

# **Staff Report to the Zoning Administrator**

Application Number: 111080

**Applicant:** Michael Helm

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

**APN:** 027-172-12

Agenda Date: October 7, 2011

Agenda Item #: |

Time: After 10:00 a.m.

**Project Description**: Proposal to reconstruct an existing nonconforming single-family dwelling, add a second floor, and a non-habitable basement.

**Location**: Property located on the southeast corner of 8th Avenue and Bonnie Street (152 8th Avenue).

Supervisoral District: First District (District Supervisor: John Leopold)

**Permits Required**: Requires a Coastal Development Permit; a Variance to reduce the front yard setback to five feet from the required 15 feet to recognize the existing nonconforming structure and proposed second floor deck; a Variance to reduce the street side yard setback to one foot, six inches from the required 10 feet to recognize the existing nonconforming structure; a Variance to reduce the rear yard setback from the required 15 feet to 3 feet for the proposed garage, and to six feet for the proposed second floor addition; a Variance to reduce the garage setback from the required 20 feet to 10 feet; a Variance to reduce the required off-street parking from two spaces to one space; a Variance to increase the allowed floor area ratio from the allowed 50% to 60.7%; and a Variance to increase the lot coverage from the allowed 40% to 55.5%.

Technical Reviews: Soils Report

### **Staff Recommendation:**

- Certification that the proposal is exempt from further Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- Approval of Application 111080, based on the attached findings and conditions.

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#### **Exhibits**

A. Project plans E. Assessor's, Location, Zoning and

B. Findings General Plan Maps

C. Conditions F. Comments & Correspondence
D. Categorical Exemption

### **Parcel Information**

Parcel Size: 1,225 square feet

Existing Land Use - Parcel: Residential

(CEQA determination)

Existing Land Use - Surrounding: Residential and Commercial Project Access: Residential and Bonnie Street

Planning Area: Live Oak

Land Use Designation: R-UH (Urban High Residential)

Zone District: R-1-3.5 (Single-family residential, 3,500 square foot

minimum parcel size)

Coastal Zone: X Inside Outside
Appealable to Calif. Coastal Yes X No

Comm.

### **Environmental Information**

Geologic Hazards: Not mapped/no physical evidence on site

Soils: Soils report submitted and accepted

Fire Hazard: Not a mapped constraint

Slopes: 0-2%

Env. Sen. Habitat: Not mapped/no physical evidence on site

Grading: 21 cubic yards, plus 149 cubic yards for basement
Tree Removal: Three locust trees to be removed, all six-inches in diameter or less

(see survey, sheet 1)

Scenic: Not a mapped resource
Drainage: Existing drainage adequate

Archeology: Not mapped/no physical evidence on site

### **Services Information**

Urban/Rural Services Line: X Inside Outside

Water Supply: City of Santa Cruz Sewage Disposal: County of Santa Cruz

Fire District: Central Fire Protection District

Drainage District: Zone 5

### History

This area was part of the Twin Lake Park subdivision which was recorded in 1914. At the time, 8th Avenue was called "Avenue C" and Bonnie was referred to as "Second Street". According to

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County Assessor's records, the existing single-story dwelling was constructed in 1931, a date that precedes the requirement to obtain a building permit, and that preceded the existence of the County Zoning Ordinance.

### **Project Setting**

The subject parcel is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bonnie Street, in an area which is designated in the General Plan as within the Harbor Area Special Community. A small neighborhood commercial district is located on the northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bonnie and extends to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, an arterial roadway providing access to the beaches located one long block to the south of the subject parcel. The rest of the neighborhood is residential with a wide range of architectural styles. This is a neighborhood in transition, with many of the original single-story vacation cottages being reconstructed as two-story dwellings used throughout the year. This area is a part of the Live Oak Parking Program which establishes permit parking April through September, from 11 AM to 5 PM Saturdays and Sundays and three holidays (Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day).

The existing dwelling on the subject parcel is significantly nonconforming with respect to the street side yard and front yard setbacks because both are within five feet of the right-of-way. In addition, the dwelling's front porch, which is proposed to be removed, crosses the property line into the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue right-of-way. The existing house is also nonconforming with respect to the rear yard setback. A fence associated with the subject parcel extends into the adjacent rights-of-way.

The current proposal is to retain the existing non-conforming walls along 8th Avenue and Bonnie Street, reconstruct the house and garage, and add a second floor bedroom and a non-habitable basement.

### **Zoning & General Plan Consistency**

The subject property is a parcel of approximately 1,225 square feet, located in the R-1-3.5 (Single-family residential, 3,500 square foot minimum parcel size) zone district, a designation which allows residential uses. The proposed single-family dwelling is a principal permitted use within the zone district and the zoning is consistent with the site's R-UH (Urban High Residential) General Plan designation.

### **Local Coastal Program Consistency**

The proposed single-family dwelling 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. Developed parcels in the residential portion of the neighborhood contain single-family dwellings. Size and architectural styles vary widely in the area, and the design submitted is consistent with the existing range of styles. The proposed design is consistent with the design standards of the Harbor Area Special Community (see below). The project site is not located between the shoreline and the first public road 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.

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Because of the subject parcel's proximity to the beach area, the preservation of on-street parking is of particular importance to serve both the neighborhood and beach visitors. Currently, no parking is available on the subject parcel due to the lack of a parking apron, the small size of the garage, and the configuration of the dwelling. The proposed project would provide one parking space located entirely on the subject parcel. In addition, a picket fence currently extends almost ten feet into the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue right-of-way and eight feet into the Bonnie Street right-of-way, eliminating on-street parking in front of the subject parcel. The project plans show this fence as being removed, which will create the width necessary for two parking spaces on the 8th Avenue shoulder and one on the Bonnie Street shoulder. The new on-site and shoulder parking together create four new parking spaces, a significant improvement over the existing conditions. A condition of approval is included requiring the elimination of all improvements—including landscaping—located within the rights-of-way to ensure that this area remains available for parking.

### **Design Review**

The proposed single-family dwelling complies with the requirements of the County Design Review Ordinance, in that the proposed project will incorporate site and architectural design features such as a second floor which is setback from the first floor, a pitched roof to reduce the apparent mass and bulk of the structure; and sufficient fenestration to break up the wall planes. Together, these features will reduce the visual impact of the proposed development on surrounding land uses and the natural landscape. The dwelling is to be finished in board and batten painted a beige color with green window frames and doors.

A section of the County's Design Review ordinance states that "Development shall protect the public viewshed, where possible (County Code section 13.11.072(b)(2)(i))". This proposal preserves the existing view down 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Twin Lakes Beach as much as is possible as the proposed structure's first floor front wall will be located where it has been since the 1930's, the proposed second floor meets the required 15-foot front yard setback, and the proposed deck encroaches no further into the front yard setback than is allowed by the County Code for cantilevered decks (see discussion below).

### Harbor Area Special Community

As noted above, the subject parcel is within the Harbor Area Special Community. County Code 13.20.144 specifies the following design criteria for the Harbor Area Special Community:

New development in the single-family (R-1) parts of the Harbor Area Special Community shall incorporate the characteristics of older dwellings in the area, e.g., the small scale, clean lines, pitched roofs, wood construction, and wood siding. Setbacks should conform to that predominant for other houses on the street.

This proposal will have clean lines, a pitched roof and, except for the garage wall on the east side, board and batten siding. In this case, the "wood" siding is a man-made material that looks like wood, a material better suited for the marine climate. The eastern garage wall will be finished in stucco to meet the requirements of the building code for a structure built within three

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feet of a property line. The existing setbacks along the 8th Avenue and Bonnie Street frontages, which have existed since at least the 1930s, will be retained.

### Variances

The special circumstances warranting the proposed variances are the small size of the subject parcel and dimensions of 35 feet by 35 feet. With just 1,225 square feet in area, the subject parcel is less than half the size of most lots in the area which typically range in size from 2,800 to 3,000 square feet. In addition, the subject parcel is only 35 percent of the minimum parcel size for the zone district. If the required setbacks were strictly applied, they would leave just 100 square feet for a structure, a size impractical for a single-family dwelling. The proposed remodel would facilitate a modern, updated home while minimizing the impact to the surrounding neighborhood by retaining the existing nonconforming walls and adding a basement and modest addition to the second floor. Given the small size of the parcel and its shallow depth, the variances described below are considered reasonable.

Variance to front yard setback. As noted above, the existing dwelling has a front porch which encroaches into the 8th Avenue right-of-way. The project plans show this porch as being removed, creating a four foot, ten inch front yard setback to the existing front wall. In addition, the plans show a new second story deck encroaching five feet into the front yard setback. A variance to the required front yard setback of 15 feet to recognize this proposal is considered reasonable for the following reasons.

The proposed design represents a significant improvement over the existing situation by removing the front porch. Given that the zone district setbacks would leave only a 5 foot by 20 foot area for the dwelling, a variance to setbacks is necessary to allow for even a modestly sized home. Since the existing structure is significantly nonconforming relative to both the front yard setback and the street yard setback and there are no known problems associated with this nonconformance, it is reasonable to allow for these walls to be retained. In addition, since the paved portion of the 8th Avenue right-of-way is almost 18 feet away from the dwelling, no vehicle conflicts or line of sight issues are anticipated to result from this variance.

Although the wall of the proposed second floor addition will conform to the 15 foot front yard setback, a second floor deck will encroach five feet into the front yard setback. The proposed deck is considered reasonable as the County Code allows cantilevered decks to encroach up to six feet into the required front yard setback (County Code Section 13.10.323(e)). In this case, it is impossible to cantilever the deck because of the existing nonconforming structure below. The use impacts to the neighborhood, however, would be identical to a cantilevered deck, and the deck will provide much-needed outdoor space on this constrained lot.

Variance to street side yard setback. Similar to the front yard setback variance request, a street side yard setback variance is requested to recognize the existing significantly nonconforming wall which is, at its closest point, 1.9 feet from the edge of the property line. The required street side yard setback is 10 feet. As noted, the subject dwelling has existed in this location since at least the 1930's with no known problems associated with the nonconforming walls. Given the size and dimensions of the parcel, a variance to setbacks is necessary to build even a modestly sized home. Retaining the nonconforming wall along Bonnie Street, which is 12.5 feet from the paved portion of the right-of-way, is a reasonable way to achieve sufficient area on which to

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build a dwelling. The proposed second floor complies with the required 10 foot setback.

Variance to rear yard setback. For the R-1-3.5 (Single-family residential, 3,500 square foot minimum parcel size) zone district, a 15 foot rear yard setback is required. The existing garage has a rear yard setback of 1.3 feet (see Survey, Exhibit A, sheet 1) and the proposed new garage will have setback of three feet. A variance is warranted for the garage due to the fact that the parcel is only 35 feet deep. With a required front yard setback of 15 feet and a rear yard setback of 15 feet, only five feet of depth remains for the dwelling. Even when accounting for the nonconforming front wall which has a setback of about five feet, a 15 foot rear yard setback would leave only 15 feet for a dwelling and garage. The proposed design, with a rear yard setback of three feet, will allow for a modestly-sized dwelling and nine-foot wide one-car garage. Impacts to the neighbor will be minimized since the portion of the dwelling closest to the adjacent parcel is a non-habitable garage and not, for example, a bedroom or living room which would likely have greater privacy impacts. In addition, the garage will be constructed of fire-resistive material and to the current California Building Code standards which will be a significant safety improvement over the existing decrepit garage.

As noted above, the required rear yard setback is 15 feet. The proposed second floor, which is to be a bedroom and bathroom, complies with all of the required setbacks except for the deck discussed above and the rear yard setback which is proposed to be six feet. This six foot setback is to accommodate a fireplace, but the rear wall of the bedroom is proposed to be eight feet from the rear property line. Again, given the size and dimensions of the parcel, a 240 square foot second floor that complies with most of the required setbacks, is considered reasonable.

Variance to 20-foot garage setback. County Code Section 13.10.323 requires a 20-foot setback from the face of the garage to the property line. In this case with a parcel depth of 35 feet, the 20-foot garage setback combined with the five foot side yard setback, would leave just 10 feet in depth for a garage. A 10-foot deep garage does not meet the County Code length standard for parking spaces which is 18 feet. To provide for a standard garage, the applicant has proposed to reduce the required 20-foot garage setback to 10 feet.

Although garages are not required by County Code, they are valued for the benefits that they provide both to the property owner and the neighborhood. For the property owner, garages offer a secure place to store vehicles and household goods. In addition, if a door is provided into the dwelling, garages offer a convenience during inclement weather. For the neighborhood, garages provide aesthetic and practical benefits. A garage hides vehicles and other household goods such as bicycles and surfboards, which decreases visual clutter and lowers the demand for on-street parking. Given these benefits, staff supports the inclusion of a garage in this project and also supports the proposed variance based upon the argument relating to the dimensional constraints of the subject parcel. With the paved portion of the right-of-way located over 20 feet from the face of the garage, no line of sight issues are anticipated to result from this variance.

Variance to parking requirement. For a one-bedroom dwelling, County Code Section 13.10.552 requires two 8.5 feet by 18 feet parking spaces. The proposed site plan shows space for one vehicle to be located within the garage and a 10-foot long driveway. Since no vehicles can currently park on-site—the existing garage is too small for modern vehicles—this proposal is a significant improvement over the existing situation. And given the size of the parcel, where two parking spaces would cover 25% of the parcel area, this proposal balances the parking needs of

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the subject parcel's residents, the surrounding neighborhood and beach visitors (see discussion of parking under "Local Coastal Program" above).

Variance to floor area ratio maximum. County Code allows for a maximum of .5 floor area ratio (FAR), meaning that the size of the structure cannot exceed 50% of the net site area. For the subject parcel, with 1,225 square feet in net site area, this means that the maximum-sized home could be 612.5 square feet. The project proposes a floor area ratio of 60.7% or 744 square feet. Given the small size of the parcel, this modestly sized dwelling is considered reasonable.

Variance to lot coverage. County Code Section 13.10.323 limits lot coverage to 40% of the parcel, which in the case of the subject parcel would be just 490 square feet of coverage. The existing lot coverage is 56.7%. The proposed remodel of the dwelling would reduce the lot coverage to 55.5%. Although this is an improvement, it is in excess of the 40% limit, and a variance is required. Given the size of the subject parcel, and the constraints created by the setback requirements, the proposed lot coverage of 55.5% balances the intent of the County Code to limit lot coverage with the need to construct a reasonably sized home.

### Non-habitable Basement

This proposal includes an approximately 504 square foot basement that is accessed by a staircase from within the dwelling. The basement meets the County Code definition of basement in that more than 50% of the basement's exterior perimeter wall is below grade and no portion of the perimeter exterior wall exceeds 5 feet 6 inches above the exterior grade. Because the ceiling is less than 7 feet 6 inches, it is not included in the floor area ratio calculation. To ensure that the basement is constructed as designed, a condition of approval is proposed which would require that the building plans provide the finished slab elevation of the basement and finished floor elevations for the two floors above.

Given the small size of the proposed home and garage, it is reasonable to allow for a laundry area and room for storage. In addition, a non-habitable basement with adequate room for storage, will help ensure that the garage is used for parking a vehicle and not storage. A declaration to maintain this basement as non-habitable is required as a condition of approval. A non-habitable area may not be used as a bedroom.

### **Environmental Review**

The proposed residential addition is categorically exempt from review under the Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.

### 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**

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• Certification that the proposal is exempt from further Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

• **APPROVAL** of Application Number **111080**, based on the attached findings and conditions.

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: <a href="https://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us">www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us</a>

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Michael Helm, AIA Architect & Associates

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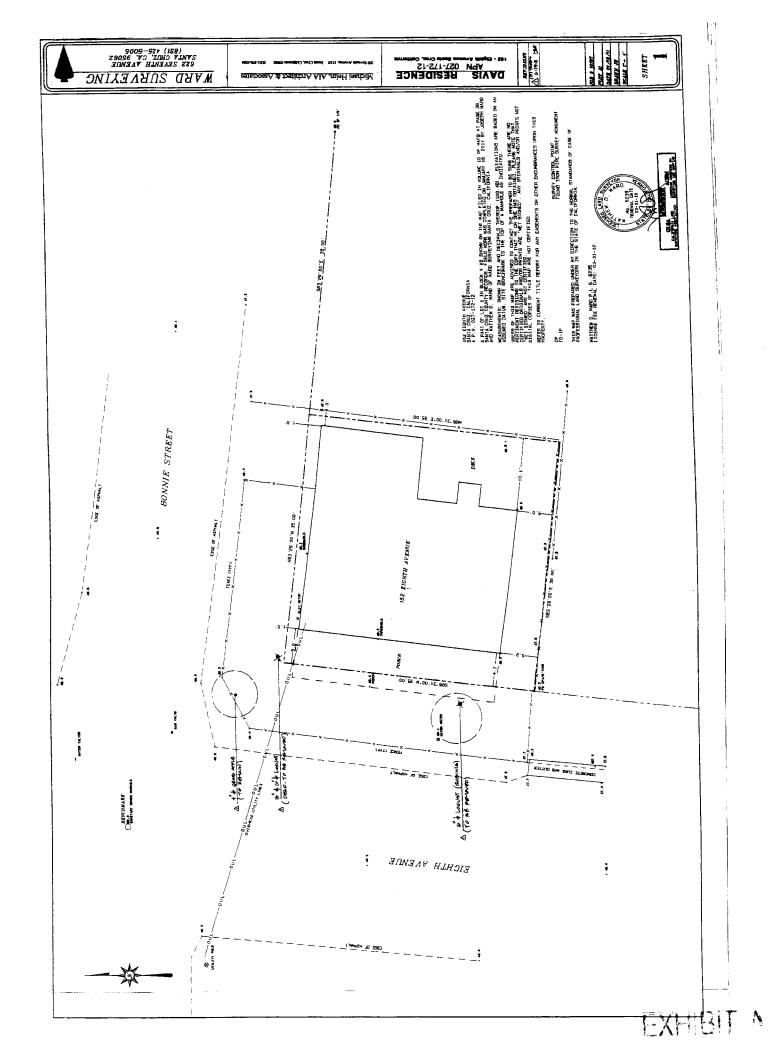
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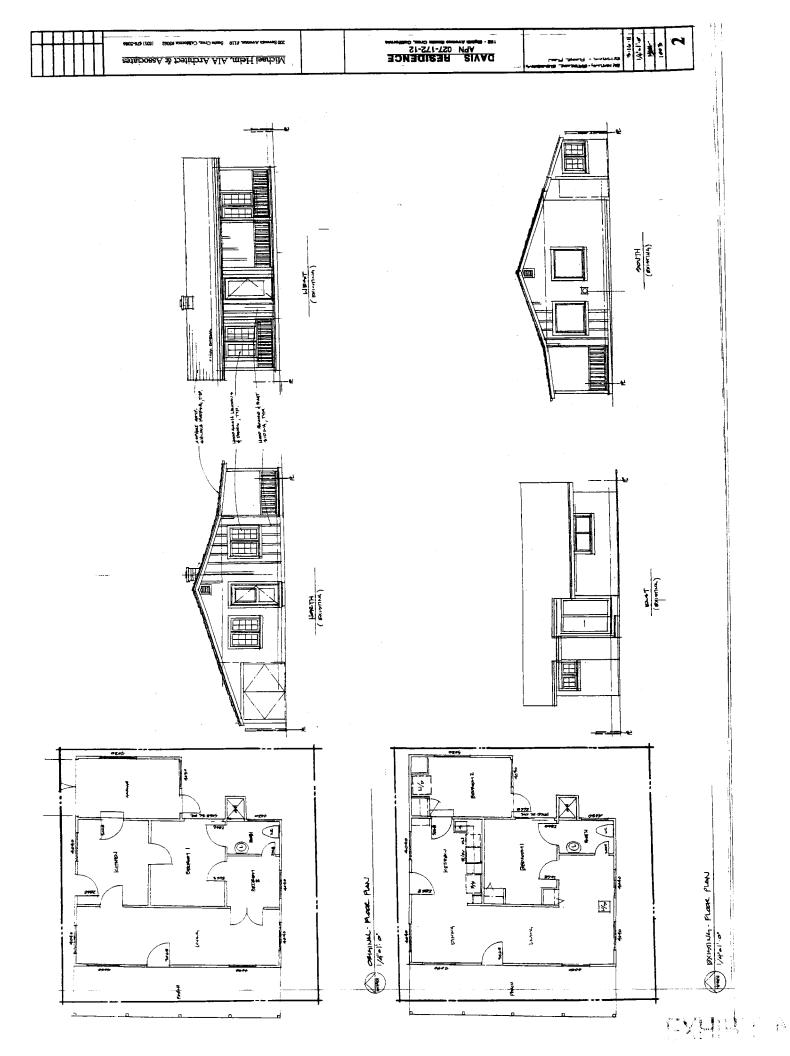
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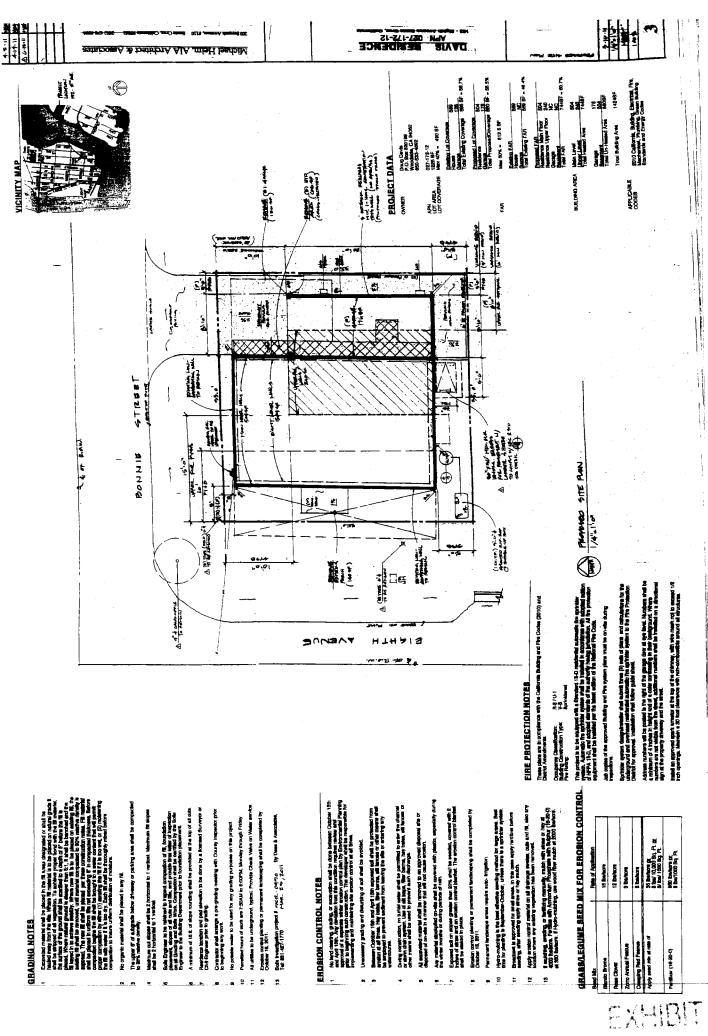
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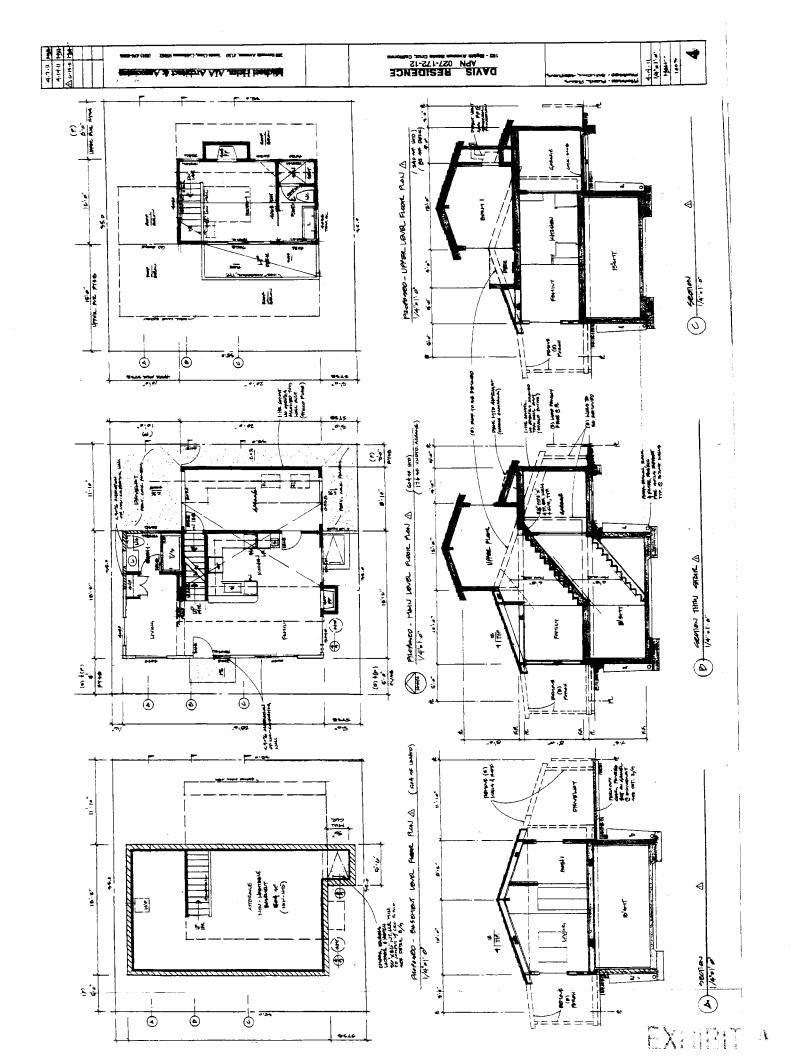
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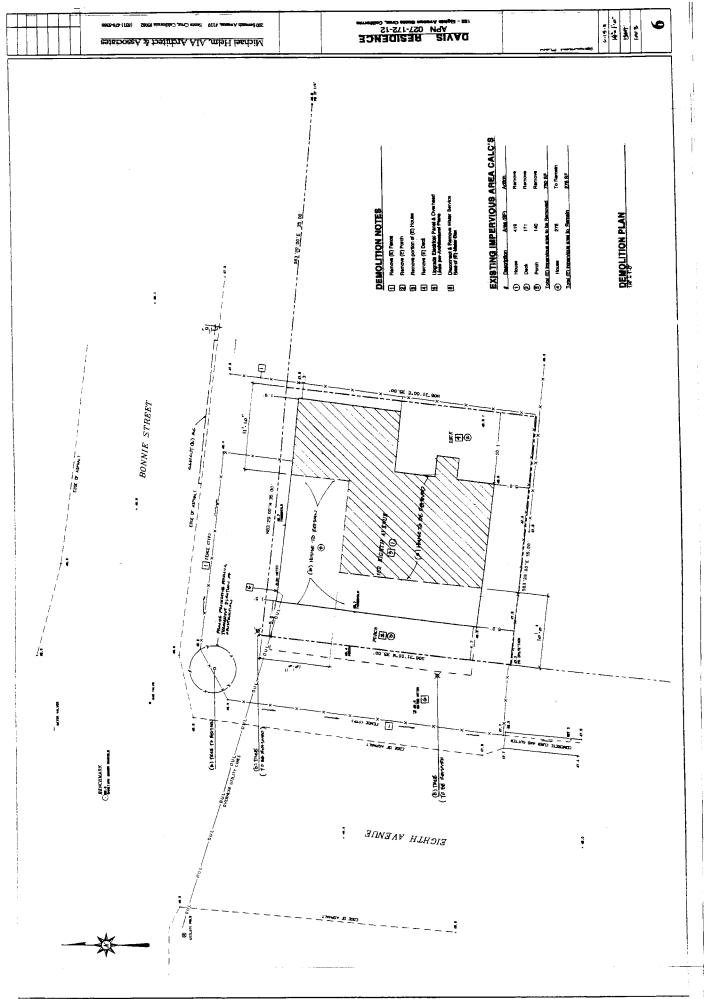


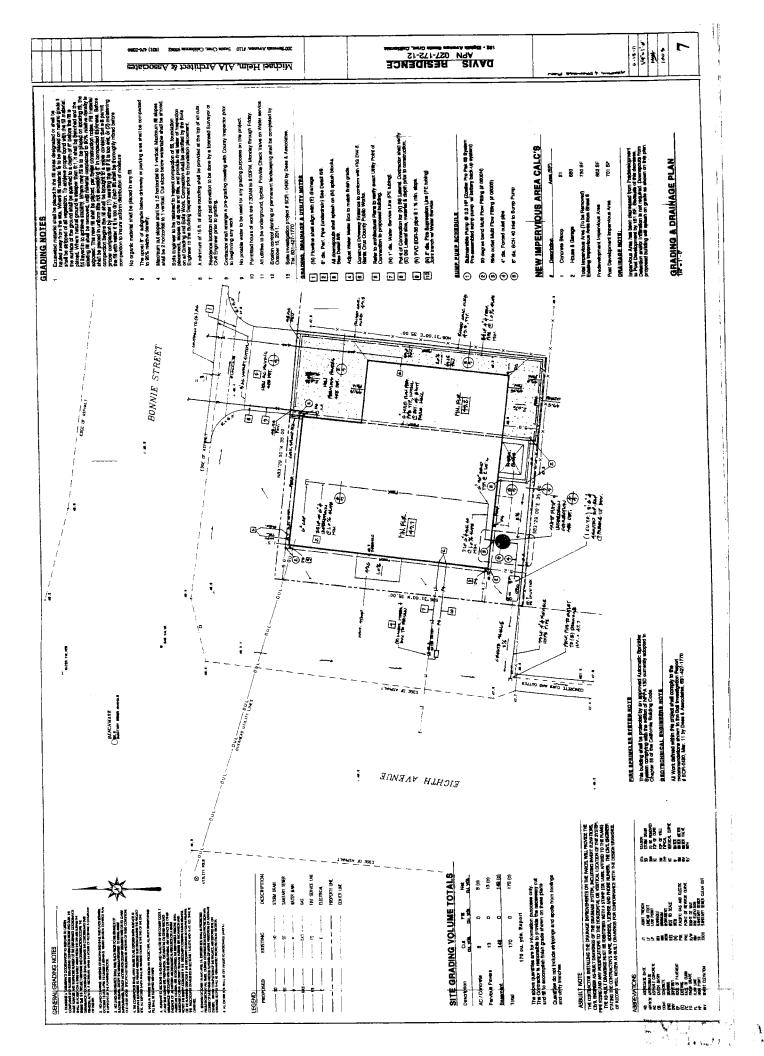


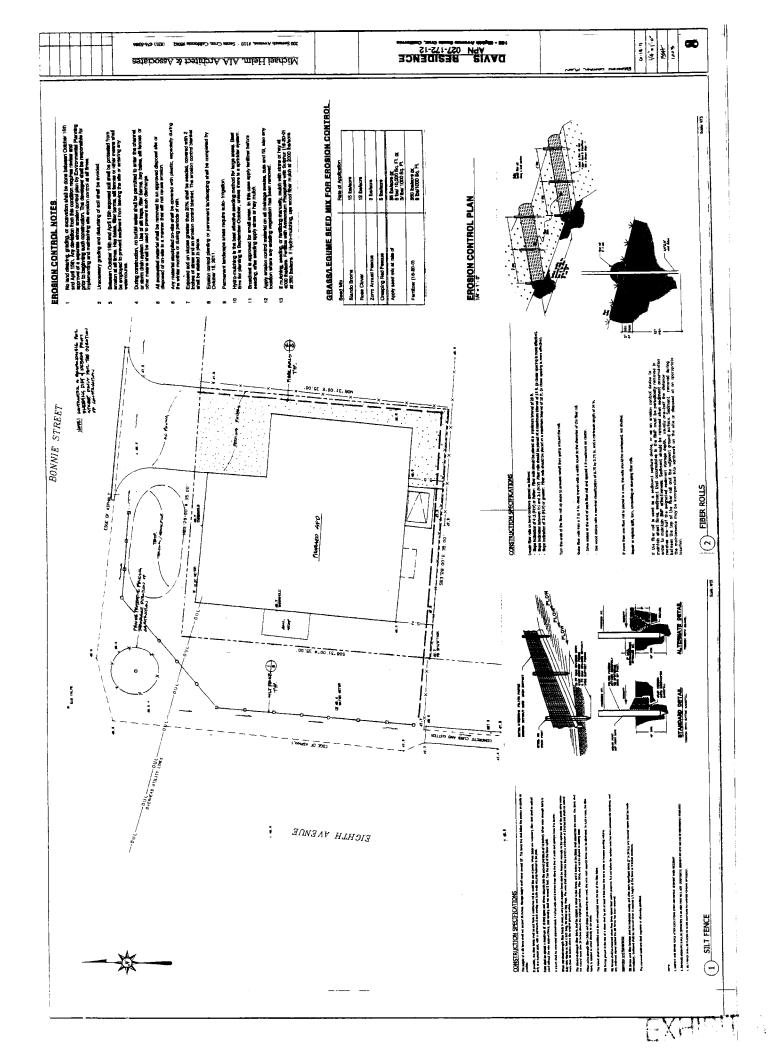


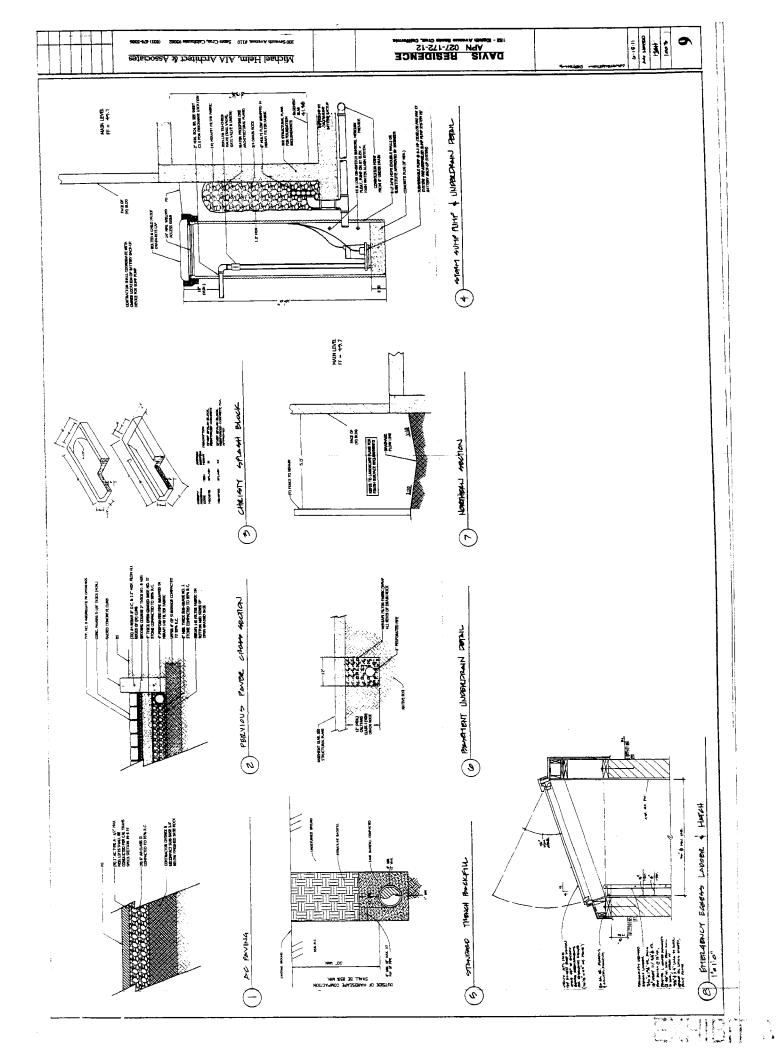


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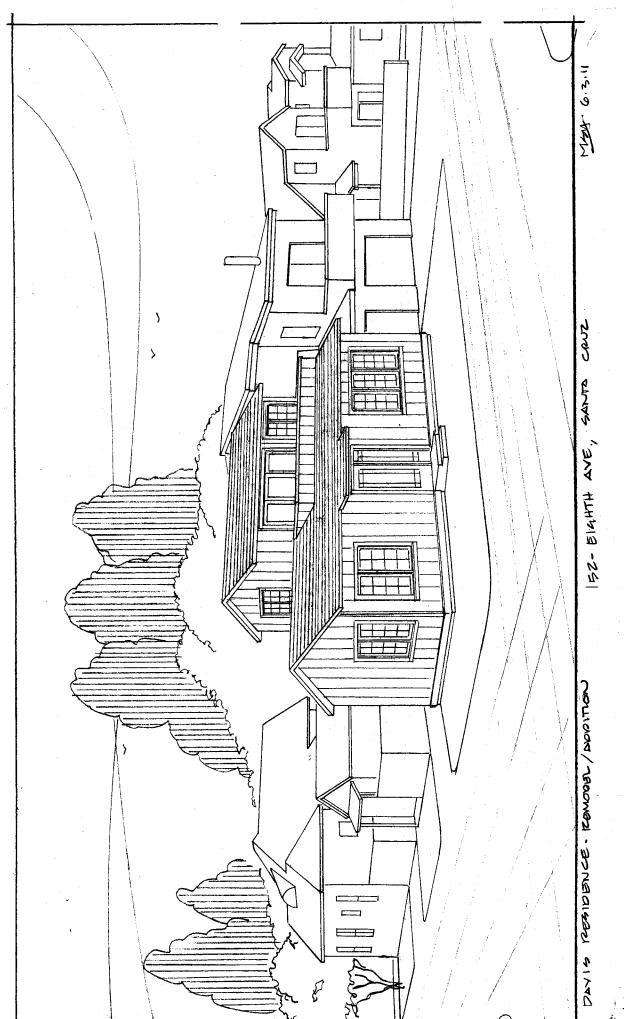


EXHIBIT AL

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

## **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 R-1-3.5 (Single-family residential, 3,500 square foot minimum parcel size), a designation which allows residential uses. The proposed single-family dwelling is a principal permitted use within the zone district, and the zoning is consistent with the site's R-UH (Urban High Residential 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 no such easements or restrictions are known to encumber the project site.

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 neighborhood in terms of architectural style; the site is surrounded by lots developed to an urban density; the colors are appropriate and complementary to the site; and 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 not located between the shoreline and the first public road. Consequently, the single-family dwelling 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.

Because of the subject parcel's proximity to the beach area, the preservation of on-street parking is of particular importance to serve both the neighborhood and beach visitors. Currently, no parking is available on the subject parcel due to the small size of the garage and the configuration of the dwelling. The proposed project would provide one parking space located entirely on the subject parcel. In addition, a picket fence currently extends almost ten feet into the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue right-of-way and eight feet into the Bonnie Street right-of-way, which eliminates on-street parking in front of the subject parcel. The project plans show this fence as being removed, which will create the width necessary for two parking spaces on the 8th Avenue shoulder and one on the Bonnie Street shoulder. The new on-site and shoulder parking together create four new parking spaces, a significant improvement over the existing conditions. A condition of approval is included requiring the elimination of all improvements—including

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

landscaping—located within the rights-of-way to ensure that this area remains available for parking.

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 neighborhood. Additionally, residential uses are allowed uses in the R-1-3.5 (Single-family residential, 3,500 square foot minimum parcel size) zone district of the area, as well as the General Plan and Local Coastal Program land use designation. Developed parcels in the area contain commercial buildings and single-family dwellings. Size and architectural styles vary widely in the area, and the design submitted is consistent with the existing range of styles.

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

## 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 special circumstances warranting the proposed variances are the small size of the subject parcel and its dimensions of 35 feet by 35 feet. With just 1,225 square feet in area, the subject parcel is less than half the size of most lots in the area which typically range in size from 2,800 to 3,000 square feet. In addition, the subject parcel is only 35 percent of the minimum parcel size for the zone district. If the required setbacks were strictly applied, they would leave an area of just 5 feet by 20 feet (100 square feet) for a structure, a dimension and size impractical for a single-family dwelling. The proposed reconstruction would facilitate a modern, updated home while minimizing the impact to the surrounding neighborhood by retaining the existing significantly nonconforming walls and adding a modest addition to the second floor. The strict application of the zoning ordinance with respect to setbacks would deprive the property owner of a reasonable amount of living space for their residence, a privilege enjoyed by other properties in the area. Given the small size of the parcel and its shallow depth, the variances described below are considered reasonable.

Variance to front yard setback. Given that the zone district setbacks would leave only a 5 foot by 20 foot area for the dwelling, a variance to setbacks is necessary to allow for even a modestly sized home on this small parcel. Since the existing structure is significantly nonconforming relative to both the front yard setback and the street yard setback and there are no known problems associated with this nonconformance, it is reasonable to allow for these walls to be retained.

County Code allows cantilevered decks to encroach six feet into the required front yard setback (County Code Section 13.10.323(e)). In this case, it is impossible to cantilever the deck because of the existing nonconforming structure below. The use impacts to the neighborhood, however, would be identical to a cantilevered deck, and the deck will provide much-needed outdoor space on this constrained lot.

Variance to street side yard setback. The required street side yard setback is 10 feet and the existing nonconforming wall is 1.9 feet from the property line. Given the size and dimensions of the parcel, a variance to setbacks is necessary to build even a modestly sized home.

Variance to rear yard setback. The proposed new garage will have a setback of three feet where County Code requires 15 feet. This variance is warranted because the parcel is only 35 feet deep. With a required front yard setback of 15 feet and a rear yard setback of 15 feet, only five feet of depth remains for the dwelling and garage. Even when accounting for the nonconforming front wall which has a setback of about five feet, a 15 foot rear yard setback would leave only 15 feet for a dwelling and garage.

The proposed second floor is to have a rear yard setback of six feet where 15 feet is required. Again, given the size and dimensions of the parcel, a 240 square foot second floor that complies with most of the required setbacks, is considered reasonable.

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

Variance to 20-foot garage setback. County Code requires a 20-foot setback from the face of the garage to the property line. In this case with a parcel depth of 35 feet, the 20-foot garage setback combined with the five foot side yard setback, would leave just 10 feet in depth for a garage. A 10-foot deep garage does not meet the County Code 18-foot length standard for parking spaces. A variance is therefore necessary to allow for a standard garage, which is a reasonable accessory structure on a residential parcel.

Variance to parking requirement. For a one-bedroom dwelling, County Code 13.10.552 requires two 8.5 feet by 18 feet parking spaces. The proposed site plan shows space for one vehicle to be located within the garage and a 10-foot long driveway. Since no vehicles can currently park on-site—the existing garage is too small for modern vehicles—this proposal is a significant improvement over the existing situation. And given the size of the parcel, where two parking spaces represents 25% of the parcel area, this proposal balances the parking needs of the subject parcel's residents, the surrounding neighborhood and beach visitors.

Variance to floor area ratio maximum. County Code allows for a maximum of .5 floor area ratio (FAR). For the subject parcel, with just 1,225 square feet in net site area, the maximum-sized home could be 612.5 square feet. The project proposes a floor area ratio of 60.7% or 744 square feet. Given the small size of the parcel, this modestly sized dwelling is considered reasonable.

Variance to lot coverage. County Code limits lot coverage to 40% of the parcel, which in the case of the subject parcel would be just 490 square feet of coverage. The existing lot coverage is 56.7%. The proposed remodel of the dwelling would reduce the lot coverage to 55.5%. Given the size of the subject parcel, the proposed lot coverage of 55.5% balances the intent of County Code to limit lot coverage with the need to construct a reasonably sized home on an existing parcel.

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.

The proposed dwelling will not be materially detrimental to public health, safety, or welfare or injurious to property or improvements in the vicinity, in that the project represents an overall improvement in the dwelling's conformance with County Code requirements, which reflect the general intent and purpose of zoning objectives.

The structure is currently significantly nonconforming as the existing front porch encroaches into the 8th Avenue right-of-way. The proposed remodel will eliminate this porch. Given that the subject dwelling has existed in this location since about 1931 with no known problems associated with the nonconforming walls along Bonnie Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, no safety issues are anticipated to result from recognizing these walls with a variance. In addition, the existing dwelling exceeds the 40% lot coverage maximum and the proposed dwelling will reduce the lot coverage to 55.5 percent, bringing the dwelling into closer conformance with the zone district site standards. In addition, no parking is currently provided on-site. The proposed remodel, however, will provide one full parking space on-site, which is a significant improvement over the existing condition. Finally, the proposed garage will conform to the California Building Code, where the existing, decrepit garage does not.

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

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 subject parcel is significantly smaller than most of the parcels in the area. The other parcels in the area typically range between 2,800 and 3,000 square feet in size, while the subject parcel is just 1,225 square feet. The County Code recognizes the development challenges associated with small parcels and, even outside of the variance arena, provides relief for sites that are substandard in area. A parcel that is less than 80% of the minimum lot area required by the zone district is allowed to utilize the site standards for the zone district that most closely fits the lot size. In this instance, there is no zone district corresponding to the 1,225 square foot lot size of the subject parcel so there is no relief and variances are required.

Granting the proposed variances to setbacks, lot coverage, floor area ratio and required parking does not constitute a grant of special privileges in that other, larger, properties are developed with reasonably sized dwellings. The granting of the variances to setbacks, lot coverage, floor area ratio and required parking will provide a reasonable amount of living space for a residence on the subject parcel. Denial of the proposed variances would result in a hardship for the property owner by extinguishing the ability to construct a reasonably sized dwelling. Several properties in the vicinity have been granted variances, including 821 Carmel St., 331 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., and 351 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.

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## **Conditions of Approval**

Exhibit A: Sheet 1, survey, by Mathew D. Ward of Ward Surveying, dated 1/18/11; and 9 sheets by Michael Helm, architect: sheet C, cover sheet, dated 4/14/11; sheet 2, existing exterior elevations and floor plan, dated 3/16/11; sheet 3, proposed site plan, dated 3/16/11; sheet 5, proposed exterior elevations, dated 3/16/11; sheet 6, demolition plan, dated 6/15/11; sheet 7, grading and drainage plan, dated 6/15/11; sheet 8, erosion control plan, dated 6/15/11; and sheet 9, construction details, dated 6/15/11.

- I. This permit authorizes the remodel of an existing nonconforming single-family dwelling and the construction of a basement and second floor as shown in Exhibit A. This approval does not confer legal status on any existing structure(s) or existing use(s) on the subject property that are not specifically authorized by this permit. 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 Demolition Permit from the Santa Cruz County Building Official.
  - C. Obtain a Building Permit from the Santa Cruz County Building Official.
    - 1. Any outstanding balance due to the Planning Department must be paid prior to making a Building Permit application. Applications for Building Permits will not be accepted or processed while there is an outstanding balance due.
  - D. Obtain a Grading Permit from the Santa Cruz County Building Official.
  - E. Obtain an Encroachment Permit from the Department of Public Works for all offsite work performed in the County road right-of-way.
  - F. Submit proof that these conditions have been recorded in the official records of the County of Santa Cruz (Office of the County Recorder) within 30 days from the effective date of this permit.
- 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

Owner: Douglas W Davis Trustees

### information:

- 1. One elevation shall indicate materials and colors as they were approved by this Discretionary Application.
- 2. Grading, drainage, and erosion control plans.
- 3. The building plans must include finished slab elevation of the basement and finished floor elevations for the two floors above.
- 4. All improvements must be shown as removed from the rights-of-way.
- 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. Environmental Planning:

- 1. If the basement excavation requires grading beyond the property line onto adjacent properties, please submit an owner-agent agreement form for each affected parcel that states the owner of that parcel agrees to allow the work proposed on their property.
- 2. Please submit an erosion control plan showing how sediment will remain onsite during and after construction. The plan should include a staging/stockpile location for excavated material and street sweeping notes.
- 3. Prior to building permit issuance, please submit a geotechnical plan review letter that states the project plans conform to the recommendations of the soils report.
- D. <u>Department of Public Works, Stormwater Management:</u> Meet all requirements of and pay Zone 5 drainage fees to the County Department of Public Works, Stormwater Management. Drainage fees will be assessed on the net increase in impervious area.
  - 1. Indicate how the existing site runoff drains and if there are any known problems. Clarify on the plans the existing site drainage pattern and any changes resulting from this project.
  - 2. Show all drainage features on the plans. Although the downspout locations are shown on the plans, it is not clear how runoff will be controlled and directed to a safe point of release. This must be clarified. Demonstrate that the runoff will not adversely impact adjacent or downstream properties. Utilize Best Management Practices where feasible to treat development runoff onsite.
  - 3. The proposed sump pump location is shown on the plans, however the location of the "bubble up box" is not. Show the location of the "bubble up box" and provide a cross-section construction detail of it. The sump pump should not create a diversion of runoff from the natural drainage pattern. Note on the plans that the sump pump is only for water collected

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by the subsurface basement drain not for stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces.

- 4. Please provide a cross-section construction detail of the proposed permeable concrete paver block driveway, walkway and patio.
- 5. For fee calculations, provide a tabulation of new impervious and semi-impervious areas resulting from the project. Clarify on the plans the limits of both the existing and new impervious areas by shading or hatching their limits. A drainage fee will be assessed on the net increase in impervious area with reduced fees assessed for semi-pervious surfacing (50%) to offset costs and encourage more extensive use of these materials.
- 6. The designer must inspect the drainage improvements on the parcel and provide Public Works with a letter confirming that the work was completed per the plans. The designer's letter shall be specific as to what was inspected. Notes of "general conformance to plans" are not sufficient. An as-built plan may be submitted in lieu of the letter. Upon approval of the project, a hold will b placed on the permit to be released once a satisfactory letter is received.
- E. <u>Department of Public Works, Driveway/Encroachment:</u> Demonstrate on the plans that the driveway complies with the County of Santa Cruz Design Criteria. No concrete or pavers are allowed within the County right-of-way; existing concrete shall be required to be removed and must be reflected as such on the building permit plan set.
- F. <u>Fire:</u> Meet all requirements and pay any applicable plan check fee of the Central Fire Protection District.
- G. Provide required off-street parking for 1 car. 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.
- H. 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.
- I. Complete and record a Declaration of Restriction to construct and maintain a non-habitable basement and garage. You may not alter the wording of this declaration. Follow the instructions to record and return the form to the Planning Department.
- 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. <u>Construction Hours</u>: During construction, workers may assemble on-site as early as 7:30 AM, but no noise-generating activities may begin earlier than 8:00 AM. Noise-generating activities must cease by 6 PM. Workdays are limited to Monday through Friday. Should a circumstance arise in which a delivery can only be made

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on a weekend day, call Planning Staff for approval at least 24 hours in advance of the delivery.

- B. All site improvements shown on the final approved Building Permit plans shall be installed.
- C. All inspections required by the building permit shall be completed to the satisfaction of the County Building Official.
- D. The project must comply with all recommendations of the approved soils reports.
- E. 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. The basement shall be maintained as a non-habitable area. As such, it shall not be used as a bedroom.
- B. No improvements, including no landscaping, shall be located in the adjacent rights-of-way. This area must remain open for public parking.
- C. 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.
- 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, it 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

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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. <u>Settlement</u>. 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. <u>Successors Bound</u>. "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 three years from the effective date listed below unless a building permit (or permits) is obtained for the primary structure described in the development permit (does not include demolition, temporary power pole or other site preparation permits, or accessory structures unless these are the primary subject of the development permit). Failure to exercise the building permit and to complete all of the construction under the building permit, resulting in the expiration of the building permit, will void the development permit, unless there are special circumstances as determined by the Planning Director.

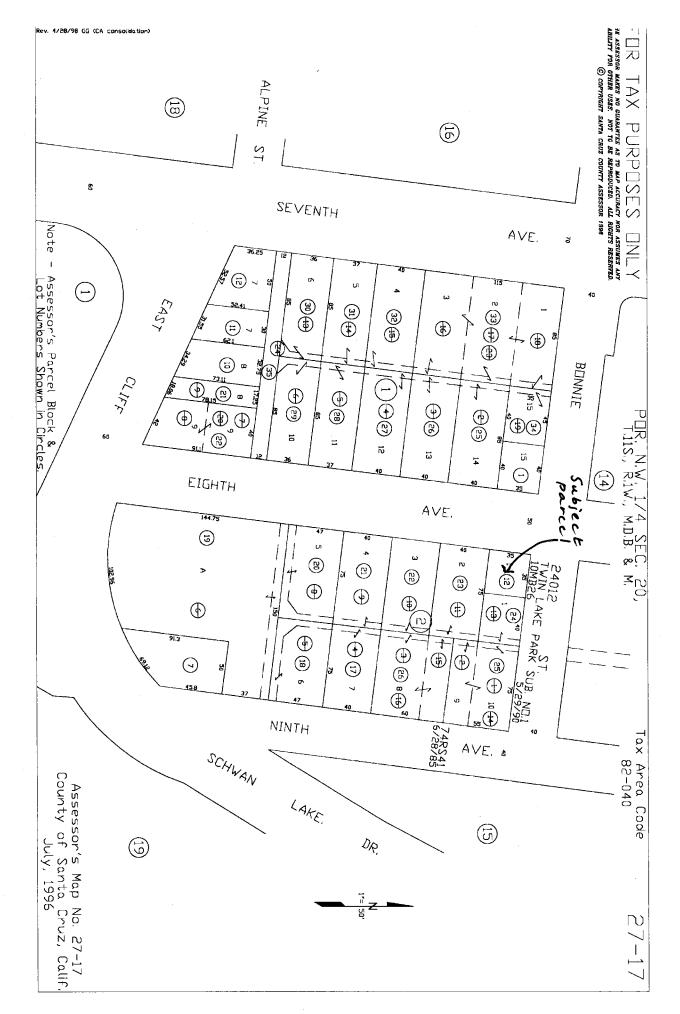
Approval Date:	
Effective Date:	
Expiration Date:	·
Steven Guiney, AICP	Annette Olson
Deputy Zoning Administrator	Project Planner

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

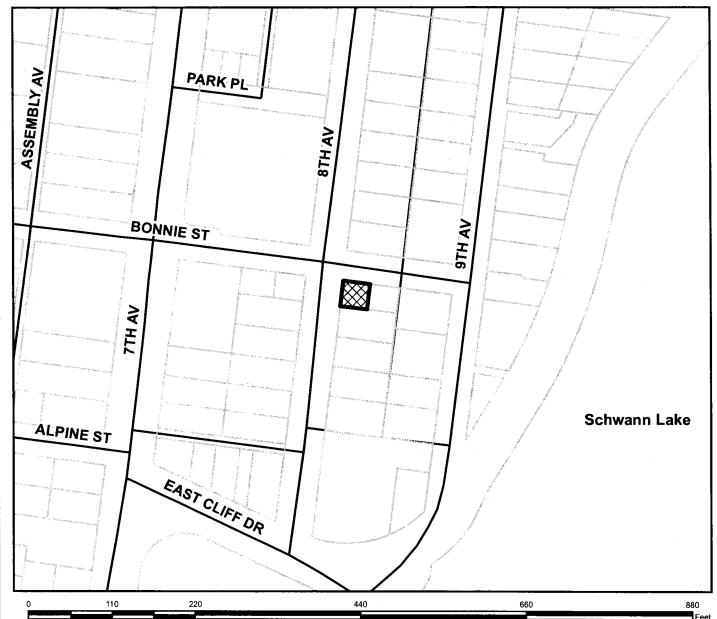
The Santa Cruz County Planning Department has reviewed the project described below and has determined that it is exempt from the provisions of CEQA as specified in Sections 15061 - 15332 of CEQA for the reason(s) which have been specified in this document.

Application Number: 111080 Assessor Parcel Number: 027-172-12 Project Location: 152 8th Avenue, Santa Cruz			
Project Description: Proposal to remodel an existing nonconforming single-family dwelling, including adding a second floor and a non-habitable basement.			
Person or Agency Proposing Project: Michael Helm			
Contact Phone Number: (831) 476-5386			
<ul> <li>A The proposed activity is not a project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378.</li> <li>B The proposed activity is not subject to CEQA as specified under CEQA Guidelines Section 15060 (c).</li> <li>C Ministerial Project involving only the use of fixed standards or objective measurements without personal judgment.</li> <li>D Statutory Exemption other than a Ministerial Project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15260 to 15285).</li> </ul>			
Specify type:			
E. X Categorical Exemption			
Specify type: Class 3 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (Section 15303)			
F. Reasons why the project is exempt:			
New single family dwelling in a developed area zoned for single-family residences.			
In addition, none of the conditions described in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.			
Date: 9/20/11 Annette Olson, Project Planner			





# **Location Map**



LEGEND

APN: 027-172-12

Assessors Parcels

Streets

Assessors Parcels

Streets

Lakes



Map Created by County of Santa Cruz Planning Department May 2011



# **Zoning Map**





APN: 027-172-12

Assessors Parcels

Streets

**RESIDENTIAL-SINGLE FAMILY** 

COMMERCIAL-NEIGHBORHOOD



Map Created by County of Santa Cruz Planning Department May 2011



## General Plan Designation Map





APN: 027-172-12

Assessors Parcels

---- Streets

Residential - Urban High Density

Commercial-Neighborhood



Map Created by County of Santa Cruz Planning Department May 2011

EXHIBIT

## Discretionary Application Comments 111080 APN 027-172-12

		<b>—</b> ·
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Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 05/26/2011 TRAVIS RIEBER (TRIEBER) : Complete

Completeness Comments:

Application Complete? X Yes No

The site plan with revisions dated 4/14/11 has been received and is approved for the planning application stage. Please see the following permit conditions for additional information to be provided at the building application stage.

Policy Considerations and Compliance Issues:

## Permit Conditions and Additional Information:

Planning application review fee note: The incorrect stormwater review fee was collected at intake. The correct fee for this project is W53 New SFD Typical.

- 1. How does the existing site runoff drain? Are there any problems? Please make clear on the plans the existing site drainage pattern and any changes as a result of this project.
- 2. The downspout locations are shown on the plans however it is not clear how runoff will be controlled and directed to a safe point of release. Please make clear on the plans how runoff will be controlled and directed to a safe point of release. Demonstrate that the runoff will not adversely impact adjacent or downstream properties. All drainage features should be shown on the plans.

Note: Projects are required to utilize Best Management Practices where feasible to treat development runoff onsite. Such measures include pervious or semi-pervious pavements, runoff surface spreading, discharging roof and driveway runoff into landscaping, etc.

- 3. The proposed sump pump location is show on the plans however the location of the proposed "bubble up box" is not shown on the plans. The sump pump should not create a diversion of runoff from natural drainage pattern. Please show on the plans the location of the proposed bubble up box; also provide a cross section construction detail of the bubble up box. It should be noted on the plans that the sump pump is only for water collect by the subsurface basement drain not for stormwater runoff from the impervious surfaces.
- 4. Please provide a cross section construction detail of the proposed permeable concrete paver block driveway, walkway and patio.
- 5. For fee calculations please provide tabulation of new impervious and semi-impervious (gravel,

Print Date: 08/31/2011

Page: 1

FYLIRIT F



## Discretionary Application Comments 111080 APN 027-172-12

## Drainage Review

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 05/26/2011 TRAVIS RIEBER (TRIEBER) : Complete

base rock, paver blocks, pervious pavement) areas resulting from the proposed project. Make clear on the plans by shading or hatching the limits of both the existing and new impervious areas. To receive credit for the existing impervious surfaces to be removed please provide documentation such as assessor's records, survey records, aerial photos or other official records that will help establish and determine the dates they were built.

Note: A drainage fee will be assessed on the net increase in impervious area. Reduced fees are assessed for semi-pervious surfacing (50%) to offset costs and encourage more extensive use of these materials.

6. The designer has to inspect the drainage improvements on the parcel and provide public works with a letter confirming that the work was completed per the plans. The designer's letter shall be specific as to what got inspected whether invert elevations, pipe sizing, the size of the mitigation features and all the relevant design features. Notes of "general conformance to plans" are not sufficient. An as-built plan may be submitted in lieu of the letter. Upon approval of the project a hold will be placed on the permit to be released once a satisfactory letter is received.

Please call the Dept. of Public Works, Storm Water Management Section, from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon if you have questions.

Routing No: 2 | Review Date:

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## Driveway/Encroachment Review

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 06/01/2011

DEBRA LOCATELLI (DLOCATELLI): Complete

Driveway shall comply to the County of Santa Cruz Design Criteria. The details will be required for the building plans. No concrete or pavers allowed within the County right-of-way, existing concrete shall be required to be removed (do be reflected on building plans).

Routing No: 2 | Review Date:

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Print Date: 08/31/2011 Page: 2



## Discretionary Application Comments 111080 APN 027-172-12

## **Environmental Planning**

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 06/08/2011 CAROLYN BANTI (CBANTI) : Incomplete

### Completeness

- 1. The soils report has been reviewed under REV111027. Although the review did yield some comments that must be addressed prior to report acceptance, the issues do not affect the feasibility of the project proposed under Application 111080.
- 2. Please document existing trees on the site plan. Please include the following information: Include the location, size, and species of all trees on the site plan. Please note that this parcel is in the Coastal Zone, and trees that meet the definition of Significant Tree as defined in Chapter 16.34 of County Code are protected. This definition includes five or more trees on one parcel, or any sprout clump consisting of 5 or more stems, each of which is greater than 12 inches at breast height.

## **Compliance**

1. If Significant Tree(s) are proposed for removal, please apply at the Zoning Counter for a Significant Tree Removal permit. Please note that specific findings must be made in order for this permit to be issued.

## Conditions of Approval

- 1. If the basement excavation requires grading beyond the property line onto adjacent properties, please submit an owner-agent agreement form for each affected parcel that states the owner of that parcel agrees to allow the work proposed on their property.
- 2. Please submit an erosion control plan showing how sediment will remain onsite during and after construction. The plan should include a staging/stockpile location for excavated material and street sweeping notes.
- 3. Prior to building permit issuance, please submit a geotechnical plan review letter that states the project plans conform to the recommendations of the soils report.

Routing No: 2 | Review Date: 07/21/2011 ANNETTE OLSON (AOLSON) : Complete

**Routing No: 3** | **Review Date:** 

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Fire Review

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 05/11/2011

Print Date: 08/31/2011

Page: 3 EXHIBIT I

## **Discretionary Application Comments** 111080 APN 027-172-12

### Fire Review

Ken Hart (pln711): Not Required

Routing No: 2 | Review Date:

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## **Project Review**

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 06/08/2011

ANNETTE OLSON (AOLSON): Incomplete

See letter dated 6/8/11 in file.

**Routing No: 2** | Review Date:

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## Road Engineering Review

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 05/11/2011

Ken Hart (pln711): Not Required

**Routing No: 2** | Review Date:

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### Sanitation Review

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 05/11/2011

Ken Hart (pln711): Not Required

**Routing No: 2** | **Review Date:** 

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## **Urban Designer Review**

Routing No: 1 | Review Date: 05/18/2011

LAWRENCE KASPAROWITZ (LKASPAROWITZ): Complete

No comments.

Print Date: 08/31/2011

age: 4



# Discretionary Application Comments 111080 APN 027-172-12

Urban Designer Review

**Routing No: 2 | Review Date:** 

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Print Date: 08/31/2011

Page: 5

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## COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 (831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123 KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

August 31, 2011

Michael Helm 200 7th Ave. #110 Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Subject: Review of Geotechnical Investigation by Dees and Associates, Inc.

Dated March 23, 2011: Project: SCR-0490 *APN 027-172-12, Application #: REV111027* 

Dear Mr. Helm,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Planning Department has accepted the subject report and the following items shall be required:

- 1. All construction shall comply with the recommendations of the report.
- 2. Final plans shall reference the report and include a statement that the project shall conform to the report's recommendations.
- 3. Prior to building permit issuance a *plan review letter* shall be submitted to Environmental Planning. After plans are prepared that are acceptable to all reviewing agencies, please submit a geotechnical plan review letter that states the project plans conform to the recommendations of the geotechnical report. *Please note that the plan review letter must reference the final plan set by last revision date.* The author of the report shall write the *plan review letter*.
- 4. Please submit an electronic copy of the soils report in .pdf format via compact disk or email to: Carolyn.Burke@co.santa-cruz.ca.us. Please note that the report must be generated and/or sent directly from the soils engineer of record.

After building permit issuance the soils engineer must remain involved with the project during construction. Please review the Notice to Permits Holders (attached).

Our acceptance of the report is limited to its technical content. Other project issues such as zoning, fire safety, septic or sewer approval, etc. may require resolution by other agencies.

Please note that this determination may be appealed within 14 calendar days of the date of service. Additional information regarding the appeals process may be found online at: http://www.sccoplanning.com/html/devrev/plnappeal\_bldg.htm

Please call the undersigned at (831) 454-5121 if we can be of any further assistance.

(over)

Review of Geotechnical Investigation, Project: SCR-0490

APN: 027-172-12 Page 2 of 3

Sincerely,

Carolyn Banti Burke Civil Engineer

Cc: Annette Olson, Environmental Planning

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Dees and Associates, Inc.

Douglas Davis

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## NOTICE TO PERMIT HOLDERS WHEN A SOILS REPORT HAS BEEN PREPARED, REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED FOR THE PROJECT

After issuance of the building permit, the County requires your soils engineer to be involved during construction. Several letters or reports are required to be submitted to the County at various times during construction. They are as follows:

- When a project has engineered fills and / or grading, a letter from your soils engineer
  must be submitted to the Environmental Planning section of the Planning Department
  prior to foundations being excavated. This letter must state that the grading has been
  completed in conformance with the recommendations of the soils report. Compaction
  reports or a summary thereof must be submitted.
- Prior to placing concrete for foundations, a letter from the soils engineer must be submitted to the building inspector and to Environmental Planning stating that the soils engineer has observed the foundation excavation and that it meets the recommendations of the soils report.
- 3. At the completion of construction, a final letter from your soils engineer is required to be submitted to Environmental Planning that summarizes the observations and the tests the soils engineer has made during construction. The final letter must also state the following: "Based upon our observations and tests, the project has been completed in conformance with our geotechnical recommendations."

If the *final soils letter* identifies any items of work remaining to be completed or that any portions of the project were not observed by the soils engineer, you will be required to complete the remaining items of work and may be required to perform destructive testing in order for your permit to obtain a final inspection.