

Staff Report to the Zoning Administrator

Application Number: 121323

Applicant: Anthony Zavitsanos **Owner:** Nikolaou Giorgos

APN: 037-032-22

Agenda Date: 9/4/2015 Agenda Item #: 2

Time: After 9:00 a.m.

Project Description: Proposal to approve a Variance to the front setback in the R-1-6 zone district to reduce the required 20-foot front yard setback to approximately 7 to 15 feet to recognize an as-built garage with second-story deck. Requires a Variance approval.

Location: The property is located in the Soquel area at 3641 Faye Drive.

Supervisorial District: 1st District (District Supervisor: John Leopold)

Permits Required: Variance Technical Reviews: none

Staff Recommendation:

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

• Approval of Application 121323, based on the attached findings and conditions.

Exhibits

A. Categorical Exemption (CEQA

determination)

B. FindingsC. Conditions

D. Project plans

E. Assessor's, Location, Zoning and General Plan Maps

Parcel Information

Parcel Size:

6000 square feet

Existing Land Use - Parcel:

residential

Existing Land Use - Surrounding:

residential

Project Access:

Driveway from Faye Drive

Planning Area:

Soquel

Land Use Designation:

R-UL (Urban Low Residential)

Zone District:

R-1-6 (Single-family residential, 6,000 square foot

minimum parcel size)

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

Coastal Zone:

Appealable to Calif. Coastal

Yes

Moutside

Yes

No

Comm.

Environmental Information

Geologic Hazards:

Not mapped/no physical evidence on site

Soils:

N/A

Fire Hazard:

Not a mapped constraint

Slopes:

The site slopes downward from Faye Drive to garage front

Env. Sen. Habitat:

Not mapped/no physical evidence on site

Grading:

No grading proposed

Tree Removal:

No trees proposed to be removed

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:

Soquel Creek Water District

Sewage Disposal:

Santa Cruz Sanitation

Fire District:

Central Fire

Drainage District:

Zone 5

History

In 1987 Permit 87-1133 authorized a variance for a zero front yard setback along Faye Drive to recognize the construction of a retaining wall over three feet in height and a deck within 3 feet 6 inches of the front property line along Faye Drive.

The current application is to recognize construction of an as-built garage with a rooftop deck within 15 feet of the front property line along Faye Drive. This requires a variance to reduce the required 20 foot front yard to approximately 7 to 15 feet.

Approval of this application would resolve a violation that occurred in the later part of 2012.

Project Setting

The subject property is an oddly shaped lot and referred to as a reverse corner lot as it is sandwiched between two intersecting streets, Faye Drive and Putter Drive. The property is extremely steep and access is limited to the apex of Faye Drive where a driveway is currently located.

Faye Drive and Putter Drive are 50 foot right-of-ways that are developed to approximately 16 foot wide, with much of the right-of-way undeveloped due to topographic limitations. The area along Faye Drive is steep, as evidenced by the previously approved variance to allow a retaining wall along the edge of the front yard. Driveway access is via two parallel driveways extending

cross slope and west from the edge of Faye Drive to the existing garage.

Property Yards

Pursuant to the Lot Setback Policy Interpretation RES-CLS-01, a property lying between two streets such as Faye Drive and Putter Drive, where the angle of the intersection or bend in the street is between 45 degrees and 135 degrees, is known as a reverse corner lot. As such, one of the streets is identified as the front yard and the other is identified as a street side yard, and the remaining yard is identified as an interior side yard.

For purposes of calling out the yards, the front yard is located on Faye Drive (including the portion containing the driveway entry) as established by the previous variance issued on the subject property. The street side yard is located along Putter Drive, and the western property line is a side yard.

The street side yard along Putter complies with the required 10 foot street side yard setback. Improvements on the west side are within a few feet of the dwelling and do not appear to meet the required 5 foot setback and are considered non-conforming.

Zoning & General Plan Consistency

The subject property is a parcel of approximately 6000 square feet per the GIS estimated acreage, located in the R-1-6 (Single-family residential, 6,000 square foot minimum parcel size) zone district, a designation that allows residential uses. The property contains an approximately 1286 square foot single single-family residence and an existing and approximately 560 square foot unpermitted garage, as well as existing stairway improvements on the western portion of the property. A residence and garage is a principal permitted use within the zone district and the zoning is consistent with the site's (R-UL) Urban Low Residential General Plan designation.

Site Standards Table								
Setbacks								
	Front (Faye Drive)	Side (Putter and west property line)	Rear					
Required	20' front	5 & 10	No rear yard					
Existing	0' to retaining wall, 5'4" to 12 feet to dwelling	1'3" to stairs on west side 10' to Putter	No rear yard					
Proposed	7' to 15' to garage front	10'4" to Putter Drive	No Rear					
40 percent		Coverage shown (1846 square feet/6000	=31%)					

Far 50 Percent allowed, 31 percent shown

The site is extremely constrained due to the triangular shape and significant slope throughout the site, as evidenced by the previous variance issued on the subject property. Staff supports the proposed project as the garage door is setback a sufficient distance from the actual road given the existing 7 to 15 foot setback to the property line and an additional 30 feet of undeveloped driveway beyond the property line that extends to the traveled roadway, providing sufficient distance for sight distance.

Environmental Review

Environmental review of the proposed project per the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has resulted in the determination that the proposed project is eligible for a Categorical Exemption under CEQA Section 15301(e), Existing Facilities. This Categorical Exemption applies because the project is for the recognition of an existing addition to single-family dwelling that does not result in a net increase of more than 50% of the existing floor area.

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

- Certification that the proposal is exempt from further Environmental Review under the California Environmental Quality Act.
- **APPROVAL** of Application Number **121323**, 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: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Report Prepared By: Sheila McDaniel

Santa Cruz County Planning Department

701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor Santa Cruz CA 95060

Phone Number: (831) 454-2255

E-mail: sheila.mcdaniel@santacruzcounty.us

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.

Assessor P	Parcel Number: 121323 Parcel Number: 037-032-22 cation: 3641 Faye Drive		
reduce the	escription: Proposal to apprent required 20-foot front yard h second-story deck. Require	setback to approximat	front setback in the R-1-6 zone district to tely 7 to 15 feet to recognize an as-built al.
Person or	Agency Proposing Project	t: Anthony Zavitsan	os
Contact P	Phone Number: 831-402-44	493	
A B C D	The proposed activity is Section 15060 (c). Ministerial Project in measurements without	s not subject to CEQA volving only the use or personal judgment.	CEQA Guidelines Section 15378. A as specified under CEQA Guidelines If fixed standards or objective al Project (CEQA Guidelines Section
Specify typ	pe:		
E. <u>X</u>	Categorical Exemptio	<u>on</u>	
Specify typ	pe: CEQA Section 15305: I	Minor Alterations in L	and Use Limitations
F. Re	asons why the project is ex	xempt:	
Permitting use or dens		n existing structure wh	nich does not result in any changes in land
In addition	n, none of the conditions des	scribed in Section 1530	00.2 apply to this project.
		Date:	
Sheila Mcl	Daniel		

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, due to the special circumstances associated with the subject property include triangular shape along two right-of-ways and steep topography. These limitations prevent the subject property from meeting the required setbacks in order to build a garage on the subject property, a privilege enjoyed by other properties in the immediate vicinity.

2. That the granting of such 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 granting of the variance will provide an adequate and substantial setback from the proposed garage to the actual traveled roadway, significantly beyond the required 20 feet for vehicles to park. The right-of-way adjoining the subject property is approximately 50 feet in width and is developed to approximately 16 feet, and cannot feasibility be widening without significant grading and required retaining walls, reducing the likelihood that the roadway will be ever be widened. In addition, the proposed garage does not pose any health and safety impacts to the roadway given that adequate sight distance is provided by the existing driveway.

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

Other properties in the immediate vicinity without these significant limitations contain garages and therefore, approval of a variance to recognize a garage on a site subject to these limitations is not considered a grant of special privilege. Furthermore, other properties under similar conditions would be given the same consideration for construction of a garage improvement normally associated with a single family dwelling.

Conditions of Approval

Exhibit D: Project Plans

- I. This permit authorizes the recognition of construction of an attached garage to an existing single family residence. 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 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.
- 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 "D" on file with the Planning Department. Any changes from the approved Exhibit "D" 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. Details showing compliance with fire department requirements. If the proposed structure(s) are located within the State Responsibility Area (SRA) the requirements of the Wildland-Urban Interface code (WUI), California Building Code Chapter 7A, shall apply.
 - 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 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.
 - D. Meet all requirements and pay any applicable plan check fee of the Central Fire Protection District.

- E. 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.
- F. Complete and record a Declaration of Restriction to recognize construction of an attached garage (non-habitable accessory structure). 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. All site improvements shown on the final approved Building Permit plans shall be installed.
 - B. All inspections required by the building permit shall be completed to the satisfaction of the County Building Official.
 - C. Pursuant to Sections 16.40.040 and 16.42.080 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 16.42.080, shall be observed.

IV. Operational Conditions

- A. 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 responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the COUNTY if such failure to notify or cooperate was significantly prejudicial to the Development Approval Holder.

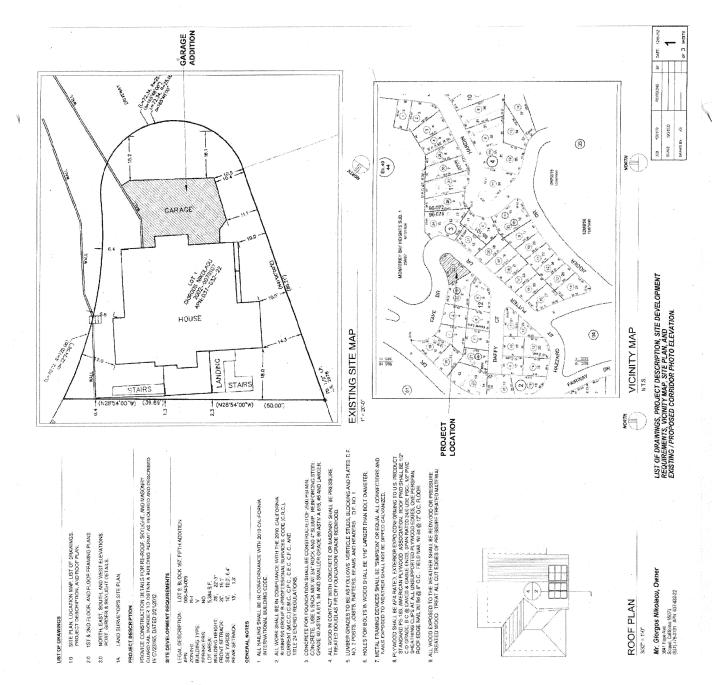
- B. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the COUNTY from participating in the defense of any claim, action, or proceeding if both of the following occur:
 - 1. COUNTY bears its own attorney's fees and costs; and
 - 2. COUNTY defends the action in good faith.
- C. <u>Settlement</u>. The Development 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.

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.

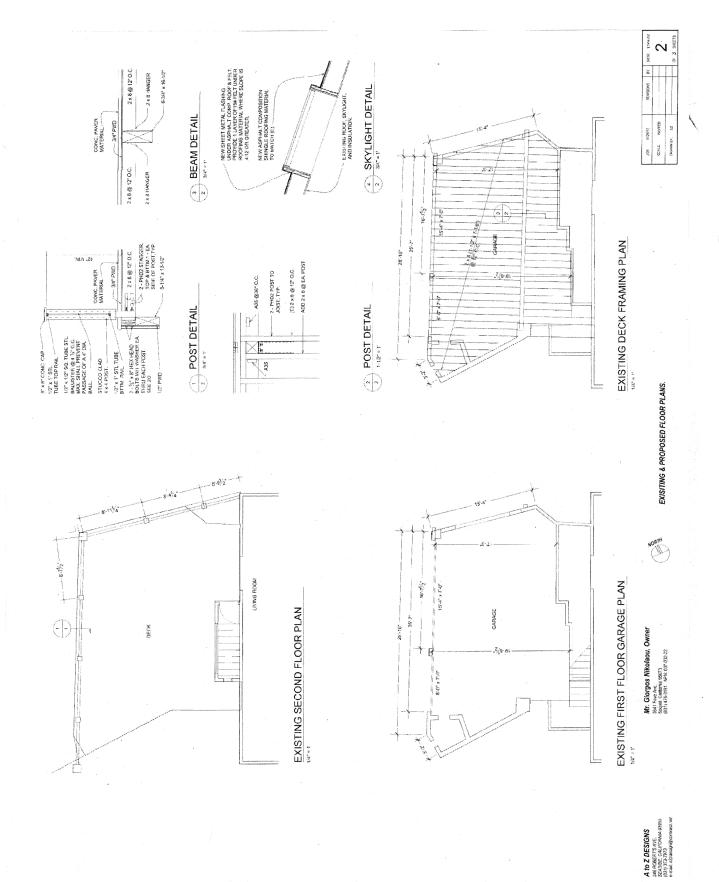
Approval Date:	· · ·		 		
Effective Date:					
Effective Bate.					
Expiration Date:			 		

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.

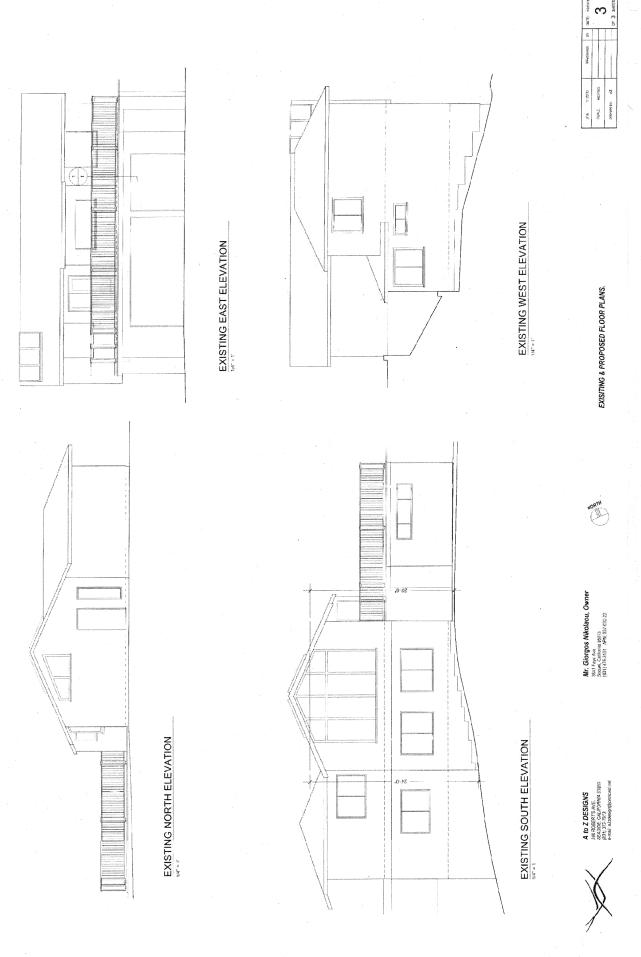


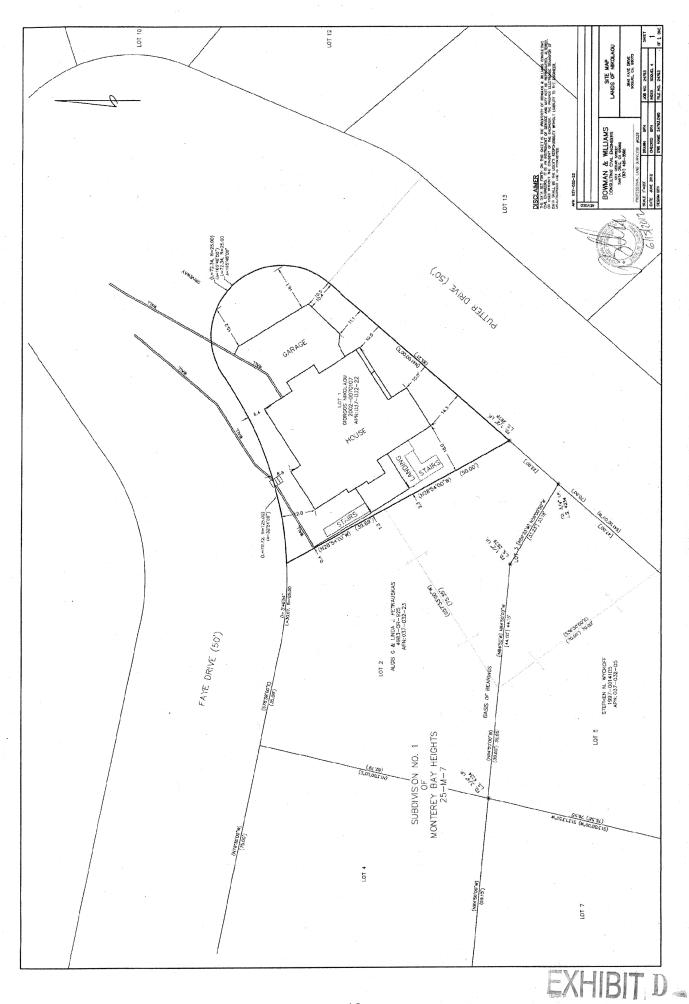
A to Z DESIGNS
Among Limitaness Chopping
194 (AGERTICS AVE
SEASORE CAL (AGENTICS AVE
AGENTIC LAS (AGENTICS AVE
AGENTIC LAS (AGENTICS AVE
AGENTICAL (AGENTICS AVE
AGENTICAL (AGENTICAL AGENTICAL AGENTICAL AGENTICAL AGENTICAL

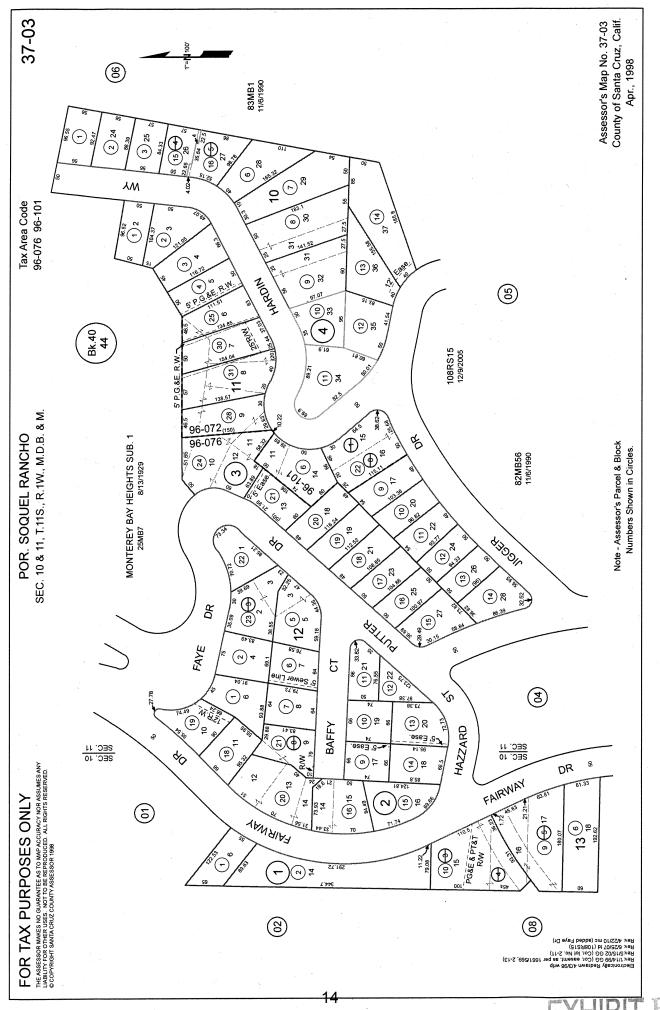
EXHIBIT













Location Map



LEGEND

APN: 037-032-22

Assessors Parcels

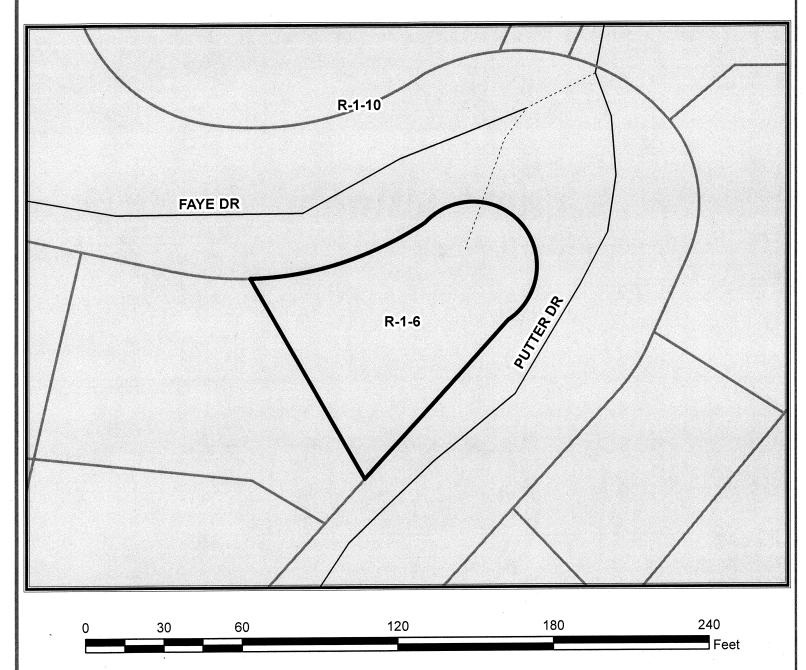
Street

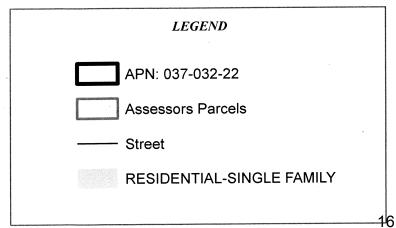


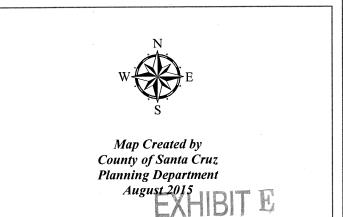
Map Created by County of Santa Cruz Planning Department August 2015



Zoning Map

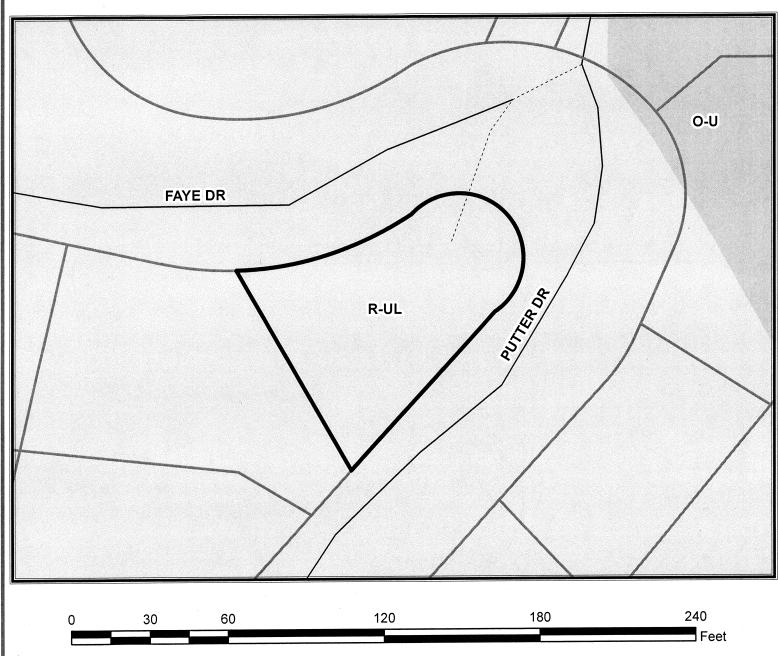


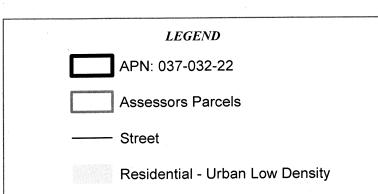






General Plan Designation Map





Urban Open Space

