you know, there is a three year statute of limitations for damage to realty under CCP sec. 388. Thus, not only is there no evidence justifying your request to drill on my client's land, your client would have no legal claim even if there were. Although he had full knowledge of any potential claim by at least August of 2001, Mr. Saal has chosen not to act until now, when Mr. Zar is attempting to clear permits on his property more than four years later.

Some of your other claims regarding illegal dwellings and zoning violations appear to be based on activities by the former co-owner of the building, Brent Byard. Mr. Byard had contractual rights to half of the property and did indeed maintain unpermitted tenants for a period. We sued him for indemnity against the County's suit and for other matters regarding his ownership. We prevailed at trial last summer and as a result were able to remove Mr. Byard from the property and extinguish his ownership. No residences have been maintained since then, and to my knowledge the County has had no any further complaint about that. By removing Mr. Byard and his tenants and by filing for permits at his great expense, Mr. Zar is attempting to bring the property into compliance. Conversely, I cannot see how Mr. Saal's intervention here helps to resolve any of the issues cited in your letter.

As I told you in our phone conversation, it is my practice to attempt informal resolution of any issues before a matter is forced into litigation. I believe such a policy is good for the client, and good for our small community in general. I sincerely hope that this matter does not become a "bloodbath", as you stated, but I do believe that Mr. Zar is on solid legal footing to defend this matter should legal action be taken. I ask that you assist me in avoiding another needless, time consuming and expensive litigation and contact me with suggestions as to how Mr. Saal's concerns might be assuaged in good faith outside of the court.

Thank you for your professional courtesy and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

David Y. Imai, Esq.

DYI:wp
Enc. ltr, dismissal
CCR Zar, K. Tschantz
051107kw

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DAVID Y. IMAI, ESQ.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

311 BONITA DRIVE
APTOS, CALIFORNIA
95003

TELEPHONE: (831) 662-1706
FACSIMILE: (831) 662-3407
EMAIL: davidimai@gotinet.net

August 3, 2001

Re: Aptos Warehouse Complex, et. al. v. Zar, Aviar Trust
Santa Cruz County Superior Civil No. 140751

Ralph W. Boroff, Esq.
Boroff, Jensen, Klein & Smith
55 River Street, Suite 230
Santa Cruz, California
95060

Dear Mr. Boroff:

This letter will memorialize my understanding of the issues in this case, based on statements and observations made at the site inspection on Mr. Saal's and my client's properties yesterday.

The First Amended Complaint alleges under the cause of action for "Nuisance", paragraph 9, that sewage is being discharged onto plaintiff's property. Mr. Saal was unable to show us where this condition existed, and specifically retracted this allegation at the inspection yesterday. By my understanding, this charge is no longer operative.

The cause of action for "Trespass" alleges at paragraph 21 that "outbuildings" were constructed on plaintiff's land without consent. Mr. Saal and Mr. Byard acknowledged that the building in question was improved, and has been used exclusively by Mr. Byard with Mr. Saal's permission which was given some time ago. Mr. Saal claims that permission had been revoked. This issue is solely between Mr. Byard and Mr. Saal. **Any** oral or written contract regarding Mr. Byard's use of Mr. Saal's land has **nothing** to do with **my** clients.

Mr. Saal's identification of the "exposed electrical conditions" consisted of the extension cord running from the main building to the outbuilding described above, and is solely Mr. Byard's responsibility. Mr. Saal also claimed that the **power** lines running to the main building are a danger to his building. However, these lines predate the construction of Mr. Saal's building and therefore, **as** you know, cannot constitute a nuisance by **law**.

Ralph W. Boroff, Esq.
August 03, 2001
Page 2 of 3

There was no identification of any problematic "natural gas lines", as described at paragraph 8 of the FAC

Mr. Saal's chief complaint against my clients appears to be that the riparian lateral support provided by fill created by my clients has somehow caused settling on his property, leading to cracks and leveling problems in his building. As you know, this complaint is not alleged in the complaint or the FAC anywhere, and was completely unheard of by me until yesterday.

It is difficult for me to comprehend how providing support to the riparian area could have caused soil movement on your client's property, which does not even abut the filled area, but is instead separated and buttressed by my client's land. Nonetheless, in the spirit of informal resolution of these matters, I have agreed to provide to you with copies of permits which were obtained from the County when the riparian fill was done, along with a soils report. You have agreed to provide to me any documentation regarding the suit filed by Mr. Saal against Reber Construction, in which settling and soil movement was apparently an issue.

In all honesty, and with as much objectivity as I can muster, I see absolutely nothing here which might constitute a viable claim against the Zars. Indeed, it is clear that some of the claims made in the FAC were made without the requisite good faith belief in their validity. I refer you to Code of Civil Procedure section 128.7(b), which requires that, by signing a complaint, an attorney is certifying to the court that "his allegations and other factual contentions are warranted on the evidence" (CCP sec. 128.7(b)(4)), and "are not being presented primarily for an improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay" (CCP sec. 128.7(b)(1)). It has already been admitted that, at least as to the claims of 'sewage discharge', the former rule has been violated. Based on my understanding of the history between the parties, I suspect that the latter rule has been violated as well.

With that in mind, I would advise that you look closely at whether you will pursue this new claim that the landfill caused soil movement on your client's land. Resolving that claim would be extremely costly, involving expert witness research and testimony on both sides. Mr. Saal admittedly based his claim solely on an undocumented off-hand remark made by an expert in the Reber case, with no indication that it was other than pure flippant speculation. Since my clients have never consented to any expert inspection of that area during the Reber matter, I suspect that it was precisely that.

Ralph W. Boroff, Esq.
August 03, 2001
Page 3 of 3

Moreover, given that Mr. Saal was apparently aware of his claim against my clients during the pendency of the Reber litigation, the question must be asked why they were not joined in that action under CCP section 389(a), and whether they are properly parties to a wholly new action. Without having done extensive research as of yet, I can think of numerous reasons why they are not, including the rule against double recovery and the requirement for compulsory joinder under CCP 389, above, among others.

Finally, since we were shown nothing at the inspection which could possibly constitute a "trespass" or a "nuisance" as to the interests of Aptos Warehouse, I must conclude that the same analysis and observations made above **apply** equally to their claims. Indeed, since Aptos Warehouse's property is separated from my client's property by the Saal property, I fail to see how any of the allegations could possibly be valid as to them.

At this point, we are **happy** to allow you to review our documents and would allow dismissal of the Zars and Aviar Trust from the complaint without penalty. Unfortunately, I have seen nothing that would dissuade me from seeking sanctions should **we** be forced to respond to the FAC and incur costs litigating the matter. **Hopefully**, we can resolve these issues summarily, and without undue delay.

Thank you for your anticipated courtesy and cooperation.

Very truly yours,



David Y. Imai, Esq.

DYI:wp
CC:Randy Zar
010803rb.doc

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name and Address): Ralph W. Boroff Esq. (Bar # 59164) BOROFF, JENSEN, KLEIN & SMITH 55 River Street, Suite 230 Santa Cruz, California 95060 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Jaarl Saal dba First Alarm, Plaintiff	TELEPHONE NO.: (831) 458-0502 FAX NO.: (831) 426-0159
FOR COURT USE ONLY <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; letter-spacing: 0.5em;">FILED</div> OCT 15 2001 CHRISTINE PATTON, CLERK BY Diane Hogan DEPUTY, SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	
Insert name of court and name of judicial district and branch court, if any: Superior Court of California, County of Santa Cruz	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Jaarl Saal dba First Alarm	
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: The Aviar Recovable Living Trust, et al.	
REQUEST FOR DISMISSAL <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Injury, Property Damage, or Wrongful Death <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Family Law <input type="checkbox"/> Eminent Domain <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): Nuisance, Injunctive Relief	
CASE NUMBER: CV 140751	
A conformed copy will not be returned by the clerk unless a method of return is provided with the document.	

dice

b. (1) ☐ Complaint (2) ☐ Petition
 (3) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):
 (4) ☐ Cross-complaint filed by (name):
 (5) ☐ Entire action of all parties and all causes of action
 (6) ☒ Other (specify): **All causes of action as to defendants Rebecca B. Zar, The Aviar Revocable Living Trust, Alvin Zar Sr., Randy Zar. As to defendant Brent Byard, the first cause of action ONLY.**

Date: **October 12, 2001**

on (date):
 or (date):

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☒ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY)
 If dismissal requested is of specified parties only, of specified causes of action only, or of specified cross-complaints only, so state and identify the parties, causes of action, or cross-complaints to be dismissed.

(SIGNATURE)
 Attorney or party without attorney for:

☒ Plaintiff/Petitioner ☐ Defendant/Respondent
☐ Cross-complainant

2. TO THE CLERK: Consent to the above dismissal is hereby given.**

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF ☐ ATTORNEY ☐ PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY)
 If a cross-complaint or Response (Family Law) seeking affirmative relief is on file, the attorney for cross-complainant (respondent) must sign this consent if required by Code of Civil Procedure section 581(i)

(SIGNATURE)

Attorney or party without attorney for:

☐ Plaintiff/Petitioner ☐ Defendant/Respondent
☐ Cross-complainant

(To be completed by clerk)

3. ☐ Dismissal entered as requested on (date):
 4. ☒ Dismissal entered on (date): **OCT 15 2001** as to only (name): **as above**
 5. ☐ Dismissal not entered as requested for the following reasons (specify):

6. ☐ a. Attorney or party without attorney notified on (date):
 b. Attorney or party without attorney not notified. Filing party failed to provide
 ☐ E copy to conform ☐ means to return conformed copy

PARTIAL

Date:

OCT 15 2001

CHRISTINE PATTON
 Clerk, by

Diane Hogan

Deputy

DAVID Y. IMAI, ESQ.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

311 BONITA DRIVE
APTOS, CALIFORNIA
95003

TELEPHONE: (831) 662-1706
FACSIMILE: (831) 662-3401
EMAIL davidimai@gotnet.net

August 8, 2001

Re: Aptos Warehouse Complex, et. al. v. Zar, Aviar Trust
Santa Cruz County Superior Court No. 140751

Ralph W. Boroff, Esq.
Boroff, Jensen, Klein & Smith
55 River Street, Suite 230
Sanra Cruz, California
95060

Dear Mr. Boroff:

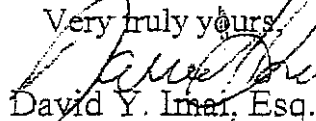
Per our discussion, and my letter of August 3, enclosed you will find copies of :

- 1). Permit issued by the County of Santa Cruz regarding the construction and development of support for the riparian comdor abutting my clients- property;
- 2). Soils report from Reynolds Associates ~~indicating~~ their opinion that the slope reconstruction is "adequately compacted".

We note that we are not in any way obligated to "disprove" your case. We are providing these materials as a courtesy, in the hope that you will strongly consider them before deciding to proceed with Mr. Saal's allegation against the Zars regarding settling and compaction on his property.

I ask that you kindly respond to this, and my August 3 letter prior to August 31, which is the date now set for our response to your first amended complaint.

Thank you for your continuing courtesy.

Very truly yours,

David Y. Imai, Esq.

DYI:wp
Enc.
CC: Randy Zar
010808rb.doc



Geotechnical &
Civil Engineers

962234-S61-G6
27 May 1997

Mr. Randy Zar
P.O. Box 1282
Aptos. CA 05001

Subject: COMPACTION TEST RESULTS
Permit No. 96-0396, Residence, McGregor Drive
Santa Cruz County, California

Dear Mr. Zar:

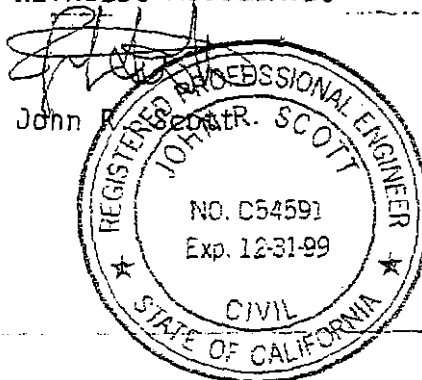
As requested, we have observed the base keyway and have conducted testing services for the rough grading of the slope reconstruction on the subject site.

Field moisture/density tests were compared as a percentage of relative compactive effort to the laboratory tests performed upon the potential fill and native soils in accordance with test procedure ASTM #D1557-78. The results of the laboratory compaction curves and field in-place moisture/density tests are shown on **the** enclosed Tables I and I. In addition, the relative compactive effort is shown as **a** percentage of each of the field tests.

It is our opinion that the slope reconstruction has been adequately compacted and is completed. It should be noted that compaction testing associated with the finished driveway and parking area, and observation or testing associated with the new retaining wall construction was outside the scope of the **services** provided by our office.

Should you have **any** further questions, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,
REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES



JRS:js
Copies: 4 to Mr. Randy Zahr

TABLE I

Summary of Laboratory Test Results

Sample No.	Description	Max. Dry Density p.c.f.	Out. Moisture Content %
	Grey brown SILT w/gravels $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ "	132.5	6.5
	Light brown Sandy SILT w/gravels $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1"	116.4	13.8
	Brown Silty SAND w/ grey binder & some gravels	121.2	12.6

TABLE II

Summary of Field Density Test Results

Date	Location & Description	Lift	Moisture Content %	Dry Density p.c.f.	Relative Compaction %	Soil Typ & Remark
7/18	Center of Key & fill	+2.0	14.7	119.3	96.0	[1]
7/25	Center of Key & fill West side	+2.0	13.4	121.3	91.5	[1]
7/30	Center of fill area parking lot	-5.0 BSG	14.0	113.5	97.5	[2]
7/30	New parking Lot Key fill South end	-4.0 BSG	14.2	113.9	97.1	[2]
7/30	New parking Lot Key fill Center	-4.0 BSG	14.8	111.9	98.5	[2]
7/31	Center of Key & fill	+5.0	12.4	108.5	93.2	[2]
8/8	East of Manhole	-2.0 BSG	11.9	118.4	96.9	[3]
8/8	Center Parking North- west edge	-2.0 BSG	10.7	109.4	90.0	[3]
8/13	North edge Parking lot	-1.0 ESG	13.4	109.8	90.1	[3]
8/15	South end 10' west of Manhole	-1.0 BSG	13.4	112.0	96.3	[2]
8/15	Center of Parking lot	-1.0	13.4	109.8	94.3	[2]

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER



C O U N T Y O F S A N T A C R U Z

701 OCEAN STREET ROOM 400 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
(408) 454-2580 FAX (408) 454-2131 TDD (408) 454-2123

June 28, 1996

Department of Public Works
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, CA 05060
ATTN: JEFF MILL

SUBJECT: RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT -- LEVEL III
PROJECT: APN: 038-061-07 APPLICATION: 96-0396

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposal to remove fill and an unpermitted retaining wall from the riparian corridor to resolve a code violation by private property and to grade and fill approximately 50 cubic yards and construct a 3 foot high retaining wall to create an access road to locate and raise an existing Sewer manhole cover. Requires a Riparian Exception.

LOCATION: Property located on the south side of McGregor Drive about 200 feet west of Estates Drive at 14992 McGregor.

Your application has been reviewed as follows: Several site visits and conferences with Planning, Code Compliance and Sanitation District Staff.

Analysis and Discussion:

The property owner placed additional fill and constructed a retaining wall within the buffer and into the corridor of an arroyo to create a level parking area. The work was subsequently red-tagged by Code Compliance for a Riparian Violation. An existing sewer line ran underneath the fill at an undetermined location. The exact location and manhole access was unknown due to age and because the manhole had been buried under fill for a significant number of years. The Sanitation District needs to locate the manhole in order to maintain the sewer line which currently is partially clogged in the vicinity of McGregor Drive. The property owners' contractor will remove the unpermitted fill and failed retaining wall and excavate the historic fill to locate the manhole cover under the supervision and direction of Sanitation District Staff. All new encroachments into the corridor will be removed and the area restored to its historic condition, which will consist of an access road at approximately 11% grade and a raised manhole cover. All fill placement will be directed and tested by a soil engineer.

Findings to approve this Riparian Exception have been made according to County Code Section 16.30.060. The findings are attached.

Required Conditions:

1. Prior to exercising any rights granted by this permit including, without limitation, any construction or site disturbance, **the** applicant/owner shall sign, date and return to the Planning Department one copy of the approval to indicate acceptance and agreement with the conditions thereof.
2. Responsible party shall contact Environmental Planning (454-3168) prior to site disturbance.
3. The retaining wall and uncontrolled fill shall be removed from the riparian corridor and buffer areas and disposed of at an approved site.
4. All work shall conform to the plans marked Exhibit A. The new retaining wall shall not exceed 3 feet in height unless a building permit is obtained. Walls over 4 feet are not permitted unless a variation for this Riparian Exception is obtained.
5. All work shall be completed under the direction of Sanitation District Staff.
6. All fill placement shall be under the direction of the project soil engineer. The project soils engineer shall test compaction for all fill and submit compaction test reports to Environmental Planning - attention Cathleen Carr.
7. A sediment barrier shall **be** in place at **all** times between **the** arroyo and site grading.
8. Erosion control measures must be in place at all times during construction. All disturbed soils shall be seeded and **mulched** to prevent soil erosion and siltation in the watercourse.
9. All slough and spoils shall **be** removed from the corridor.
10. All works prohibited between October 15 and April 15.
11. A site inspection is required prior to final Planning Department approval of the proposed work; notify Environmental Planning at 454-3168 upon project completion for final inspection and clearance.
12. in the event that future County inspections of the subject property disclose noncompliance with any conditions of this Approval or any violation of the County Code, the owner shall pay to the County the full cost of such County inspections, including any follow-up inspections and/or necessary enforcement actions, up to and including permit revocation.
13. This permit shall expire one year after approval on June 28, 1997.

SUBJECT: RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT -- LEVEL I11
PROJECT: APN 038-00 17 APPLICATION: 96-0396

RIPARIAN EXCEPTION FINDINGS

1. THAT THERE ARE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OR CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

An existing sewer line lies within the riparian corridor at this site. The manhole has been covered by fill predating the riparian ordinance.

2. THAT THE EXCEPTION IS NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER DESIGN AND FUNCTION OF SOME PERMITTED OR EXISTING ACTIVITY ON THE PROPERTY;

The removal of the fill over the manhole and reconstruction of a service road is necessary to service and maintain the sewer line.

3. THAT THE GRANTING OF THE EXCEPTION WILL NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE PUBLIC WELFARE OR INJURIOUS TO OTHER PROPERTY DOWNSTREAM OR IN THE AREA IN WHICH THE PROJECT IS LOCATED;

The granting of this exception will be beneficial to downstream properties in that a problematic sewer system can be maintained avoiding a potential sewage spill.

4. THAT THE GRANTING OF THE EXCEPTION, IN THE COASTAL ZONE, WILL NOT REDUCE OR ADVERSELY IMPACT THE RIPARIAN CORRIDOR, AND THERE IS NO FEASIBLE LESS ENVIRONMENTALLY DAMAGING ALTERNATIVE; AND

The granting of this exception will not reduce the corridor in that the sewer line is pre-existing and the former access road has been observed by historic filling and that a violation that is damaging the corridor will be resolved.

5. THAT THE GRANTING OF THE EXCEPTION IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHAPTER, AND WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE GENERAL PLAN AND ELEMENTS THEREOF, AND THE LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM LAND USE PLAN.

The granting of this exception is in accordance with the purpose of Chapter 15.30 and the objectives of the General Plan and local coastal program in that the exception is necessary for health and safety to maintain an existing sewer line in the corridor.

96-0396r/056

SUBJECT: RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT - LEVEL IS!
PROJECT: APN 038-061-07 APPLICATION: 96-0396

Staff Recommendation:

The Environmental Planning Principal Planner has acted on your application as follows:

XXX APPROVED (IF NOT APPEALED.)

 DENIED for the following reasons:

THIS PERMIT WILL EXPIRE ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathleen Carr 454-2168.

Sincerely,

RACHEL LATHER
Principal Planner/Senior Civil Engineer
Environmental Planning Section

BY: Cathleen Carr
Cathleen Carr
Resource Planner

7/1/96
Date

By signing this permit below, the owner agrees to accept responsibility for payment of the County's cost for inspections and all other action related to noncompliance with the permit conditions. This permit is null and void in the absence of the owner's signature below.

[Signature]
Signature of Owner/Agent

7/1/96
Date

cc: Code Compliance
Randy Zar

APPEALS

in accordance with Section 18.10.320 of the Santa Cruz County Code, the applicant may appeal an action or decision taken under the provisions of such County Code. Appeals of decisions of the Principal Planner of Environmental Planning on your application are made to the Planning Director. All appeals shall **be** made in writing and shall state the nature of the application and the basis upon which the decision is considered to **be** in error. Appeals must be made not later than ten (10) working days following the date of the action from which the appeal is being taken.

EXHIBIT “E”

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

GOVERNMENTAL CENTER



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

701 OCEAN STREET ROOM 400 SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060
(408) 454-2580 FAX (408) 454-2131 TDD (408) 454-2123

June 28, 1996

Department of Public Works
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, CA 05060
ATTN: JEFF MILL

SUBJECT: RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT -- LEVEL III
PROJECT: APN: 038-061-07 APPLICATION: 96-0396

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Findings to approve this Riparian Exception have been made according to County Code Section 16.30.060. The findings are attached.

Required Conditions:

1. Prior to exercising any rights granted by this permit including, without limitation, any construction or site disturbance, the applicant/owner shall sign, date and return to the Planning Department one copy of the approval to indicate acceptance and agreement with the conditions thereof.
2. Responsible party shall contact Environmental Planning (454-3168) prior to site disturbance.
3. The retaining wall and uncontrolled fill shall be removed from the riparian corridor and buffer areas and disposed of at an approved site.
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10. All works prohibited between October 15 and April 15.
11. A site inspection is required prior to final Planning Department approval of the proposed work; notify Environmental Planning at 454-3168 upon project completion for final inspection and clearance.
12. In the event that future County inspection of the subject property disclose noncompliance with any conditions of this Approval or any violation of the County Code, the owner shall pay to the County the full cost of such County inspections, including any follow-up inspections and/or necessary enforcement actions, up to and including permit revocation.
13. This permit shall expire one year after approval on June 28, 1997.

SUBJECT: RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT -- LEVEL III
PROJECT: APN 038-061-07 APPLICATION: 96-0396

RIPARIAN EXCEPTION FINDINGS

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The granting of this Exception is in accordance with the purpose of Chapter 16.30 and the objectives of the General Plan and local coastal program in that the exception is necessary for health and safety to maintain an existing sewer line in the corridor.

96-0396r/056

SUBJECT: RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT -- LEVEL III
PROJECT: APN 038-061-07 APPLICATION: 96-0396

Staff Recommendation:

The Environmental Planning Principal Planner has acted on your application as follows:

XXX APPROVED (IF NOT APPEALED.)

 DENIED for the following reasons:

THIS PERMIT WILL EXPIRE ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.

If you have any questions, please contact Cathleen Carr 454-3168.

Sincerely,

RACHEL LATHER
Principal Planner/Senior Civil Engineer
Environmental Planning Section

BY: Cathleen Carr
Cathleen Carr
Resource Planner

7/1/96
Date

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[Signature]
Signature of Owner/Agent

7/1/96
Date

cc: Code Compliance
Randy Zar

APPEALS

In accordance with Section 18.10.320 of the Santa Cruz County Code, the applicant may appeal an action or decision taken under the provisions of such County Code. Appeals of decisions of the Principal Planner of Environmental Planning on your application are made to the Planning Director. All appeals shall be made in writing and shall state the nature of the application and the basis upon which the decision is considered to be in error. Appeals must be made not later than ten (10) working days following the date of the action from which the appeal is being taken.

EXHIBIT “F”

14 CCR s 15301

Cal. Admin. Code tit. 14, s 15301

BARCLAYS OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

TITLE 14. NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION 6. RESOURCES AGENCY

CHAPTER 3. GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL

QUALITY ACT

ARTICLE 19. CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS

This database is current through 12/09/2005, Register 2005, No. 49

s 15301. Existing Facilities.

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- (a) Interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances;
- (b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services;
- (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety).
- (d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood:
- (e) Additions to existing structures provided that the addition will not result in an increase of more than:

(1) 50 percent of the floor area of the structures before the addition, or 2,500 square feet, whichever is less; or

(2) 10,000 square feet if

(A) The project is in an area where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the General Plan and

(B) The area in which the project is located is not environmentally sensitive

(f) Addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices;

(g) New copy on existing on and off-premise signs;

(h) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753, Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code);

(i) Maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources;

(j) Fish stocking by the California Department of Fish and Game;

(k) Division of existing multiple family or single-family residences into common-interest ownership and subdivision of existing commercial or industrial buildings, where no physical changes occur which are not otherwise exempt;

(l) ~~Demolition~~ and removal of individual small structures listed in this subdivision;

(2) A duplex or similar multifamily residential structure. In urbanized areas, this exemption applies to duplexes and similar structures where not more than six dwelling units will be demolished.

(3) ~~A~~ store, motel, office, restaurant, and similar small commercial structure if designed for an occupant load of 30 persons or less. In urbanized areas, the exemption also applies to the demolition of up to three such commercial buildings on sites zoned for such use.

(4) Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences

(m) Minor repairs and alterations to existing dams and appurtenant structures under the supervision of the Department of Water Resources.

(n) Conversion of a single family residence to office use.

(o) Installation, in an existing facility occupied by a medical waste generator, of a steam sterilization unit for the treatment of medical waste generated by that facility provided that *the* unit is installed and operated in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act (Section 117600, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code) and accepts no offsite waste.

(p) Use of a single-family residence as a small family day care home, as defined in Section 1596.78 of the Health and Safety Code.

Note: Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21084, Public Resources Code; *Bloom v. McGurk* (1994) 26 Cal.App.4th 1307.

HISTORY

1. Amendment of subsections (c), (k), (l)(1)-(3) and (o), and amendment of
Notefiled 5-27-97; operative 5-27-97 pursuant to
Government Code section 11343.4(d) (Register 97, No. 22).
2. Amendment of section and Notefiled 10-26-98; operative 10-26-98 pursuant to
Public Resources Code section 21087 (Register 98, No. 44).
3. Change without regulatory effect amending subsection (h) filed 2-1-2001
pursuant to section 100, title 1, California Code of Regulations (Register
2001, No. 5).
4. Change without regulatory effect amending subsection (k)(1) and Notefiled 10-
6-2005 pursuant to section 100, title 1, California Code of Regulations
(Register 2005, No. 40).
14 CAADC s 15301

END OF DOCUMENT

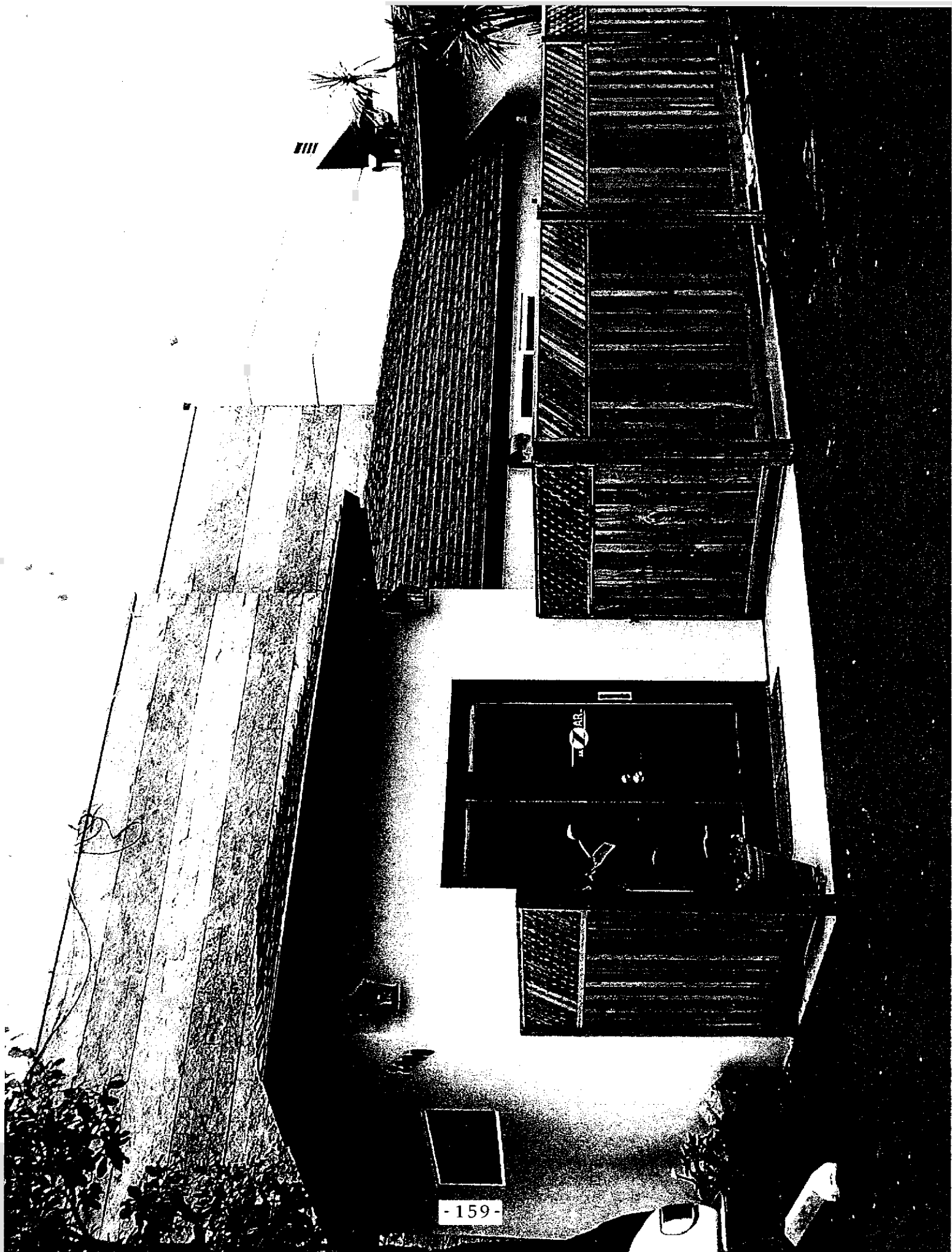
(C) 2005 Thomson/West. No Claim to Orig. U.S. Govt. Works.

**ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF REPORT
FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

Item 10: 04-0650

**MATERIALS SUBMITTED BY SPEAKER
DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING**

1/11/06



- 159 -

Time Line of Zero slope failures for 2000 McGregor Drive, Aptos

Sewer line was put in before the freeway around 28 feet below grade in the parking lot and **23** feet below grade at the manhole. The sewer line follows the same line as the retaining wall and the slope. From the manhole it doglegs up about 45 degrees towards the rear of property line. The point I am trying to make is the sewer line is in front of the building by the slope.

In or around the 1950's the Sewer Line was installed along with the manhole located on the McGregor property. When the Manhole was installed it was a large excavation to install, not just a trench. We are talking a solid concrete bottom 23 feet below grade and located along the slope side and center of the building.

1960's The building was built No failure anywhere that I have seen.

1980's Floods No problems

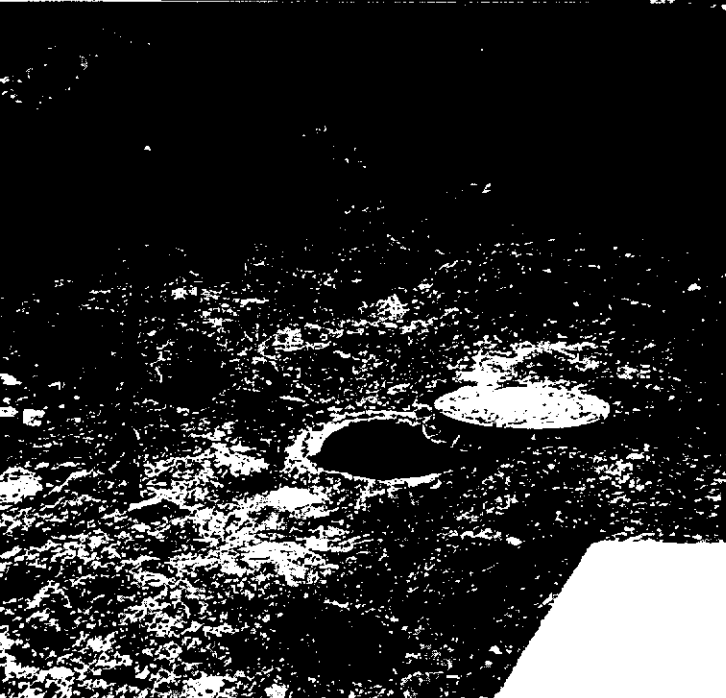
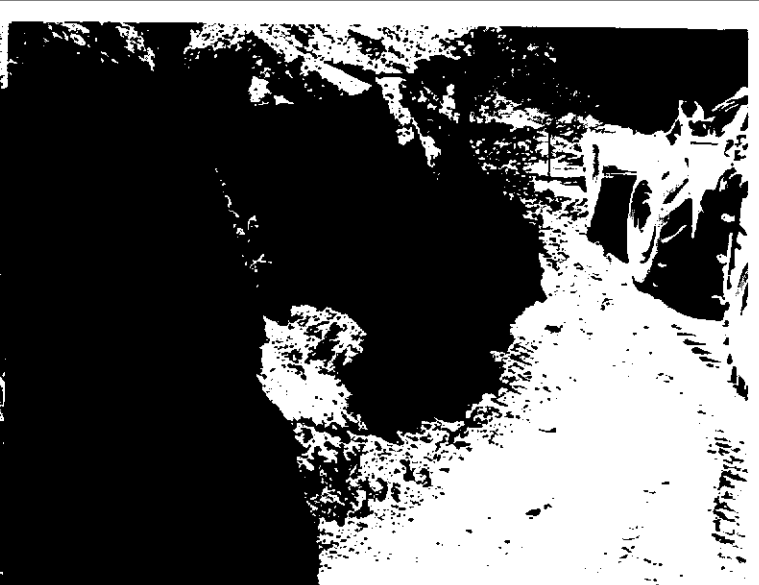
1989 Earthquake No problems, No Red tags, No Yellow tags and No Landslides

1992 Jarl Builds First Alarm two feet from our building No Problem

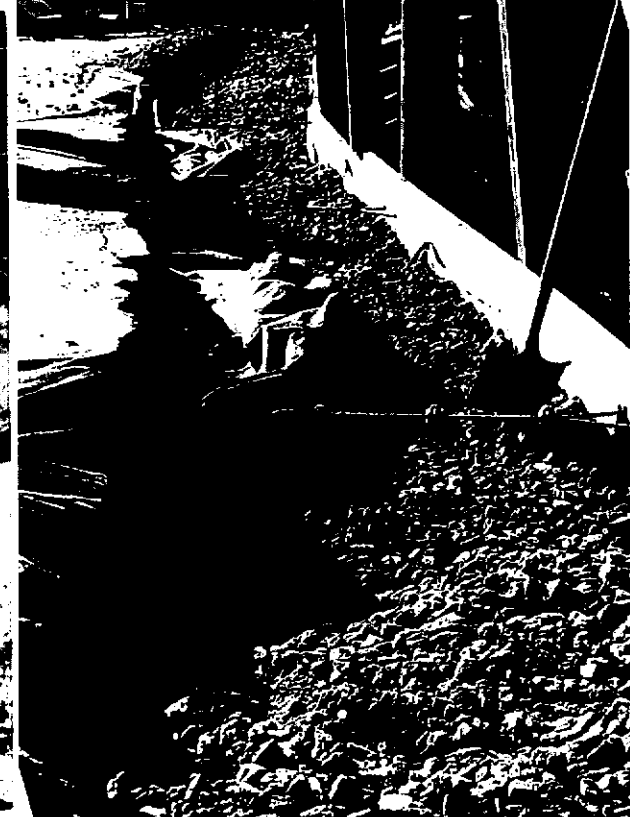
1996 The County Sanitation project was done. No Problems

2006 No Problems There is no sign of structural cracking of our building.

I am trying to make the point that the same area of the slope that is coming under scrutiny has had no problems for approx the last 56 years. If any slope failure had happened the sewer line would have been compromised.



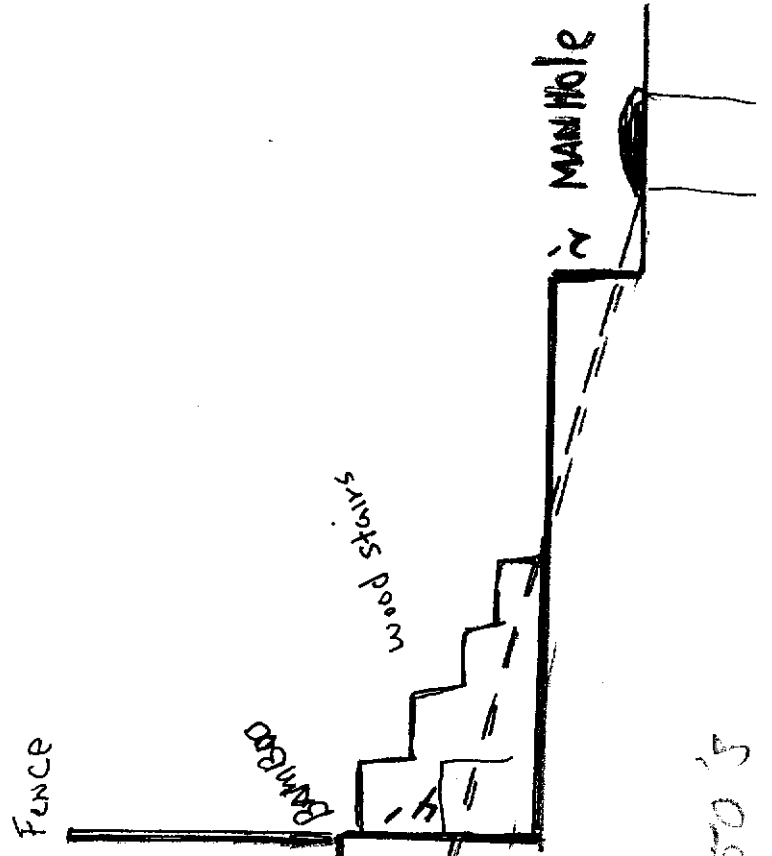
Grading To Find Man-161-e, Recompectation
1996 Sanitation Project Permit #96-0396



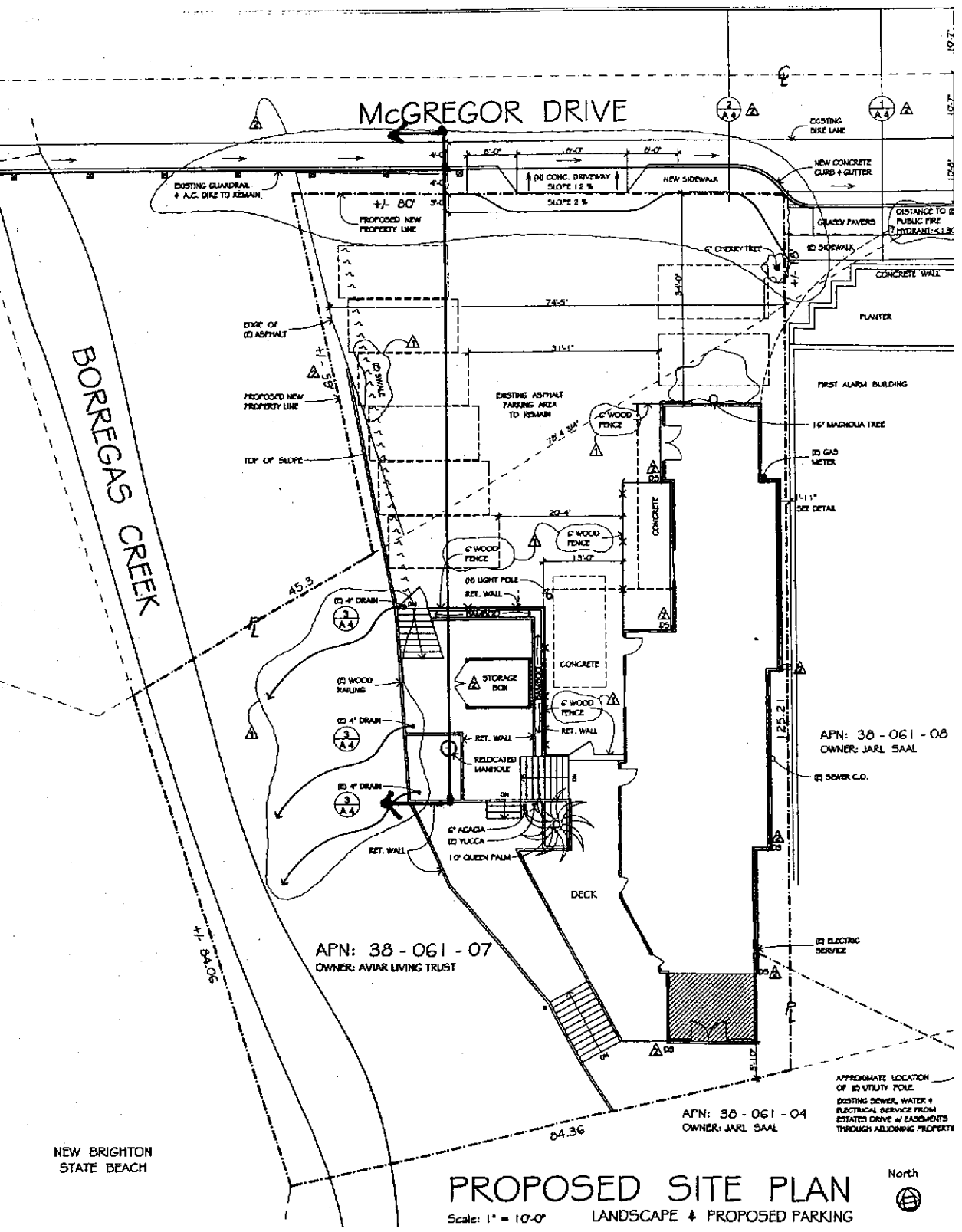
Concrete Grade Beam, Dr⁻¹⁶²-vork, Drain Rock, Dead Men
1996 Sanitation Pmject Permit #96-0396

Section
NOT TO

McGregor DR.



Existing Sewer Pipe 1950's



ORIGINAL BUILDING PERMIT:

1967 PERMIT #3732

ORIGINAL GRADING & RIPARIAN EXCEPTION PERMIT: JUNE 24, 1996
PERMIT #96-0396
TO RANDY ZAR

EXISTING FIRE ALARM SYSTEM INSTALLED BY FIRST ALARM (DEC. 16, 1994) TO REMAIN.
SEE PAGE A2 FOR FIRE NOTES.

DATA

EXISTING LOT SIZE: 10454 50. FT.

PROPOSED ADDITION TO
LOT APN# 038-061-07: 2945 SQ. FT.

PROPOSED TOTAL LOT SIZE: 13399 SQ. FT.

ZONING: B

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:

BUILDING AREA: 2042 SQ. FT.

OWNER:
 AVIAR LIVING TRUST
 P.O. BOX 1282, APTOS, 95003
 PHONE: 831-685-1116 CELL: 234-8858
 RANDY ZAR, TRUSTEE

PROPOSED SITE PLAN & DATA

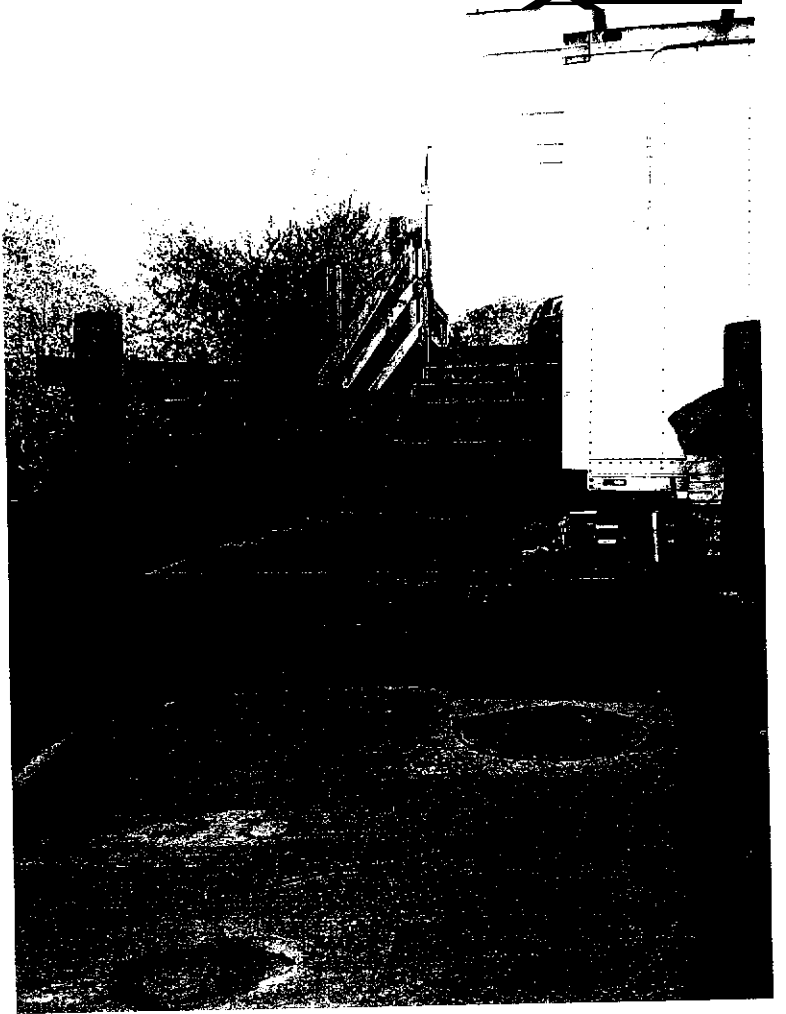
Existing BUILDING at
2000 - 2004 MCGREGOR DRIVE
APTOS, CA. 95003
APN: 038-061-07

DEC. 22, 2004
APR. 25, 2005
JULY 27, 2005
OCT. 18, 2005

SHEET

A19

OF 8 SHEETS



APPLICATION NO: 04-0650

STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

REQUEST FOR CONTINUANCE 2/22/06



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET - 4TH FLOOR, SANTACRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123

TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

February 13, 2006

Agenda Date: February 22, 2006

Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: A public hearing to consider an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve application **04-0650**; a proposal to recognize an existing commercial building and to establish a Master Occupancy Program to allow commercial service uses.

Members of the Commission:

This item is an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's 11/18/05 decision to approve the above listed application and was heard before your Commission on 1/25/06. At that time, your Commission decided to hear the appeal after consulting with County Counsel regarding appeal procedures, and the actual public hearing was continued until today's agenda.

Request for Continuance

The applicant's representative has been out of state due to a family emergency and has not been able to prepare materials in response to the appellant's concerns in time for this meeting of your Commission. The applicant requests a continuance to 3/8/06 so that he can meet with planning staff and his representative can prepare a response to these issues.

Recommendation

1. Planning Department staff recommends that your Commission **CONTINUE** the public hearing for Application Number **04-0650** to March 8th, 2006.

Sincerely,

Randall Adams
Project Planner
Development Review

Reviewed By:

Cathy Graves
Principal Planner
Development Review

Exhibits:

- 1A. **Letter** requesting continuance, prepared by Randy Zar, dated 2/13/06.

February 13, 2006

Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz Planning Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

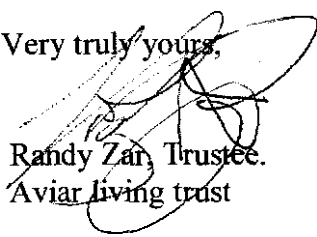
SUBJECT: Appeal of Application 04-0650 (Randy Zar & Aviar Trust)

Dear Members of the Commission,

I am requesting that you continue this matter for the reasons stated in this letter. You first heard this appeal at your hearing of January 11, 2006. At that time you continued your consideration of this appeal to your meeting of February 22, 2006. You also directed Planning staff to *meet* with me and members of my project team prior to completion of the next staff report for this item. Prior to January 11, I was scheduled to be out of the country for three weeks beginning January 25. Planning staff would *not* meet with us prior to my January 25 departure even though we had requested to meet prior to that date. Therefore, I left my planning consultant, Kim Tschantz, in charge of matters in my absence.

I understand a meeting was finally scheduled for Planning staff to meet with Mr. Tschantz on February 7. Unfortunately, Mr. Tschantz had an unexpected family emergency and had to leave the state on February 4. I have just returned from my trip on February 10. This situation makes it *impossible* for Planning staff to meet with us in a meaningful way prior to preparation of the staff report for the February 22 hearing. For these reasons, I am requesting that the Planning Commission continue this matter to one of its meetings in March 2006. *Thank* you very much for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Randy Zar, Trustee.
Aviar living trust

cc: Randall Adams
Kim Tschantz
Dave Imai

APPLICATION NO: 04-0650

STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

**MATERIALS SUBMITTED AT THE 3/8/06 PLANNING
COMMISSION HEARING**

CYPRESS ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAND USE PLANNING

P.O. BOX 1844

APTOS CALIFORNIA

(831) 685-1007

kim@cvDressenv.com

March 8, 2006

Members **of** the Planning Commission
County of Santa Cruz **Planning** Department
701 Ocean Street, 4th floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

SUBJECT Application 04-0650 (Randy Zar & Aviar Trust)

Dear Members **of** the Commission,

Introduction

I understand the **primary purpose** of your Commission's March 8 deliberations on the Zar project will be to receive information about the project and the project site so direction can be provided to Planning staff on the next **steps** for the project. With that same objective, this letter and its packet of exhibits provides supplementary information for your Commission as well as addressing some issues in the staff report and concerns raised by the appellants. As no action to approve or deny the project is anticipated during the March 8 meeting, the information contained herein can be used by your Commission in future deliberations on the project.

Slope Stability

No grading **is** proposed for the project. However, the Zoning Administrator's approval of the project was conditioned to require preparation **of** a soils **report** and a slope stability analysis and implementation of County approved recommendations **of the** soils **report**. The only slope on the property is the eastern bank of an arroyo slope located **west** of the building on the site. (Exhibit A) County Planning re-inspection of the site since the Zoning Administrator's action last November has resulted in recommendations for repair of this slope and replacement of the retaining wall constructed at the top of it.

Grading previously occurred on the site during 1996-97 under Riparian Exception Permit 96-0396 for a County project. This permit, issued to the County Public Works Department, approved grading at the top **of** the arroyo slope within the Borregas Creek riparian corridor to excavate and locate a buried sewer manhole and construct an access to the unearthed manhole. (Refer to page 122 of the staff report for March 8, 2006). Although essentially a grading project, only a Riparian Exception was issued for the project since the County's Grading Ordinance (Code Chapter 16.20) exempts the County Public Works Department from needing Grading Permits. However, Public Works is not exempted from the Geologic Hazards Ordinance (Chapter 16.10). In accordance

Environmental Planning and Analysis, Land Use Consulting and Permitting

with the Chapter 16.10, a soils report was prepared for grading activities associated with the project and Permit 96-0396 was conditioned to require all fill placement be done under the supervision of the project geotechnical engineer who would also conduct soil compaction testing to ensure the reconstructed slope was stable. As stated in the staff report, "the prior earthwork and associated improvements were installed as required by County staff.

The grading and construction work was done by Randy Zar, who was hired as a contractor by the Public Works Department to carryout the 1996 project. (Exhibit B). Mr. Zar spent about \$100,000 to perform grading activities and to construct a retaining wall at the top of the arroyo slope with no monetary compensation from the County. (See Exhibit B, paragraph 2). Permitted grading occurred on both the Zar parcel and the County's excess right-of-way area. (See pages 19 and 23 of the staff report). There are serious legal questions regarding County's condition to now require more geotechnical study and redo the slope stabilization measures that were approved in 1997. Legal issues pertaining to this matter are discussed in the letter from David Imai to County Counsel, dated March 6, 2006.

Several allegations have been made by the project appellant regarding past grading activities on the site. As a result, several new issues have been raised by Planning staff. These issues are addressed in this paragraph and those that follow. In addition to the Reynolds soils report provided on pages 24-29 of the staff report, the 1996 project engineer also prepared a soils report addendum (Exhibit C). This addendum provides for a finished slope with a 1.5:1 gradient. The Planning staff memo on pages 12-13 of the staff report appears to equate the finished slope gradient with slope instability. However, a finished slope of 1.5:1 was approved by the project geotechnical engineer and the project subsequently signed-off by Planning staff in 1997.

Some discussion has also occurred regarding the configuration of the accessway to the manhole constructed under the 1996 Permit. The appellant's attorney has testified in previous public hearings that Mr. Zar continued grading activities on the site after the 1996 project was signed-off by the County. He even stated in his letter dated November 17, 2005 (pages 7-12 of the staff report) that the County's excess right-of-way area has been "encroached upon, improved without permits ...without any governmental approval". This theory is based on the appellant's misunderstanding (or misinterpretation) of grading work that occurred under the 1996 permit. The original design of the previous project included completion of a ramp from the level parking area along McGregor Drive to the unearthed manhole. While the unearthed manhole was raised, the new vertical extension could not raise it enough to allow a ramp to be constructed at less than the design slope of 11%. For this reason, a change was made in the field to convert the ramp access to a stepped access (Exhibit D). Photographs of completed concrete steps near the manhole with dates inscribed in the concrete (Exhibit E) show the alternative access was completed in January 1997. A dated photo of the project completion party (Exhibit F) clearly shows all earthwork was completed prior to March 22, 1997. The project was signed-off as completed by County Planning staff on June 12, 1997 (Exhibit G). It is common for minor design changes to be made in the field to address unforeseen events during grading activities with staff approval. This evidence shows that this one change in the project design was initiated and completed prior to project sign-off.

The current condition of the site remains as shown in the 1997 photo.

Adequate Parking for the Commercial Use

The Zoning Administrator's approval of the project in November included a condition that 9 parking spaces must be provided. (Page 52 of the staff report). Both Mr. Zar and Planning staff realize that the narrow shape and limited size of the developable portion of the Zar parcel, make it necessary to locate 7 of the spaces on the adjoining County excess right-of-way area. The project had also been conditioned to require purchase or long-term lease of the right-of-way area by Mr. Zar. (Page 48 of staff report). Planning has recommended the Board of Supervisors either sell or lease this excess right-of-way area to the project proponent (Exhibit H). Public Works, Real Estate Division has echoed this recommendation to the Board. This sale or lease is appropriate because the owner of the project parcel was deeded perpetual access to McGregor Drive in 1962 when Highway 1 was improved (Exhibit I). This grant deed also specifies the project property shall always adjoin the frontage road (McGregor Drive).

The slope stability issues discussed above are tied to this excess right-of-way area as the grading that was approved for the County's 1996 project included grading on both the Zar property and the excess right-of-way "parcel". If additional geotechnical work is required for the slope on the Zar property, the same requirement must be placed on the slope that continues on the County's property. As the property owner, if repairs are needed on the County property, this would be the responsibility of the County prior to sale or lease. This complex situation is best resolved by a negotiated compromise by the two parties involved. We hope your Commission can assist in this effort and direct County Counsel to negotiate with the Zar project team to provide a fair cost sharing approach for any geotechnical work your Commission may require.

Location of the Sewer

Recently staff raised the issue that the sewer line traversing the Zar property might be located beneath part of the Zar building. Other manholes in the area remain buried, so it is not easy to determine where underground sewers are located in this area. To address this concern, Mr. Zar hired Duncan Plumbing to video tape the sewer line with a cable fed video camera that used the previously discussed unearthed manhole for sewer access. This video taping occurred on March 1, 2006 and was observed by Sean Mathis, line crew supervisor for the County Sanitation District. The video taping concluded the next downstream manhole was located 70 feet south from the access manhole. Electrical soundings were also taken above ground to determine the location of the buried downstream manhole. Then a 70 foot tape measure was pulled between these two points in the field. This analysis shows the sewer is not located underneath the Zar building but rather to the west of the building (Exhibits J and K).

Exhibits J and K show the sewer line is partially located under an elevated deck on the Zar property. This deck, supported by post and piers, provides substantial clearance between the ground surface and the deck for any repair work that might need to occur there. According to

Rachél Lather, P.E., Sanitation District Principal Supervisor, the sewer location below the elevated deck will be acceptable if the Zars enter into a hold harmless agreement with the County for any future sewer repair **or** maintenance work that may occur below the deck. It is anticipated that a memo addressing this will be provided to the Planning Commission by the Sanitation District. A declaration from Duncan Plumbing regarding the adequacy of the video work is attached to this letter (Exhibit L).

Issues Raised by Kent Washburn

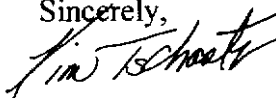
Letters from the appellant's attorney include his stated position that the project now under consideration should have undergone Environmental Review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). His position is based on a misunderstanding of CEQA. Section 15301, et seq. of the CEQA Guidelines allow certain projects to be exempt from Environmental Review. The Class 1 categorical exemption is for the operation, repair, permitting and minor alteration of existing facilities. The Class 3 categorical exemption is for the construction of new facilities, including the construction of a new store, office or similar structure not exceeding 2,500 square feet and not using significant amounts of hazardous substances. In urbanized areas, such as the project site, the Class 3 exemption allows up to 10,000 sq. A. of commercial building **floor** space where public services are available. The project under Application 04-0650 complies with the Class 3 exemption. According to Tax Assessor records, the original 926 square foot building that was constructed in 1967, has been increased in size over the years; first prior **to** 1973 to 1,189 sq. A. and later prior to 1997 to 2,044 sq. A. (Pages 102-103 of the staff report). This is a total increase of 1,118 sq. A. or new construction of less than 2,500 sq. ft. Soquel Creek Water District records show the building has been provided with domestic water service since prior to 1964 (Exhibit M). The 1967 Building Permit included Plumbing Permit #4490 and Electrical Permit #3861 (Page 82 of the staff report). It could also be argued that the Class 1 categorical exemption also applies since the majority of the building is an enclosure (alteration) of the pre-1973 footprint with two minor rear additions totalling 263 sq. A.

The appellant also makes the argument that the building has been greatly expanded in recent years without benefit of permit. However, this allegation is not supported by County Tax Assessor records. Even fire alarm plans prepared by the appellant for the ~~Zar~~ building in 1994 show a floor plan identical **to** today's floor plan! (Exhibit N). **A** comparison of photographs of the property between the 1970's and present establish a uniform building footprint, except for the 263 sq. A. addition (Exhibit O).

These fallacious claims **of** the appellant show that he is attempting *to* misuse the permit process for his own personal gains. We are convinced that his real objective is to stop the Zar project from going ahead so he can purchase the County excess right-of-way area for himself. We realize that the appellant's attorney has made statements to the contrary. But if this is the case, why is the appellant's other attorney trying to convince the Board of Supervisors to sell the excess right-of-

way to Mr. Saal, the appellant, rather than to **Mr. Zar**? (Exhibit Q).

Sincerely,



Kim Tschantz, MSP, CEP

Attachments: Exhibit A – Site Plan of Project **Property**
Exhibit B – County Contract with Randy Zar
Exhibit C – Reynolds Associates Geotechnical Report Addendum, dated April 25, 1996
Exhibit D – Cross-section Diagram showing Change of Access to Manhole under Permit 96-0396
Exhibit E – Photographs **of** Zar Children Signatures **in** Access Steps to Manhole
Exhibit F – Photograph **of** Work Completion Party, dated March 22, 1997
Exhibit G – County Planning Sign-off Document for Permit 96-0396
Exhibit H – Memo from Planning to Board **of** Supervisors Recommending Sale of Excess Right-of-way to Zar, dated **January** 5, 2006
Exhibit I – Grant Deed Providing Owner of Project Parcel Perpetual Access **to** McGregor Drive
Exhibit J – Photographs of Sewer Location
Exhibit K – Site Map of Sewer Location
Exhibit L – Declaration **of** Scott Duncan regarding Video Taping of Sewer Line
Exhibit M – Letter from Soquel Creek Water District regarding **prior** Water Service, dated June 12, 1992
Exhibit N-1 – Fire Alarm Plan prepared by First Alarm, dated December 16, 1994
Exhibit N-2 – Photograph of Fire Wire Installation
Exhibit O-1 – Photograph of the Property Frontage during the 1970's
Exhibit O-2 – Photograph **of** the Property Frontage in 2006
Exhibit P – CEQA Notice of Exemption for Application 96-0396
Exhibit Q – Letter **&om** Jarl Saal's Attorney Requesting Bid Sale of Excess Right-of-way

cc: Randy Zar
David Imai
county Counsel
Planning staff
Kent Washburn

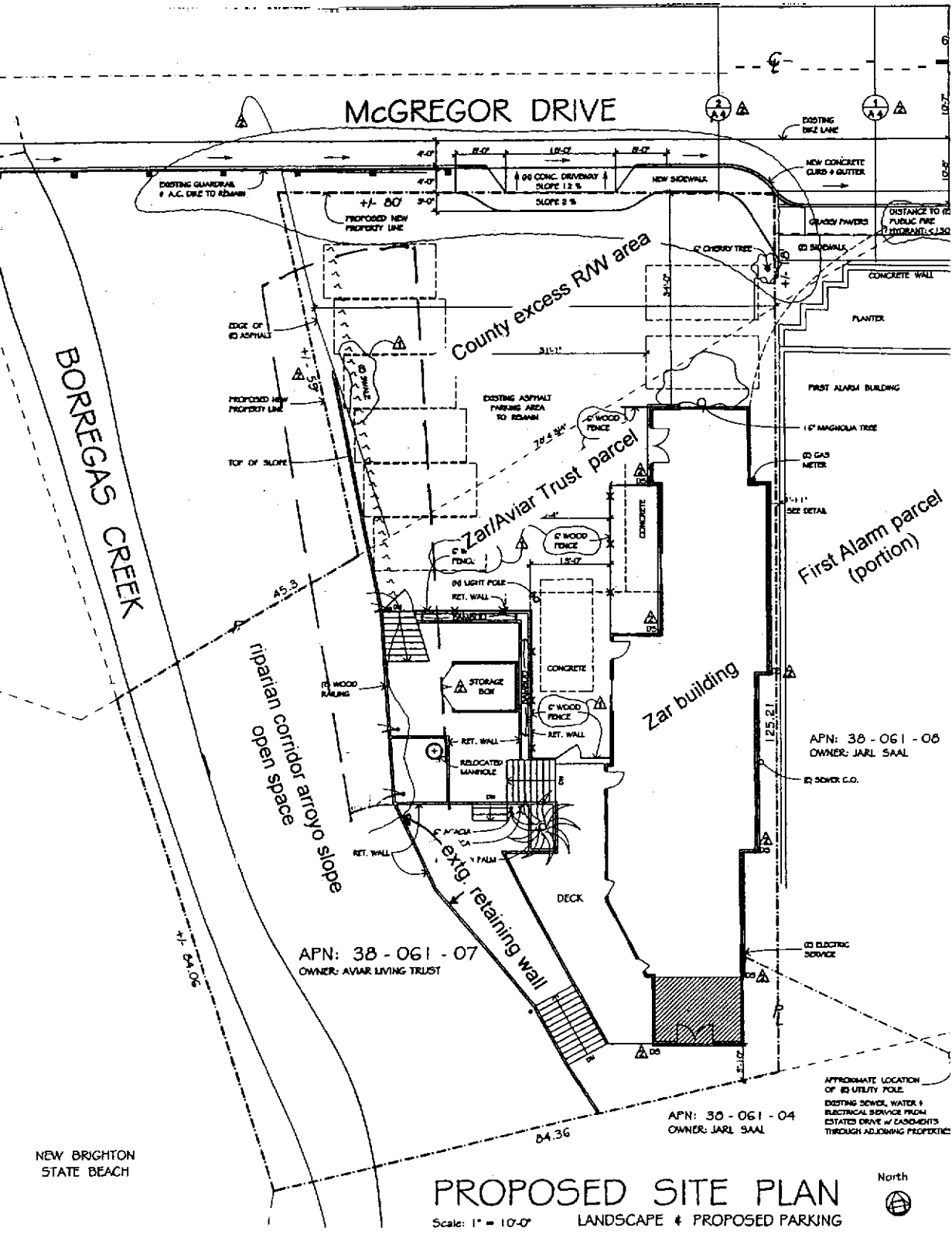
March 8th, 2006

Table of Exhibits

For Application 04-0650 Aviar Trust Randy Zar Trustee
2000 McGregor Drive Aptos CA 95003

- Exhibit A - Site Plan of Project Property
- Exhibit B - County Contract with Randy Zar for permit 96-0396
- Exhibit C - Reynolds Associates Geotechnical Report Addendum dated 4- 5-1996
- Exhibit D - Cross –section Diagram showing Change of Access to Manhole under Permit #96-0396
- Exhibit E - Photographs of Zar Children Signatures in Access Steps to Manhole
- Exhibit F - Photograph of work completion Party, dated 3-22-1997
- Exhibit G - County Planning Sign-off Document for Permit 96-0396
- Exhibit H - Memo from Planning to Board of Supervisors Recommended Sale of Excess Right – of-way to Zar, dated 1-5-2006
- Exhibit I - Grant Deed Providing Owner of Project Parcel Perpetual Access to McGregor Drive
- Exhibit J - Photograph of Sewer Location
- Exhibit K - Site Plan Showing Approximant Location of 8” Sewer Pipe
- Exhibit L -
- Exhibit M - Letter from Soquel Creek Water District regarding prior Water Service, Dated June 12, 1992
- Exhibit N-1 - Fire Alarm Plans prepared by First Alarm, dated 12-16- 1994
- Exhibit N-2 - Photos of Fire Alarm Wire Installation of Alarm
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- Exhibit Q - Letter from Jarl Saal’s Attorney Requesting Bid Sale of Excess Right-of- way

Site Plan of the Zar Project Site



OWNER:
AVIAR LIVING TRUST
P.O. BOX 1282, APTOS, 95003
PHONE: 831-685-1116
RANDY ZAR, TRUSTEE

PROPOSED
SITE PLAN & DATA

Existing BUILDING at
2000-2004 McGREGOR DRIVE
APTOS, CA. 95003
APN: 038-061-07

DEC. 22, 2004
APR. 25, 2005
JULY 27, 2005
OCT. 18, 2005
REVISIONS

Contract No. _____

INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

This contract is entered into this 16th day of July, 1996, by and between the SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT, hereinafter called "DISTRICT" and ,Randy Zar, 14992 McGregor Dr. Aptos CA, hereinafter called "CONTRACTOR". The parties agree as follows:

1. DUTIES. CONTRACTOR agrees to exercise special skill to accomplish the following result: To raise an existing Sanitary manhole off McGregor drive in Aptos in an existing sanitary sewer easement per the attached plan and permit.

2. COMPENSATION. In consideration for CONTRACTOR accomplishing said result, DISTRICT agrees to pay CONTRACTOR as follows: No charge to the District.

3. TERM. The term of this contract shall be: Until complete or October 15, 1996, whichever is earlier.

4. EARLY TERMINATION. Either party hereto may terminate this contract at any time by giving 30 days written notice to the other party.

5. INDEMNIFICATION FOR DAMAGES, TAXES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS. CONTRACTOR shall exonerate, indemnify, defend, and hold harmless DISTRICT (which for the purpose of paragraphs 5 and 6 of this agreement shall include, without limitation, its officers, agents, employees, and volunteers) from and against:

A. Any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, defense costs, or liability of any kind or nature which DISTRICT may sustain or incur or which may be imposed upon it for injury to, or death of, persons, or damage to property as a result of, arising out of, or in any manner connected with, the CONTRACTOR's performance under the terms of this agreement, excepting any liability arising out of the sole negligence of the DISTRICT. Such indemnification includes any damage to the person(s), or property(ies) of CONTRACTOR and third persons.

B. Any and all Federal, State, and local taxes, charges, fees, or contributions required to be paid with respect to CONTRACTOR and CONTRACTOR'S officers, employees and agents engaged in the performance of this Agreement (including, without limitation, unemployment insurance, social security, and payroll tax withholding).

6. INSURANCE. CONTRACTOR, at its sole cost and expense, for the full term of this Agreement (and any extensions thereof), shall obtain and maintain at minimum compliance with all of the following insurance coverage(s) and requirements. Such insurance coverage shall be primary coverage as respects DISTRICT and any insurance or self-insurance maintained by DISTRICT shall be excess of CONTRACTOR's insurance Coverage and shall not contribute to it.

If CONTRACTOR utilizes one or more subcontractors in the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR shall obtain and maintain Independent Contractor's Insurance as to each subcontractor or otherwise provide evidence of insurance coverage for each subcontractor equivalent to that required of CONTRACTOR in this Agreement, unless CONTRACTOR and DISTRICT both initial here _____/_____

A. Types of Insurance and Minimum Limits

(1) Worker's Compensation in the minimum statutorily required coverage amounts. This insurance coverage shall not be required if the CONTRACTOR has no employees and certifies to this fact by initialing here _____

(2) Automobile Liability Insurance for each of CONTRACTOR'S vehicles used in the performance of this Agreement, including owned, non-owned (e.g. owned by CONTRACTOR'S employees), leased or hired vehicles, in the minimum amount of \$500,000 combined single limit per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. This insurance coverage shall not be required if vehicle use by CONTRACTOR is not a material part of performance of this Agreement and CONTRACTOR and DISTRICT both certify to this fact by initialing here _____/_____

(3) Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 combined single limit, including coverage for: (1) bodily injury, (b) personal injury, (c) broad form property damage, (d) contractual liability, and (e) cross-liability.

(4) Professional Liability Insurance in the minimum amount of \$_____ combined single limit, if, and only if, this Subparagraph is initialed by CONTRACTOR and DISTRICT _____/_____

B. Other insurance Provisions

(1) If any insurance coverage required in this Agreement is provided on a "Claims Made" rather than "Occurrence" form, CONTRACTOR agrees to maintain the required coverage for a period of three (3) years after the expiration of this Agreement (hereinafter "post agreement coverage") and any extensions thereof. CONTRACTOR may maintain the required post agreement coverage by renewal or purchase of prior acts or tail coverage. This provision is contingent upon post agreement coverage being both available and reasonably affordable in relation to the coverage provided during the term of this Agreement. For purposes of interpreting this requirement, a cost not exceeding 100% of the last annual policy premium during the term of this Agreement in order to purchase prior acts or tail coverage for post agreement coverage shall be deemed to be reasonable.

(2) All required Automobile and Comprehensive or commercial General Liability Insurance shall be endorsed to contain the following clause:

"The Santa Cruz County Sanitation District, its officials, employees, agents, and volunteers are added as an additional insured as respects the operations and activities of, or on behalf of, the named insured performed under Agreement with the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District."

(3) All required insurance policies shall be endorsed to contain the following clause:

"This insurance shall not be canceled until after thirty (30) days prior written notice has been given to: Mr. John A. Fantham, District Engineer, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060."

(4) CONTRACTOR agrees to provide its insurance broker(s) with a full copy of these insurance provisions and provide DISTRICT on, or before, the effective date of this Agreement with Certificates of Insurance for all required coverages. All Certificates of Insurance shall be delivered or sent to: Mr. John A. Fantham, District Engineer, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

7. EOUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY. During and in relation to the performance of this Agreement, CONTRACTOR agrees as follows:

A. The CONTRACTOR will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related), marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age (over 40), veteran status, or any other non-merit factor unrelated to job duties. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: recruitment; advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training (including apprenticeship), employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer. The CONTRACTOR agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notice setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause.

B. If this Agreement provides compensation in excess of \$50,000 to CONTRACTOR and if CONTRACTOR employs fifteen (15) or more employees, the following requirements shall apply:

(1) The CONTRACTOR shall, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the CONTRACTOR, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related), marital status, sex, sexual orientation, age (over 40), veteran status, or any other non-merit factor unrelated to job duties. In addition, the CONTRACTOR shall make a good faith effort to consider Minority/Women/Disabled Owned Business Enterprises in CONTRACTOR'S solicitation of goods and services. Definitions for Minority/Women/Disabled Business Enterprises are available from the County General Services Purchasing Division.

(2) The CONTRACTOR shall furnish DISTRICT Affirmative Action Office information and reports in the prescribed reporting format (PER 4012) identifying the sex, race, physical or mental disability, and job classification of its employees and the names, dates and methods of advertisement and direct solicitation efforts made to subcontract with Minority/Women/Disabled Business Enterprises.

(3) In the event the CONTRACTOR'S non-compliance with the non-discrimination clauses of this Agreement or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders said CONTRACTOR may be declared ineligible for further agreements with the DISTRICT.

(4) The CONTRACTOR shall cause the foregoing provisions of this Subparagraph 7B to be inserted in all subcontracts for any work covered under this Agreement by a subcontractor compensated more than \$50,000 and employing more than fifteen (15) employees, provided that the foregoing provisions shall not apply to contracts or subcontracts for standard commercial supplies or raw materials.

8. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS. CONTRACTOR and DISTRICT have reviewed and considered the principal test and secondary factors below and agree that CONTRACTOR is an independent contractor and not an employee of DISTRICT. CONTRACTOR is responsible for all insurance (workers compensation, unemployment, etc.) and all payroll related taxes. CONTRACTOR is not entitled to any employee benefits. DISTRICT agrees that CONTRACTOR shall have the right to control the manner and means of accomplishing the result contracted for herein.

(1) PRINCIPAL TEST: The CONTRACTOR, rather than DISTRICT, has the right to control the manner and means of accomplishing the result contracted for.

(2) SECONDARY FACTORS: (a) The extent of control which, by agreement, DISTRICT may exercise over the details of the work is slight rather than substantial; (b) CONTRACTOR is engaged in a distinct occupation or business; (c) In the locality, the work to be done by CONTRACTOR is usually done by a specialist without supervision, rather than under the direction of an employer; (d) The skill required in the particular occupation is substantial rather than slight; (e) The CONTRACTOR rather than the DISTRICT supplies the instrumentalities, tools, and workplace; (f) The length of time for which CONTRACTOR is engaged is of limited duration rather than indefinite; (g) The method of payment of CONTRACTOR is by job rather than by time; (h) The work is part of a special or permissive activity, program, or project, rather than part of the regular business of DISTRICT; (i) CONTRACTOR and DISTRICT believe they are creating an independent contractor relationship rather than an employer-employee relationship; and (j) The DISTRICT conducts public business.

It is recognized that it is not necessary that all secondary factors support creation of an independent contractor relationship, but rather that overall there are significant secondary factors which indicate that CONTRACTOR is an independent contractor.

By their signatures to this Agreement, each of the undersigned certifies that it is his or her considered judgment that the CONTRACTOR engaged under this Agreement is in fact an independent contractor.

9. CONTRACTOR represents that its operations are in compliance with applicable County Planning, environmental and other laws or regulations.

10. CONTRACTOR is responsible to pay prevailing wages and maintain records as required by Labor Code Section 1770 and following.

11. NONASSIGNMENT. CONTRACTOR shall not assign this Agreement without the prior written consent of the DISTRICT.

12. RETENTION AND AUDIT OF RECORDS. CONTRACTOR shall retain records pertinent to this Agreement for a period of not **less** than five (5) years after final payment under this Agreement or until a final audit report is accepted by DISTRICT, whichever occurs first. CONTRACTOR hereby agrees to be subject to the examination and audit by the Santa Cruz County Auditor-Controller, the Auditor General of the State of California, or the designee of either for a period of five (5) years after final payment under this Agreement.

13. PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS. Presentation and processing of any or all claims arising out of, or related to, this Agreement shall be made in accordance with the provisions contained in Chapter 1.05 of the Santa Cruz County Code, which by this reference is incorporated herein.

14. ATTACHMENTS. This Agreement includes the following attachments: site plan & Permit from Planning Department.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have set their hands the day and year first above written.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICT

By: [Signature]
District Engineer

CONTRACTOR

By: [Signature]
Title: [Signature]

Address:

Telephone:

418 Coates DR
Aptos.

685-1116

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: [Signature] 7/16/96
District Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: District Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Business Services
Risk Management
Contractor

Document: agrmnt4
(Revised 03/94)

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCEISSUE DATE
JUL 10 96

PRODUCER

Cert# 3782

POWERS & CO.
2130 PROFESSIONAL DR. STE 230
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661
(916) 783-7276
FAX (916) 783-7352

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND
CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE
WES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE
POLICIES BELOW.

COMPANIES AFFORDING COVERAGE

COMPANY

A CREDIT GENERAL INSURANCE CO

COMPANY

B

COMPANY

C

COMPANY

D

INSURED

J.R ZAR CONTRACTING

PO BOX 1282
APTOS. CA 95001

COVERAGES

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING
ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE
AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY
PAID CLAIMS

CD	TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE (MM/DD/YY)	POLICY EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YY)	LIMITS
CTR	GENERAL LIABILITY				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY	TBD	JUL 9 96	JUL 9 97	GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 1,000,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR				PRODUCTS-COMP/OP AGG. \$ 1,000,000
A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OWNERS & CONTRACTOR'S PROT				PERSONAL & ADY INJURY \$ 1,000,000
					EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000
					FIRE DAMAGE (Any One Fire) \$ 50,000
					MED EXPENSE (Any One Person) \$ 500
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY				
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS				BODILY INJURY (Per Person) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS				BODILY INJURY (Per Accident) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS				PROPERTY DAMAGE \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS				
	GARAGE LIABILITY				
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				AUTO ONLY - EA ACCIDENT \$
					OTHER THAN AUTO ONLY \$
					EACH ACCIDENT \$
					AGGREGATE \$
	EXCESS LIABILITY				
	<input type="checkbox"/> UMBRELLA FORM				EACH OCCURRENCE \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER THAN UMBRELLA FORM				AGGREGATE \$
	WORKER'S COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY				STATUTORY LIMITS
	<input type="checkbox"/> THE PROPRIETOR/ PARTNER/S/EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ARE	<input type="checkbox"/> INCL <input type="checkbox"/> EXCL			EACH ACCIDENT \$
					DISEASE POLICY LIMIT \$
					DISEASE EACH EMPLOYEE \$
	OTHER				

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS/LOCATIONS/VEHICLES/SPECIAL ITEM:
ALL CALIFORNIA OPERATIONS

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICT
701 OCEAN ST.
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

CANCELLATION

SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE
EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, THE ISSUING COMPANY WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAIL 10
DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER NAMED TO THE LEFT BUT
FAILURE TO MAIL SUCH NOTICE SHALL IMPOSE NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY OF ANY
KIND UPON THE COMPANY ITS AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE



Geotechnical &
civil Engineers

962234-S61-G6

25 April 1996

Mr. Randy Zar
P.O. Box 1282
Aptos, CA 95001

Subject: ADDENDUM, Retaining Wall Failure
Zar Residence, McGregor Drive
Santa Cruz County, California

Reference: REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES, Letter, Dated 17 April 1996

Dear Mr. Zar:

It is our understanding that the retaining wall may be deleted from the project plan and instead the slope will be continued to daylight at the edge of the parking area, therefore the follow recommendations are an addendum to the reference letter:

1. The maximum slope gradient may be increased to 1.5:1 (horizontal to vertical) provided:
 - a. A lined "V"-ditch be constructed along the upper edge of the slope.
 - b. The import fill material should consist of Class 4, base or other approved material.
 - c. The slope will be vegetated immediately follow completion of the construction.
 - d. The recommended gradients do not preclude periodic maintenance of the slopes, as minor sloughing and erosion may occur.

Should you have any further questions, please contact this office.

Very truly yours,
REYNOLDS ASSOCIATES

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John R. Scott', is written over the typed name and the professional seal.

John R.



JRS:js

Copies: 3 to Mr. Randy Zar

Diagram of Access to Manhole under Permit 96-0396
Showing How the Original Ramp Idea was Changed
Due to Excess Slope

Plan View

Cross-section
(not at same scale as plan view)

Manhole

Unearthed Manhole

Wooden Steps

Fence

Arroyo

Storage Box

Relocated Manhole

Property Line

County excess RM

Parking Area

Completed Grade

Original graded access (too steep)

McGregor Drive

North Arrow

96-0396

之

- 187 -

McGregor Drive

Completed Grade

Cross-section
(not at same scale as plan view)

Original graded access
(too steep)

Parking Area

Wooden Steps

Unearthed Manhole

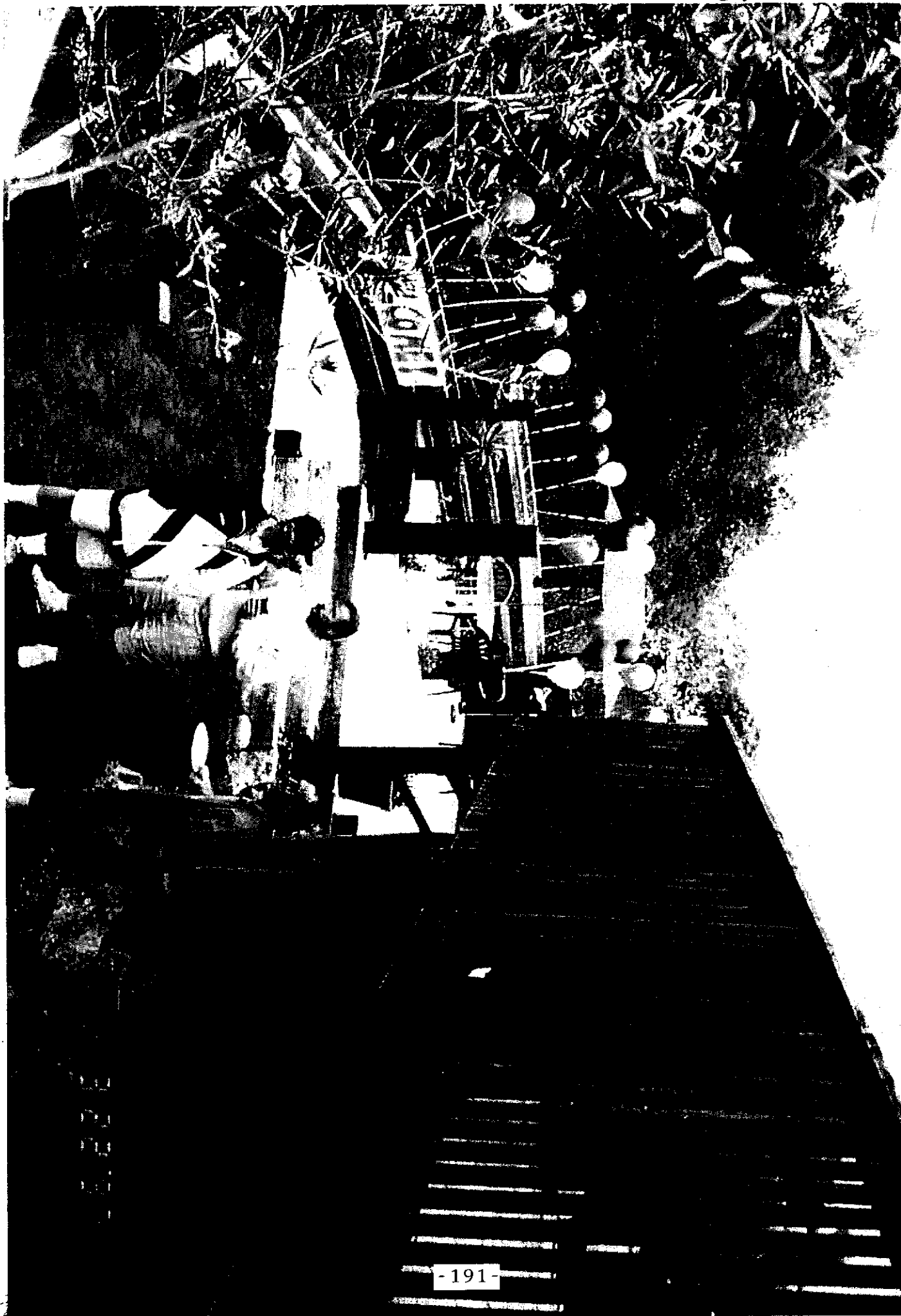
Manhole

151

10



Completion Party 3/22/97



INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: 6/12/97
TO: Code Compliance
FROM: Catherine Carr, E.P.
SUBJECT: 96-0396 38-061-07

upward Exception permit
96-0396 Apr 038-061-07
is now finalized

cc: OWNER

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 5, 2006

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Tom Bums, Planning Director

Re: Zar Settlement

In August of 2004, the County entered into a settlement agreement with Alvin Zar, Sr., Randy Zar and Aviar Revocable Trust regarding litigation arising out of APN: 038-061-07 (2000 McGregor Drive). As part of the settlement agreement, the Planning Department agreed to recommend to your Board the sale of a portion of the County right-of-way adjacent to the Zar property. The Zar's need this right of way to provide additional parking if they are to be allowed to expand the existing commercial use on their property.

I understand that the Board will be considering a closed litigation item on January 10, 2006 regarding the County right-of-way adjacent to the Zar property. Consistent with the County's settlement agreement with the Zar's, I recommend that your Board authorize the sale of the portion of the County right-of-way adjacent to the Zar's property.

56 PAGE 515
1 49 PM '62
AND TIME CO.
7 8 0 8

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

Sta. "E₁" 145

**GRANT DEED
(INDIVIDUAL)**

DISTRICT	COUNTY	ROUTE	SECTION	NUMBER
IV	SCR	56	E	27355

I, EVA C. BERNARD, a married woman, dealing with my
separate property

GRANT to the STATE OF CALIFORNIA, all that real property in the _____ County
of Santa Cruz, State of California, described as:

COMMENCING at the southeasterly corner of that parcel of land conveyed to the State of California by deed recorded February 11, 1948 in Volume 526 at page 454, Official Records of Santa Cruz County; thence along the line common to the lands, now or formerly, of Eva C. Bernard and of Porter Estate Company, a corporation, S. 7°03'03" E., 12.94 feet; thence N. 69°25'29" E., 148.14 feet; thence S. 79°18'03" E., 168.38 feet to the general southerly line of the existing State Freeway in Santa Cruz County; Road IV-SCR-56-E; thence along last said line, from a tangent that bears N. 36°57'07" W., along a curve to the left with a radius of 50.00 feet, through an angle of 42°20'55", an arc length of 36.00 feet, N. 79°18'03" W., 202.98 feet, and S. 83°35'37" W., 102.03 feet to the point of commencement.

CONTAINING 0.196 of an acre, more or less.

This conveyance is made for the purposes of a freeway and adjacent frontage road and the grantor hereby releases and relinquishes to the grantee any and all abutter's rights, including access rights, appurtenant to grantor's remaining property in and to said freeway, provided, however, that such remaining property shall abut upon and have access to said frontage road which will be connected to the freeway only at such points as may be established by public authority.

Grantor ALSO releases and relinquishes to grantee any and all rights of access in and to said freeway over and across all that portion of the easterly prolongation of the course described above as "S. 79°18'03" E., 168.38 feet" lying within the bounds of Seacliff Estate Drive.

Provided, however, that grantor, ~~his~~ successors or assigns, shall

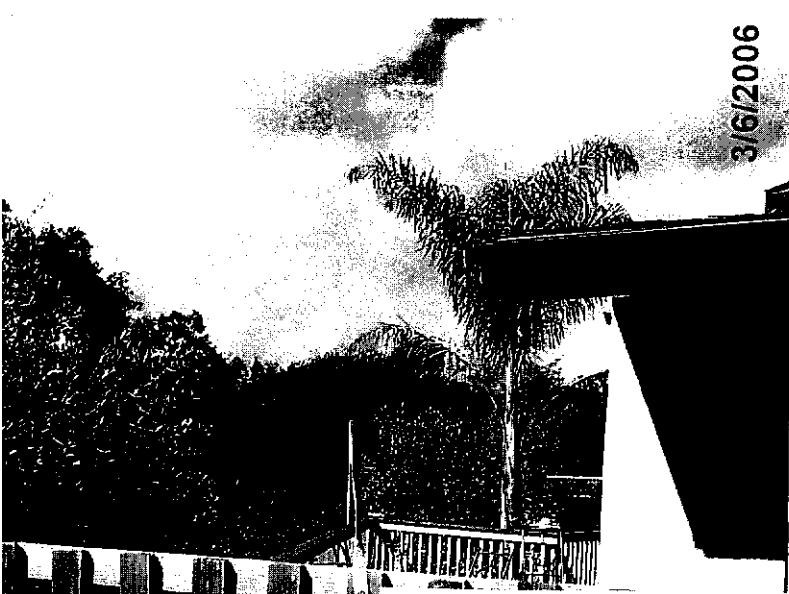
mi456 ~~515~~ 516

have the right of access in and to said frontage road over and across said easterly prolongation.

The bearings and distances used in the above description are on the California Coordinate System, Zone 3. Multiply the above distances by .9999857 to obtain ground level distances.

Photographs
of
Sewer Location

3/6/2006



◀ 70' Manhole Sewer line location 3/6/06



3/6/2006

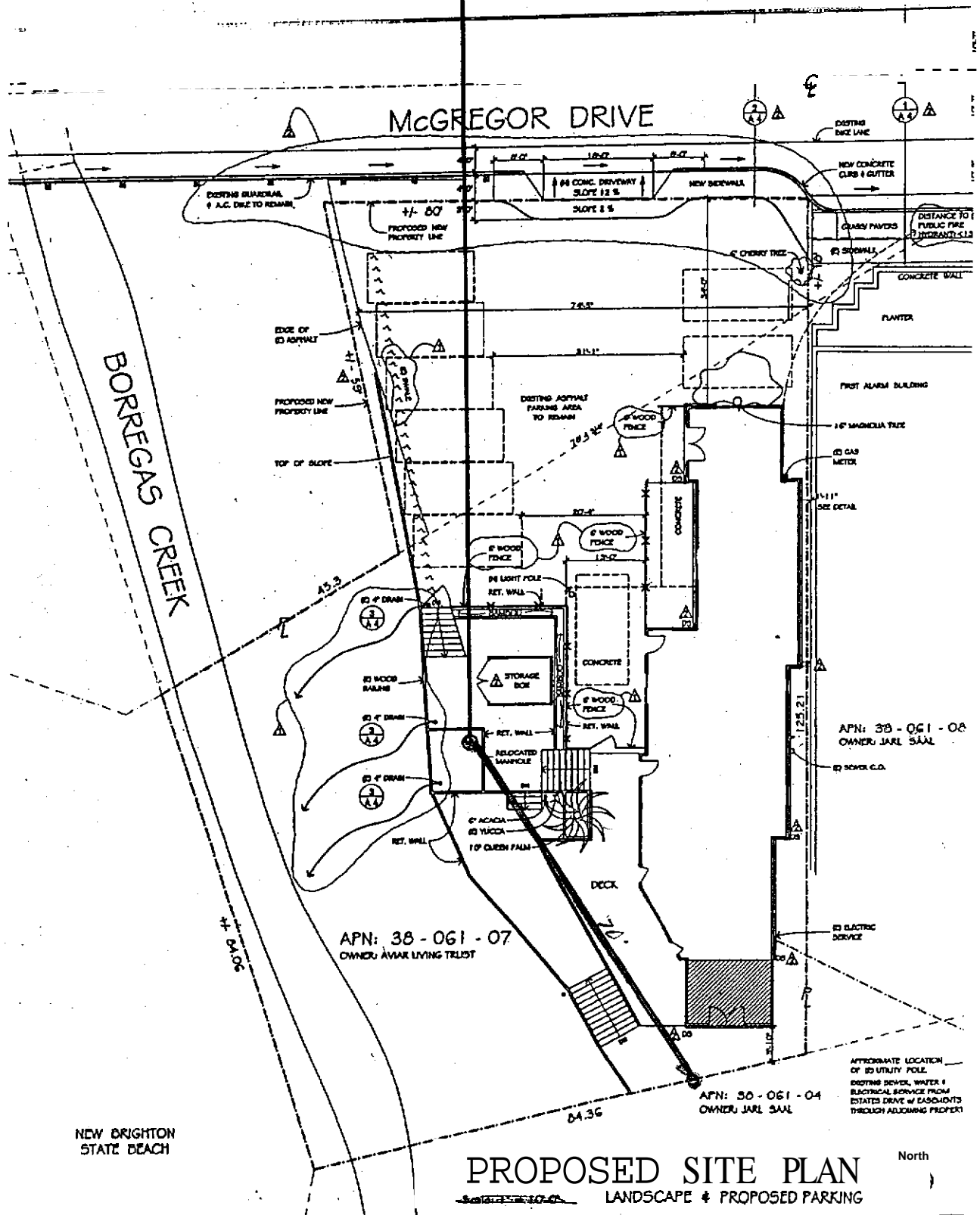


3/6/2006



Manhole

Approx. Location
of
Sewer Line



Approx. Location of Sewer line based on video conducted on March 3rd, 2006

Declaration
Scott Duncan
Duncan Plumbing



SOQUEL CREEK
WATER DISTRICT

5180 SWAJEL DR.
P.O. BOX 158
SOQUEL, CA 95073
TEL 408-475-8500 / 408-688-2288
FAX 408-475-4291

128
AMERICAN
EXHIBIT 1

DIRECTORS

DANIEL F. KRIEGE
President

JOHN W. BEEBE

JAMES M. BARGETTO

NONA P. PIERCE

GARY E. HAZELTON

June 12, 1992

ROBERT M. JOHNSON, Jr.
General Manager
Chief Engineer

Mr. W. F. O'Neil
P. O. Box 1414
Capitola, California 95010

Subject: Water Service at 14992 McGregor Drive, Aptos

Dear Mr. O'Neil:

After a great deal of research on the subject property's water service history, a conclusion has been reached. It is our determination that this was a pre-existing service line prior to 1964 when the District accepted the water system in this area. Therefore, you shall receive a water service line and meter provided by this District at no additional cost to you. The water line easement crossing Jarl Saal's property cannot be provided by the District and shall be your responsibility.

The District shall reserve the right to relocate ^{you} your water meter so that it fronts on the property at 14992 McGregor Drive. This would be done in the future if the McGregor Drive main is extended. It is against current District Policy to serve one parcel through another, but your case is an exception.

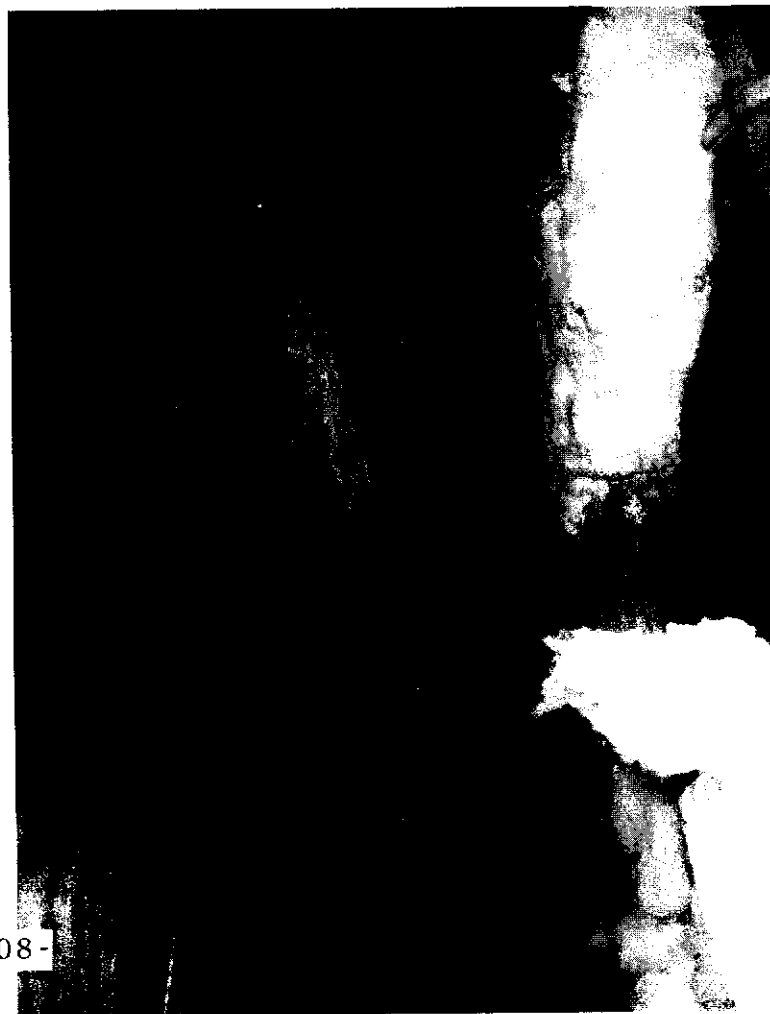
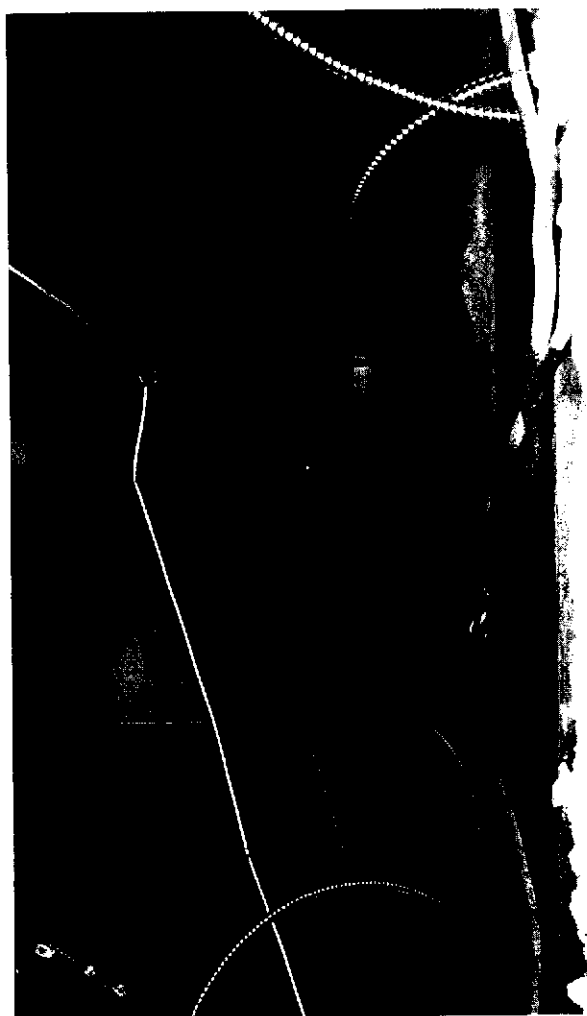
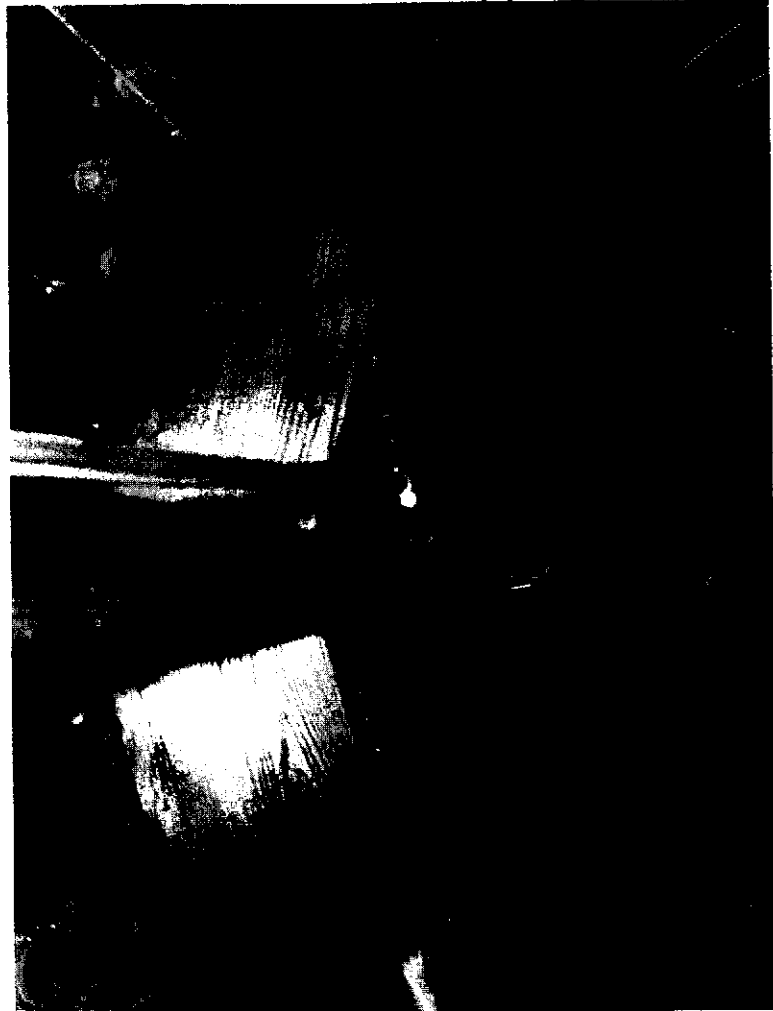
Sincerely,

SOQUEL CREEK WATER DISTRICT

Jeffery N. Gailey
Engineering Manager

JNG:jjy

72





PHOTOGRAPHED



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
FROM THE
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

EXHIBIT P

The County of Santa Cruz has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from **the** provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15329 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been checked on this document.

Application No.: 96-0396
Assessor Parcel No.: 038-061-07
Project Location: 14992 McGregor Drive, Aptos

Project Description: Proposal to remove fill and an unpermitted retaining wall from the riparian corridor to resolve a code violation by private property and to grade and fill approximately 50 cubic yards and construct a 3 foot high retaining wall to create an access road to locate and raise an existing sewer manhole cover. Requires a Riparian Exception.

Person or Agency Proposing Project: Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works
Phone Number: (408) 454-2786

- A. ☐ The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines, Sections 1928 and 501.
B. ☐ Ministerial Project involving only the **use** of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgement.
C. ☐ Statutory Exemption other than a Ministerial Project.
Specify type:

D. Categorical Exemption

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Existing Facility | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Open Space Contracts or Easements |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Replacement or Reconstruction | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Designation of Wilderness Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. New Construction of Small Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Annexation of Existing Facilities/Lots for Exempt Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Minor Alterations to Land | <input type="checkbox"/> 20. Changes in Organization of Local Agencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Alterations in Land Use Limitation | <input type="checkbox"/> 21. Enforcement Actions by Regulatory Agencies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Information Collection | <input type="checkbox"/> 22. Educational Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> 23. Normal Operations of Facilities for Public Gatherings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Nat. Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> 24. Regulation of Working Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Inspection | <input type="checkbox"/> 25. Transfers of Ownership of Interests in Land to Preserve Open Space |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Loans | <input type="checkbox"/> 26. Acquisition of Housing for Housing Assistance Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Accessory Structures | <input type="checkbox"/> 27. Leasing New Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Surplus Govt. Property Sales | <input type="checkbox"/> 28. Small Hydroelectric Projects at Existing Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Acquisition of Land for Wildlife Conservation Purposes | <input type="checkbox"/> 29. Cogeneration Projects at Existing Facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Minor Additions to Schools | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Functional Equivalent to EIR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Transfer of Ownership of Land to Create Parks | |

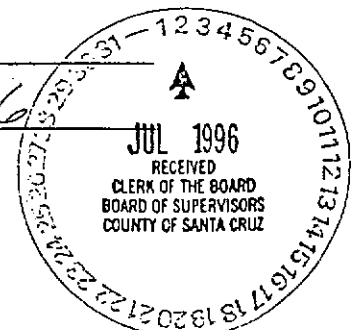
E. ☐ Lead Agency Other Than County:

Staff Planner: Cathleen Carr
CATHLEEN CARR, Resource Planner

Date: 6/28/96

NOTICE HAS BEEN POSTED AT THE CLERK'S
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OFFICE FOR A

WORK COMMENCING 7/2 1996
ENDING 8/2 1996



JOHNSON & JAMES LLP

EXHIBIT Q

**Robert K. Johnson
Omar F. James**

**Attorneys at Law
311 Bonita Drive
P.O. Box 245
Aptos, CA 95001-0245**

**Telephone (831) 688-8989
Facsimile (831) 688-6232**

December 14, 2005

SCOTT LUCINGER ,
c/o REAL PROPERTY DIVISION
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ PLANNING DEPARTMENT
701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Jarl Saal

Dear Mr. Lucinger:

On May 23, 2005, I wrote to you regarding Jarl Saal and the County's intent to sell a parcel of real property it owns to Mr. Saal's neighbor, Randy Zar without competitive bidding. I advised you that Mr. Saal was willing to pay \$25,000 for the same property the county intended to sell to Mr. Zar for \$20,000 and that Mr. Saal was willing to pay more than \$25,000 through competitive bidding. I received no response to my letter.

Mr. Saal has now been advised that the County intends to lease the property to Mr. Zar as a way of avoiding the competitive bidding process required by law. This letter is intended as notice to the County that Mr. Saal is willing to lease the property from the County. Mr. Saal is certain that he will pay more for a lease than Mr. Zar is willing to pay since Mr. Saal is willing to pay full market value and is not seeking any special treatment [Mr. Saal does not know the terms of the contemplated lease since the negotiations were apparently held in secrecy].

Mr. Saal hereby demands that the County comply with law and that any lease or sale of the subject property be put up for competitive bidding.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Very truly yours,

JOHNSON & JAMES LLP


ROBERT K. JOHNSON

RKJ/mo

cc: Supervisor Ellen Pine - County Board of Supervisors
Tom Bums - County Planning Director
Jarl Saal

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 2, 2006

To: Planning Commissioners

From: Cathy Graves, Secretary 

Re: Additiinal Correspondence for Item 7.1 of March 8 Agenda

Attached is a copy of a letter dated February 7, 2006 from the appellant for this appeal. This letter was inadvertently omitted from the packet and we are now forwarding it to your Commission. Please contact myself at (831) 454-3141 or the project Planner, Randall Adams, at (831) 454-3218 if you have any questions about this information.

KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

VOICE: (831) 458-9777
FAX: (831) 459-6127

kentgwashburn@compuserve.com

123 Jewell Street
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA. 95060

March 2, 2006

Mr. Dennis Osmer, Chairperson
Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: **2000 McGregor Dr./March 8 agenda**
App # 04-0650

for hand delivery
with letter of February 7 & enclosures

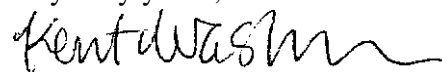
Dear Chairperson Osmer and Commissioners:

One of the key issues in this case is whether or not the structure in question was built with permits. In a seeming effort to minimize culpability, the applicant: as recently as opposing counsel's letter of December 28, 2005 and the oral arguments presented to the Commission in January, has alleged that at least 800 sq. ft. of the basic structure was built under permit # 3732.

Subsequent to that January hearing we went to some lengths to obtain and place before staff very convincing evidence from the county's own files together with private photos which, taken all together, conclusively refute the claim that Mr. Zar's building was the subject of permit #3732. We appreciate that staff now seems to agree with our position, but were very surprised and disappointed to learn this morning, when we got our first chance to review the staff report for the March 8 hearing and found my February 7 letter and exhibits were completely omitted from the materials furnished to you.

Because the applicant's efforts with your Commission to date have consisted so substantially of claims that my client is acting from bad motives and/or not telling the truth, we feel it essential to bring this evidence to your attention well in advance of the hearing. When we approached staff this morning with the request that the omission be cured immediately, they said they would try but could not promise us prompt delivery to you. Hence our efforts to hand deliver to you even though it may duplicate what you also belatedly receive from staff. We hope this will not inconvenience you.

Very truly yours,



Kent G. Washburn

KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

VOICE (831) 458-9717
FAX: (831) 459-6127

kentgashburn@compuserve.com

123 Jewell Street
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA. 95060

February 7, 2006

Mr. Mark Deming
Santa Cruz County Planning Department
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: **04-0650, APN 038-061-07**

Dear Mr. Deming:

Thank you for responding last week to my attempts to get in touch with staff about this file. Our intention is to provide staff and the Planning Commission with reliable information in advance of the next public hearing. You and I discussed several key questions which remain unanswered.

Single Issue Addressed

This letter addresses one such question: the permit history of Mr. Zar's building. In his written and oral submittals to both the Zoning Administrator and the Planning Commission, this applicant and his representatives have falsely claimed that county building permits 1474/1594 are the proof of their claims that the building exists legitimately. See for example the section entitled History of The Structure in attorney David Y. Imai's letter of December 28, 2005 to the Commission.

This letter and attachments refute counsel's contention with five categories of evidence:

1. County building permit records
2. County Assessor's information cards for both parcel's, Zar's and Saal's
3. Private historic photographs of the site
4. Mr. Saal's sworn statement.
5. CalTrans aerial photography

County Building Permits

A single record exists of permit 1594, ~~Ex.~~ A attached. Please note the following points:

1. The applicant's name, Eva Bernard, in the upper left.
2. The address, 799 Estates Dr. rather than the Zar address on McGregor Dr.
3. The APN 038-061-06, Mr. Saal's parcel number, *not* Mr. Zar's.
4. The notation 'for moved bldg.'
5. The exact size of the building, 20' x 40'.
6. The precise use of the structure - "for office and slab."
7. Dates in 1962, before most zoning regulations or CEQA applied to this property.

It is clear why the applicant would like this building permit record to refer to his structure. If it was built before the current laws were enacted he can argue it should be exempt from their application. This permit record and the evidence submitted in and with subsequent sections of this letter make it clear that the permit was for a now-demolished structure on the Saal parcel, not Zar's.

That leaves the applicant with only building permit 3732 from which to argue his building's legitimacy. Please note the following points from the face of the two pages of permit documents for 3732, copy enclosed as **Exhibit B**:

1. Location of structure is the "frontage road near Estates Dr."
2. Type of construction is garden sales area and fire-resistant wall on existing structure.
3. There was no toilet on the property, so issuance of the permit was conditioned on gaining permission to use the facilities in the building next door, the building moved in permit 1594.

These facts will tie in later in this letter with photo evidence and the Assessor's records to show in more detail just what was built on the Zar parcel and just what property line was being referred to.

Santa Cruz County Assessor's Parcel Information Cards

There are information cards for both the ~~Zar~~ property and the ~~Saal~~ property. Clarity emerges only from examining both sets of records. Because at first the planning staff only had access to the Zar records, it is easy to understand why staff's picture was incomplete.

Please note the following ten points from the three pages of Saal's assessor cards, **Exhibit C**:

1. Owner's name in upper left corner, Eva Bernard (same as on permit 1594)
2. Notation of type of use, real estate office.
3. APN in upper right corner, 038-061-06, the Saal parcel number.
4. Middle left of page one under "Appr. Year" the card shows "1951."
5. This dovetails with adjacent columns showing "Age" and "Remaining Life" of structure.
6. Bottom left of page one shows the total area of the main structure as 800 square feet, which is confirmed in a computation on the reverse side, $20 \times 40 = 800$.
7. Notation on reverse side that the building was moved farther back on site and put on slab.
8. The third page corroborates the APN and square footage.
9. The "Construction Record" notes permit # 1594 with the comment "moved building."
10. Two separate notes refer to demolition of the building. In the lower right corner the estimated date of 7/1/92 for demolition appears, and the diagonal slash is labeled "Demo'd"

This information harmonizes completely with the building permit records of permit 1594. A substantial pre-existing structure was moved back from the frontage road and put on a foundation on the Saal parcel in 1962. It was destroyed in 1992 when the First Alarm building **was** constructed, and thus does nothing to legitimize the Zar structure. It could be argued that this information substantially detracts from the applicant's plea of innocence, victimhood, and an honest attempt to get right with the law today because it shows that he has been giving the county misinformation all along and still is.

The Assessor's cards on the Zar parcel, 038-061-07, **Exhibit D** hereto, line up perfectly with the building permit records for permit 3732. They show that as of 1968 a small office and greenhouse

with an adjoining covered plant storage area had been built. The note on the reverse side shows that as of the date of Mr. Zar's purchase, however, the Assessor suddenly picked **up** the value of such substantial and recent improvements to the property that a special note was made of it.

Private Historic Photographs **of** the Site

We attach three separate pages of photos most of which I believe appear in copy form in the county's enforcement file on the Zar parcel. I will bring with me to our meeting many more photos which are not attached to this letter because they do not seem to add anything of substance.

The first photo, enlarged to 8 ½" by 11" size shows the frontage of the Zar property as it existed in the late 1960s, the 1970s, and into the 1980s. It is clearly an open air nursery business, consistent with what permit 3272 authorized and assessment information shows for the period.

The second page consists of two black and white photos. They show the Aptos Gardens sign and improvements on the Zar parcel in the background and the building on the Saal property in the foreground. The original real estate office use by Eva Bernard has changed to a beauty shop. In the background one can clearly see the open latticework under the hip roof structure on the Zar parcel, just as the permit authorized, and just as the deputy assessors had recorded. The close proximity of the structure on the Zar parcel and the beauty shop on the Saal parcel explains the reference on building permit 3732 to the Zar structure's closeness to the property line. It also dovetails with the reference on permit 3732 to the need for permission to use sanitary facilities on the adjoining parcel – had both buildings been located on the Zar parcel, as counsel and his client and their consultant seek to argue. there would have been no need to ask anyone else's permission

The third page, consisting of four photos, shows the interior of the Aptos Gardens "complex," and how it consisted basically, as noted by the assessment office and the building department, of gravel floor, plastic roofing, and walls largely open to the elements. This bears no resemblance whatsoever to the present structure on the applicant's site, and no permit since 3272 has authorized such changes.

Statement under Penalty **of** Perjury

In my experience it is somewhat unusual for parties to a county land use dispute to submit their statements under penalty of perjury. Why did we submit the previous affidavits of Messrs. Mill, Hurley and Strauss, and the attached statement of Saal, Exhibit **E**, in this fashion?

We want our statements to stand out in stark relief as completely truthful and reliable in the best way possible. Mr. Saal is not just making an unfounded or self-serving statement in this matter – he is willing to put it in such a way that he is subject to criminal prosecution if it is false.

Mr. Saal's statement is based on over forty years acquaintance with the Zar and Saal parcels. As a youth he even worked on the Zar property. His recollections are congruent with the photos, the building records, and the Assessor. Zar's statements are not. There is a complete conflict in their statements which we believe the objective corroborating evidence resolves in Mr. Saal's favor.

Aerial Photography

We are bringing to the meeting some aerial photos of the site which corroborate the statements made by Mr. Saal and lend no support to the applicant's version.

Conclusion

I want to clearly restate that our position is *not* that Mr. Zar's attempts to come into compliance with the law should be rejected outright or that he should have no beneficial use of his property. That would be a vindictive and extreme position which the county would presumably find distasteful.

My client instead takes the position that the applicant's efforts to come into compliance should be based on the truth as opposed to misstatements. My client also contends that in view of the extensive history of violations and illegal construction and illegal uses, there should be dispassionate application of the law and environmental standards to the project, not a hurried effort to whitewash broken laws and actual and threatened environmental harm because, after 12 + years of resistance, the applicant wants the trouble to go away.

We have gone to the trouble of showing that the applicant has submitted misinformation to the Zoning Administrator and the Planning Commission for several reasons. First and most obvious, if the building lacks any permits since 1972 the path to compliance must be much different and tougher than if the building had legally existed since the 1967 permit as Mr. Zar has contended.

Second, I believe that CEQA review cannot be avoided on the pre-existing facilities exception if the building and improvements have been installed in violation of CEQA and other land use laws.

Third, the lack of candor about the building permit history should make staff and the Planning Commission extremely cautious about accepting the applicant's unsworn testimony that he never brought in any more fill. In this letter and its attachments, over the applicant's strong and categorical denials, we have demonstrated that the building essentially lacks any permits for what is out there now. We also contend against the applicant's feverish denials that huge quantities of unengineered fill have been placed on the applicant's property *and the County's own adjacent surplus right of way area* subsequent to the riparian exception work. As Mr. Kasunich's recent letter strongly urges, careful study of both the Zar parcel and the county right of way which Zar filled, paved and now uses for parking is essential before the project can be approved or the county can contemplate selling the excess right of way free of liability for future slope failures.

Very truly yours,



Kent G. Washburn

OWNER

EVA BERNARD

LOCATION

799 Estates Drive, Aptos

PARCEL NUMBER

38-061-6

VALUATION

700.00

TYPE (for moved bldg)

Foundation 20x40 for office
and slab

CONTRACTORS

PLUMBING AND GAS

ELECTRIC

BUILDING

ROUGH

PLUMBING AND GAS

NAME

ELECTRIC

OWNER

Jimmie Smith

PERMIT NUMBER

1594

DATE

6-13-62

PERMIT NUMBER

1474

DATE

6-7-62

INSPECTIONS

BUILDING

ROUGH

PLUMBING AND GAS

ELECTRIC

FOUNDATION

OK 7-6-62 E.D.

ROUGH

OK 7-6-62 E.D.

VENT

FINISH

STUCCO WIRE

FINISH

FIXTURES, ETC.

LATH

GAS - ROUGH

FLUES

GAS - P.T.

OK 7-6-62 E.D.

FINISH COMPLETE

OK 7-16-62 E.D.

GAS - FINISH

SERVICE CLEARED

BUILDING INSPECTION JOB RECORD

BLO - 3 (REV.)

REMARKS ON REVERSE

OK Cleared 7-16-62 E.D.

OWNER

A. N. LENHART

LOCATION

Frontage Rd. near Estates Dr., Aptos

PARCEL NUMBER

38-061-6

VALUATION

4,000

TYPE erect garden sales area 5' from property line & install hr. fire-resistive wall on exist. structure

which is closer than bath house 200

CONTRACTORS install plastic over and walkway

ELECTRIC

BUILDING

NAME

P. G. PLUMBING

L. G. Thompson

PERMIT NUMBER

4490

DATE

8-4-67

NAME

Owens

PERMIT NUMBER

3861

DATE

6-21-67

4617

INSPECTIONS

PLUMBING AND GAS

PLUMBING AND GAS

ELECTRIC

BUILDING

ROUGH

FOUNDATION

OK 7-21-67 LB.

FRAME

STUCCO WIRE OK 7-21-67 LB.

LATH

PLUES

FINISH COMPLETE

OK 10-16-68 LB.

BUILDING INSPECTION JOB RECORD

BLO - 3 (REV.)

A. N. LENHART

REMARKS ON REVERSE

SERVICE CLEARED

AT 8-15-67 HL

CORR. 8-10-67 HL

FINISH

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

OK 8-15-67 HL

Applicant: L. G. Thompson		Locat. of Job: Frontage Rd. Nr. Estates Dr. Aptos	
N. Lenhart 34 - Ewell Aptos			
BUILDING Contractor L. G. Thimpson 194401		Assessor's 38-061-6 Parcel No. Code Area	
Permit to: Erect Garden Sales Area 5' From Property Line and Install 1 Hr. Fireresistive wall on existing structure which is closer than 5' to exp. line		Valuation \$ 4,000.00 Bldg. Fee \$ 22.50	
SEWER CONNECTION Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____ Contractor _____ District _____ Annexation required? _____ If "Yes", date petition filed _____ Type of service, units, etc.: _____ Annexation \$ _____ Connection _____ Inspection _____ Other _____ Total \$ _____		PLUMBING & GAS Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____ Contractor _____ Permit \$ _____ Fixtures _____ Water Heater _____ Water Piping _____ Gas - Min. 5 _____ Gas - Over 5 _____ Appliance tags: Over 50M BTU _____ Under 50M BTU _____ Permit issued subject to receipt of permission to use adjoining Sanitary Facilities [Signature] Total \$ _____	
ELECTRIC Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____ Contractor _____ Permit \$ _____ Lights _____ Fixtures _____ Switches _____ Plugs _____ Range _____ Oven _____ Dryer _____ Water Heater _____ Space Heater _____ Motors _____ Facilities _____ Power Pole _____ Total \$ _____			

DRIVEWAY OR ROAD OPENING - Road No. _____
 Ref. B.P.# _____ Date _____
 Contractor _____
 Insurance _____
 Driveway \$ _____
 Road Length Width Depth _____
 opening _____
 Other _____
 Total \$ _____

Total Fees Received \$ **22.50**
 By *[Signature]*
 Cashier's validation

JUN-15-61 22920

A I -

22

Permits applied for as above are based on certain plans and specifications filed with the Department of Public Works and are subject to all county ordinances, state laws, and conditions stated on the reverse hereof, which conditions are hereby accepted.

[Signature]
 Signature of Applicant

Date

100

F 104
 AUG 13 09 46
 CARLISLE
 11C

ADDRESS

DESCRIPTION OF BUILDING

CLASS & SHAPE		CONSTRUCTION	STRUCTURAL	EXTERIOR	FRONT	LIGHTING			AIR CONDITION			ROOMS			FLOORS			FLOOR FINISH			TRIM		INTERIOR FILL	
TYPE	DESIGN	FOUNDATION	CONCRETE	Frame	Flat	Wiring	Heating	Cooling	Rooms	Floors	Floor Finish	Trim	Interior Fill											
Apartment	Garage	Hotel	Market	Office	Store	Theatre	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy	Light	Heavy		
1594	END - MOUNTED	6-7-62	1951	1966	15	40	255	80	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A		
228																								

1967 INDEX COMPANY INDEX 1977 INDEX

1964 INDEX (1966)		1967 INDEX		1977 INDEX		1991-5	
Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost	Unit	Cost
1594	800	1594	800	1594	800	1594	800
HEAT	800	HEAT	800	HEAT	800	HEAT	800
CONC	417	CONC	417	CONC	417	CONC	417
FR	320	FR	320	FR	320	FR	320
PARTITIONS	20	PARTITIONS	20	PARTITIONS	20	PARTITIONS	20
FRONT	20	FRONT	20	FRONT	20	FRONT	20
TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL		TOTAL	
NORMAL % GOOD		NORMAL % GOOD		NORMAL % GOOD		NORMAL % GOOD	
R.C.L.N.D.		R.C.L.N.D.		R.C.L.N.D.		R.C.L.N.D.	

COMPUTATIONS[illegible]

amorks:

This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The grid consists of small, evenly spaced squares covering the entire area. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

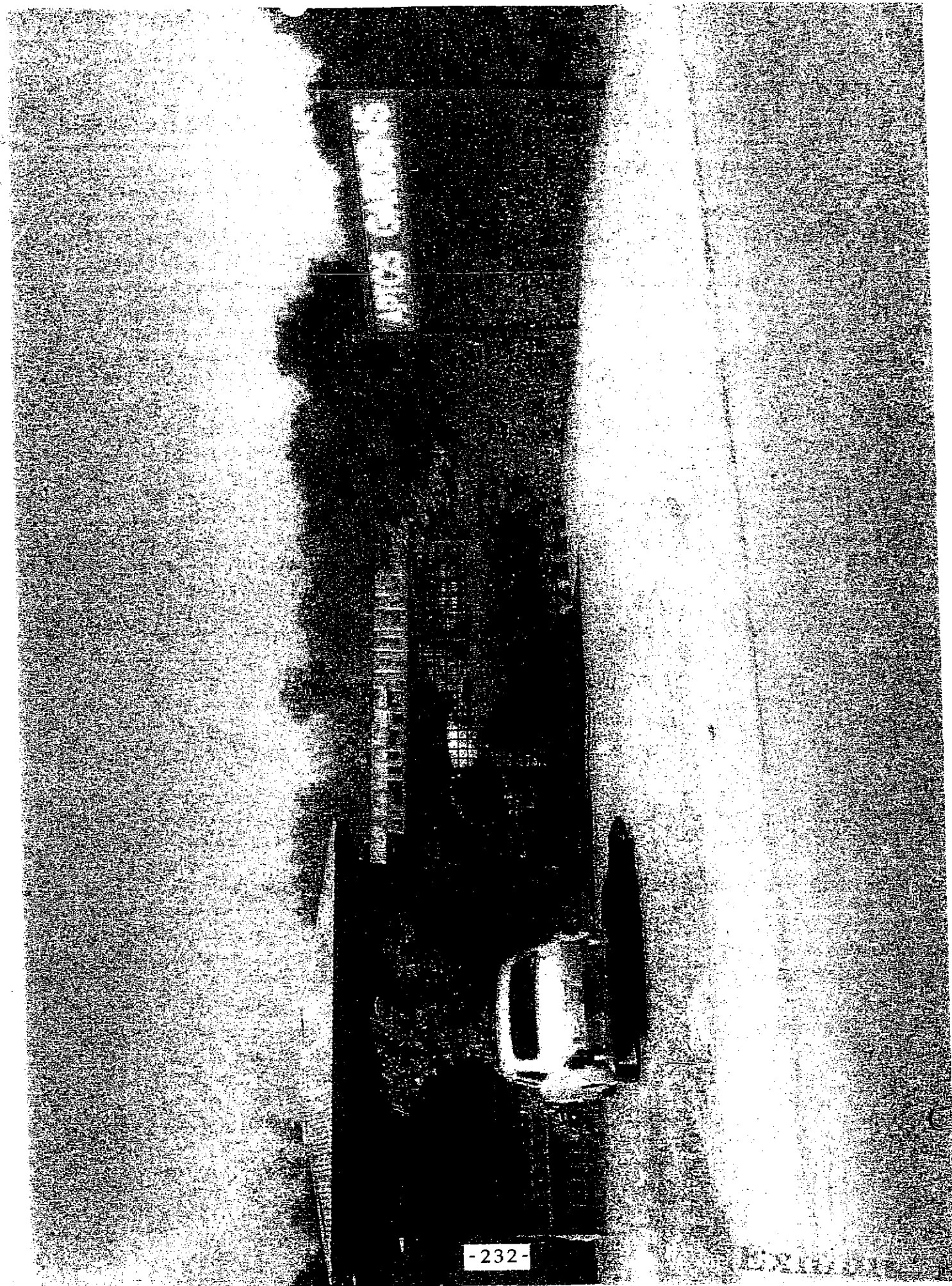
COMPUTATIONS

- 231 -

- 231 -

11-4-98 Brent Byard At County - Says Unit #2 has
Kitchen unit GH 11-4-98

1972

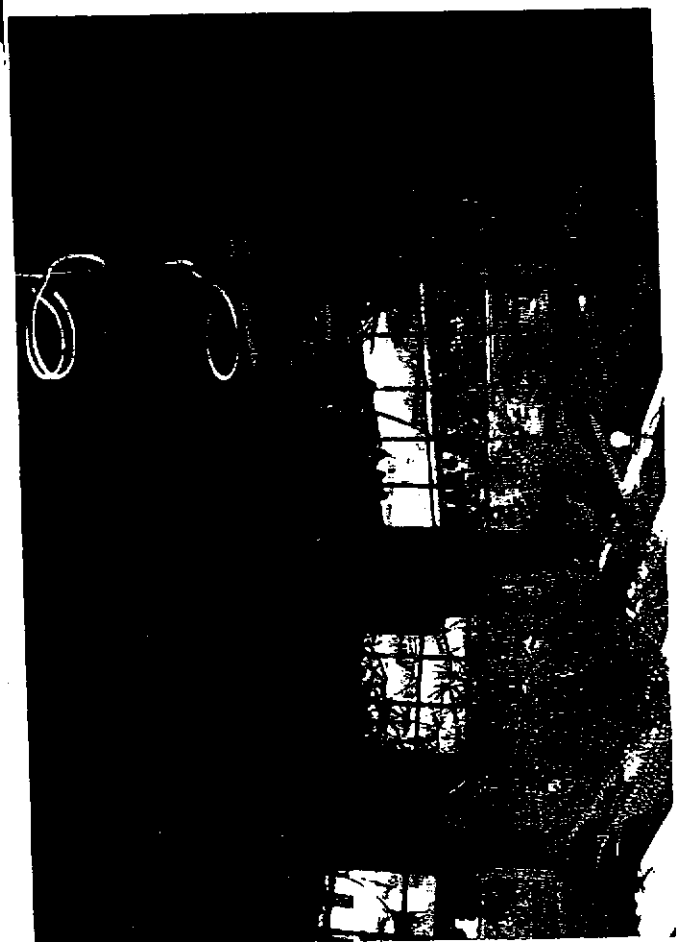
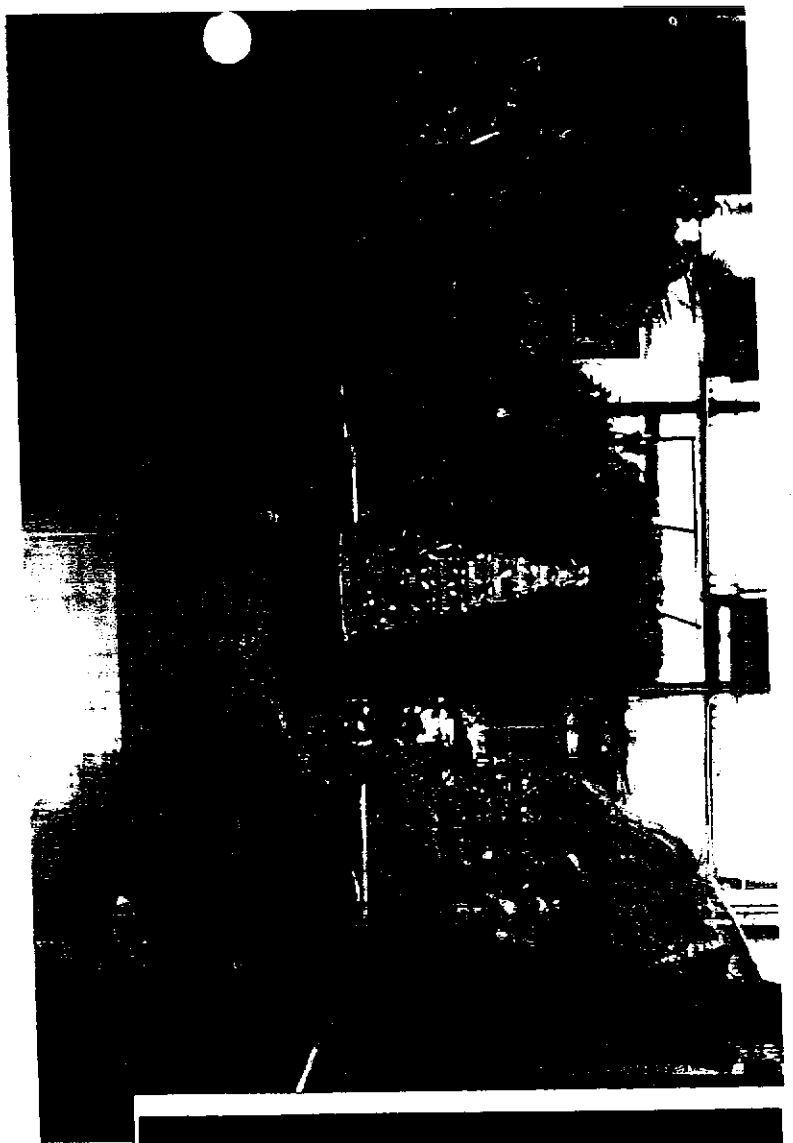


1972



- This bldg. has now been replaced by the First Adams Bldg.
(Picture from Social)

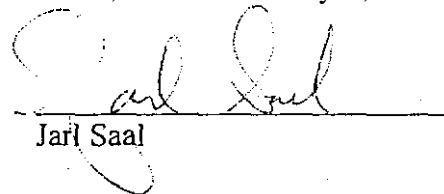




I, Jarl Saal, say:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein. I was raised in Aptos and have spent almost all my adult life in the Aptos area. In my teen years I worked on the property in question doing odd jobs.
2. The photographs attached to Mr. Washburn's February 7 letter are a true and correct depiction of the nursery improvements on what is now the Zar property in the late 1960s and the 1970s. On the Zar land there was a small shed-like office and a lot of open nursery and greenhouse area nearby with gravel floors, open to the elements. The structure now on the Zar property was gradually built since the late 1980s with no building permits.
3. The photographs also show a twenty by forty foot building on what is now my property. It started out as a real estate office and then became a beauty emporium as shown in the pictures. The common boundary between what is now the Zar and the Saal parcels ran along the side of the beauty shop between it and the nursery structures.
4. The beauty shop building on my property was moved back away from the highway onto a concrete foundation in the 1960s as the county records confirm. This building was demolished when the First Alarm building was constructed.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and is executed at Santa Cruz, Ca. on February 8, 2006.

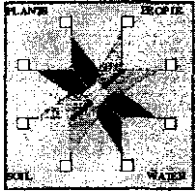

Jarl Saal

**ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF REPORT
FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

ITEM 7: 04-0650

**MATERIALS SUBMITTED BY APPLICANT
DURING THE PUBLIC HEARING**

07/26/06



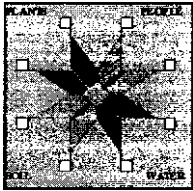
**TERRA
FIRMA**
Engineering
and Science

July 26, 2006

Dear Randy, at your request I have prepared a description of the project progress. The project was slowed significantly by the almost continuous rainfall during March and April of 2006, and the lack of availability of drillers after the rains ended. Also, the laboratory testing program has taken a long time as a) the laboratory also had a rush after the rains ended; and b) the samples needed to be tested 'drained'. The samples tested have a significant clay content and the time required to drain the samples during testing was long.

- 1) I met with you at the site in March of 2006 and you requested **me** to work on the project..
- 2) Due to continued rainfall during March and April of 2006, field work could not be conducted until the end of April.
- 3) On April 26, field work started and we were able to do Cone Penetrometer Testing.
- 4) At the beginning of May, Cenozoic Drilling augered and collected samples in the parking lot.
- 5) Cenozoic returned in the middle of May to use their hand-operated portable drilling-rig in areas inaccessible to the truck mounted drilling-rig.
- 6) Soil Samples were submitted to Copper Testing Laboratory shortly thereafter. The testing of the samples is almost completed and results should be available in the next day or two.
- 7) Carey Edmonson (surveyor) prepared a topographic map of the site which was completed in the middle of May.
- 8) Lab testing Complete 7/14/2006
- 9) Preliminary comparison of CPT, Lab-data, and Standard Penetration Test data, 7/26/2006
- 10) Preliminary comparison of testing and field data with historical site history/conditions, 7/26/2006
- 11) Preliminary slope-stability analyses of existing site and remedial measures use acquired data, 7/26/2006

Marc Ritson
Registered Civil Engineer No. 37100



**TERRA
FIRMA**
Engineering
and Science

July 26, 2006

Site History/Condition -----2000 McGregor

Site is located on creek bank with about 36 feet of elevation change from creek to parking lot. Slope of bank is about 1:1 or less.

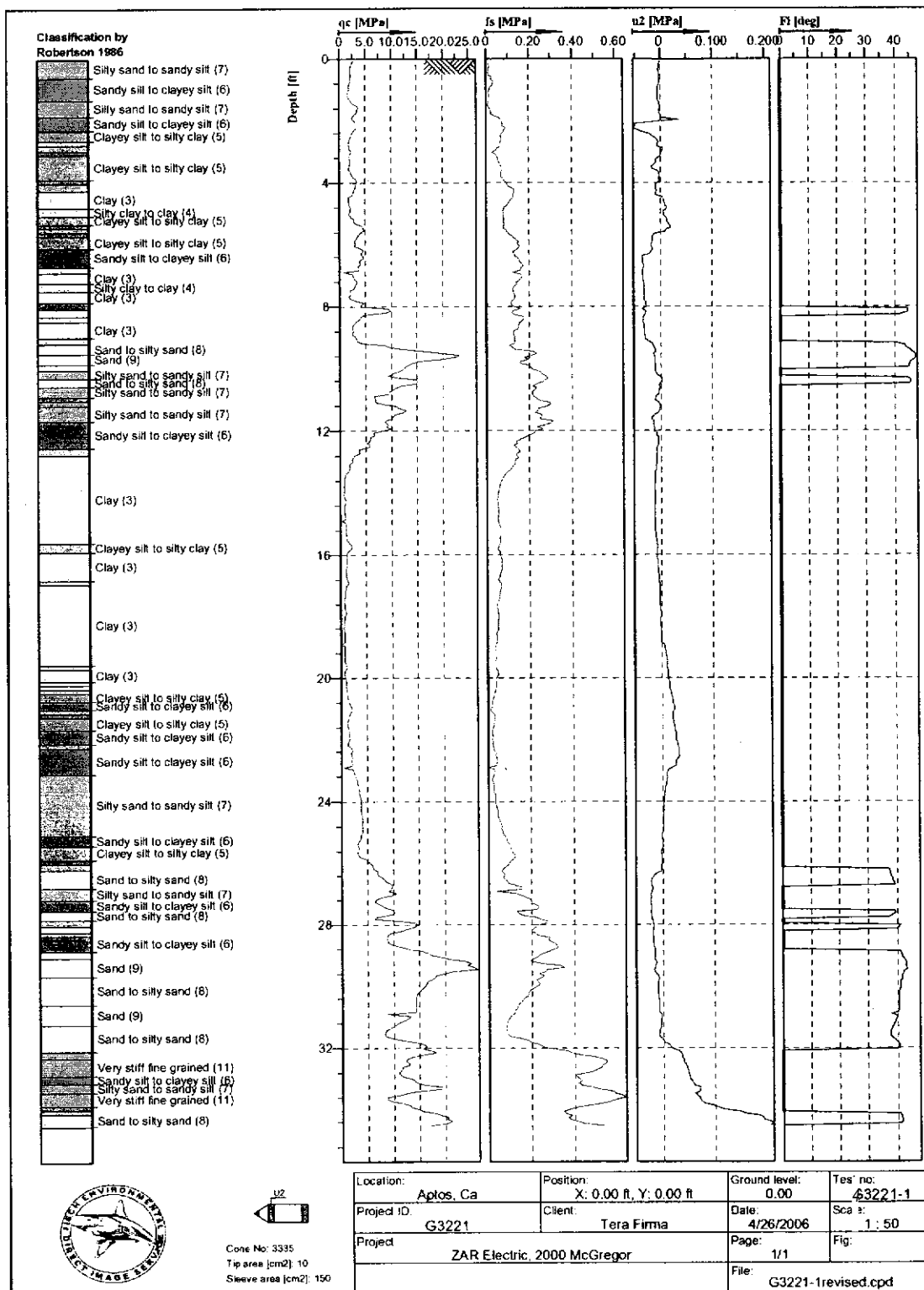
Cone penetrometer sounding indicate that at the outboard side of the parking lot there is about 12 feet of compacted fill over **14** feet of un-compacted soil. The un-compacted or weathered soil is likely to be comprised of

- 1) weathered native soil;
- 2) colluvium; and
- 3) un-compacted dumped fill.

The compacted fill was placed 1996. Based on the testing done by Reynolds and Associates, the soils that Reynolds tested were adequately compacted.

The soil conditions identified fit the known history of the site in that:

- 1) A creek-bank is likely to have a surface layer of weathered soil and colluvium;
- 2) a sewer line was constructed and apparently spoils from the trench and the soil along the construction path were not compacted;
- 3) Uncontrolled dumping would have been convenient as the site is located near freeway construction and other land development projects. The uncontrolled dumping may have occurred at any time prior to or after the sewer line construction;
- 4) A compacted fill was placed in 1996.



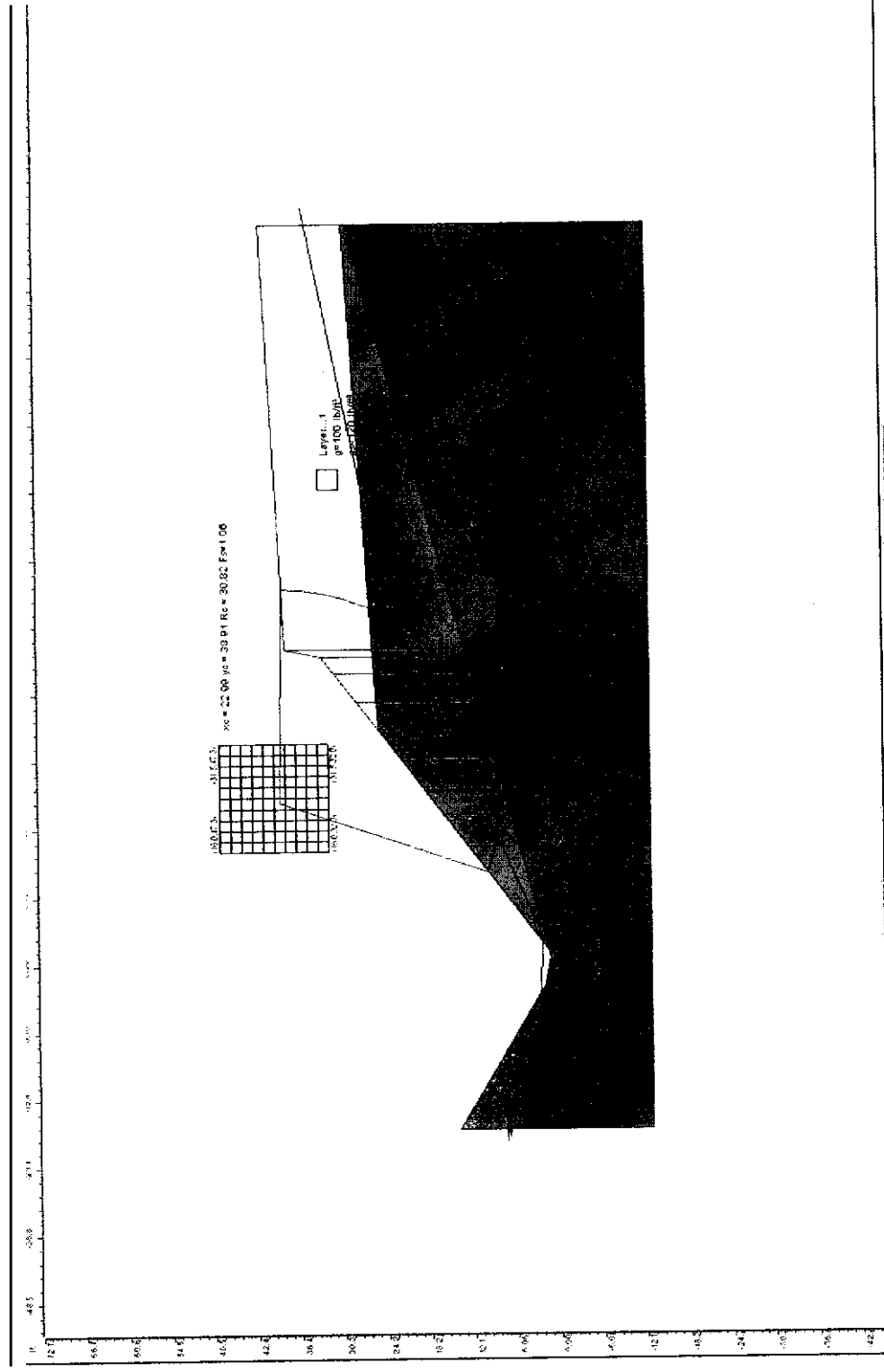
Existing Site

C:\Documents and Settings\Ware\Desktop\ZmYar Circles.sta

File Edit View Tools Support works Numeric Input Graphic Input Computation Export Preferences Help

Layer 1

File Edit View Tools Support works Numeric Input Graphic Input Computation Export Preferences Help



ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF REPORT FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION

ITEM 7: 04-0650

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

KENT G. WASHBURN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

VOICE: (831) 458-9177
FAX: (831) 459-6117

kenigwashburn@compuserve.com

123 Jewell Street
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFOKIA. 95060

September 25, 2006

Santa Cruz County Planning Commission
701 Ocean St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Re: **Item 04-0650** - your October 11, 2006 agenda

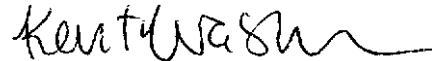
Dear Commissioners:

I represent the appellant on the above-referenced matter, Mr. Jarl Saal, owner of the adjacent property. The purpose of this letter is address the current state of the record in the wake of the report furnished by the applicant's expert, Terra Firma. I anticipate that our consultant, Mr. John Kasunich, will also have a brief written comment based on his recent site visit to review the Terra Firma report in light of current dry weather conditions.

We believe that the Terra Firma report sidesteps some of the issues of greatest concern in addressing the safety of this site, the structure on it, and the safety of occupants in the event of seismic and other conditions that would foreseeably threaten it. While there is some helpful technical data from the samples taken, we look on the report as incomplete because it does not address the stability of the building or make any clear repair recommendations. It also seems to make some questionable assumptions regarding the factor of safety and its calculation rather than using standard methodology or complying with the county's established standards.

For these reasons we do not believe the application will be ripe for your actual consideration on October 11. My client and I would therefore request that you give some very specific direction to the applicant and his expert, and reschedule this matter for about sixty days thereafter to allow for all the necessary technical information to be submitted and evaluated in advance of the final hearing.

Sincerely yours,



Kent G. Washburn