

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT TRANSMITTAL TO THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

CITY PLANNING CASE:	ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:	COUNCIL DISTRICT:
DIR-2019-7067-DB-1A	ENV-2019-5389-CE-1A	13 – O'Farrell
PROJECT ADDRESS:		
5806-5812 West Lexington Avenue		
APPLICANT	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
Daniel Pourbaba, 5817 Lexington LLC	N/A	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> New/Changed		
APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
Erika Woods, Diaz Group, LLC	N/A	N/A
APPELLANT # 1	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
Doug Haines	310-281-7625	
APPELLANT'S REPRESENTATIVE	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
Robert Silverstein, The Silverstein Law Firm	626-449-4200	N/A
PLANNER CONTACT INFORMATION:	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	EMAIL ADDRESS:
Alex Truong	213-978-3308	<a href="mailto:alexander.truong@lacity.org">alexander.truong@lacity.org</a>
ENTITLEMENTS FOR CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION		
None		

**FINAL ENTITLEMENTS NOT ADVANCING:**

Density Bonus

**ITEMS APPEALED:**

CEQA appeal – CE

Lexington 2 at 5806-5812 West Lexington Avenue: The demolition of two (2) existing single-family structures with associated accessory structures and the construction, use and maintenance of a five-story, 56-foot tall, 17-unit, multi-family dwelling. The building will be constructed with four (4) residential levels over one (1) at-grade parking level. The project will provide a total of 17 automobile parking spaces.

ATTACHMENTS:	REVISED:	ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE:	REVISED:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter of Determination	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exemption	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Findings of Fact	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Staff Recommendation Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated Negative Declaration	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conditions of Approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigation Monitoring Program	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Zone Change Map	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> GPA Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use Map	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit A - Site Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mailing List	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

**NOTES / INSTRUCTION(S):**

Related to CF 20-0603:

Lexington 1 at 5817-5823 West Lexington Avenue: The demolition of the two (2) existing duplexes and the construction, use and maintenance of a five-story, 56-foot tall, 21-unit multi-family dwelling. The building will be constructed with four (4) residential levels over one (1) at-grade parking level. The project will provide a total of 29 automobile parking spaces and includes grading resulting in the export of 800 cubic yards of soil.

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**☐ Yes☐ No

\*If determination states administrative costs are recovered through fees, indicate "Yes".

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

- ☒ City Planning Commission (CPC)
- ☐ Cultural Heritage Commission (CHC)
- ☐ Central Area Planning Commission
- ☐ East LA Area Planning Commission
- ☐ Harbor Area Planning Commission

- ☐ North Valley Area Planning Commission
- ☐ South LA Area Planning Commission
- ☐ South Valley Area Planning Commission
- ☐ West LA Area Planning Commission

PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING DATE:	COMMISSION VOTE:
September 17, 2020	7-0
LAST DAY TO APPEAL:	APPEALED:
October 7, 2020	CEQA appealed on October 2, 2020
TRANSMITTED BY:	TRANSMITTAL DATE:
Irene Gonzalez, Commission Office, for Alex Truong	October 26, 2020



# LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

200 North Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801, (213) 978-1300

[www.planning.lacity.org](http://www.planning.lacity.org)

## LETTER OF DETERMINATION

MAILING DATE: **SEP 22 2020**

Case No. DIR-2019-7067-TOC-1A  
CEQA: ENV-2019-5389-CE  
Plan Area: Hollywood

Council District: 13 – O' Farrell

**Project Site:** 5806 – 5812 West Lexington Avenue

**Applicant:** Mr. Daniel Pourbaba, 5806 Lexington, LLC  
Representative: Erika Diaz, Woods, Diaz Group, LLC

**Appellant:** Brian and Kimberly Reilly, Jesus Rojas, Pedro Guevara, SPC Holdings, LLC, Michael Higgins, Jacob Ross, and La Mirada Avenue Neighborhood Association

At its meeting of **September 17, 2020**, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission took the actions below in conjunction with the approval of the following project:

Demolition of the two existing single-family structures with associated accessory structures and the construction, use and maintenance of a five-story, 56-foot tall, 17 unit multi-family dwelling. The building will be constructed with four residential levels over one at-grade parking level. The Project will provide a total of 25 automobile parking spaces, and two short-term and 17 long-term bicycle parking spaces. Vehicular access to the site is provided via one two-way driveway that is accessible from Lexington Avenue. Pedestrian access is also located along Lexington Avenue.

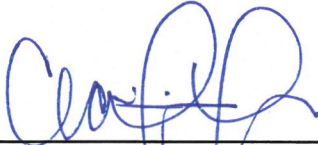
1. **Determined** that based on the whole of the administrative record, that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15332, Class 32, and there is no substantial evidence demonstrating that any exceptions contained in Section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines regarding location, cumulative impacts, significant effects based on unusual circumstances, scenic highways, hazardous waste sites, or historical resources apply;
2. **Denied** the appeal and **sustained**, Planning Director's Determination dated July 23, 2020;
3. **Approved**, pursuant to Section 12.22 A.31 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, a Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Affordable Housing Incentive Program for a Tier 2 project with a total of 17 dwelling units, including two units reserved for Extremely Low Income (ELI) Household occupancy for a period of 55 years, along with the following three Additional Incentives:
  - a. Yard/Setback. To permit a 30 percent decrease in the required rear yard;
  - b. Open Space. To permit a 20 percent reduction in the required open space; and
  - c. Height. To permit one additional story up to 11 additional feet; and
4. **Adopted** the attached Conditions of Approval; and
5. **Adopted** the attached Findings.



The vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Perlman  
Second: Khorsand  
Ayes: Ambroz, Choe, Mack, Millman, Mitchell  
Absent: Leung, Padilla-Campos

**Vote: 7 – 0**



---

Cecilia Lamas, Commission Executive Assistant  
Los Angeles City Planning Commission

**Effective Date/Appeals:** The decision of the Los Angeles City Planning Commission is final and effective upon the mailing of this determination letter and not further appealable.

Notice: An appeal of the CEQA clearance for the Project pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21151(c) is only available if the Determination of the non-elected decision-making body (e.g., ZA, AA, APC, CPC) **is not further appealable** and the decision is final. The applicant is advised that any work undertaken while the CEQA clearance is on appeal is at his/her/its own risk and if the appeal is granted, it may result in (1) voiding and rescission of the CEQA clearance, the Determination, and any permits issued in reliance on the Determination and (2) the use by the City of any and all remedies to return the subject property to the condition it was in prior to issuance of the Determination.

If you seek judicial review of any decision of the City pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.5, the petition for writ of mandate pursuant to that section must be filed no later than the 90th day following the date on which the City's decision became final pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6. There may be other time limits which also affect your ability to seek judicial review.

Attachment: Conditions of Approval, Findings, Interim Appeal Filing Procedures (CEQA)

c: Nicholas Hendricks, Senior City Planner  
Oliver Netburn, City Planner  
Alexander Truong, City Planning Associate

## CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Pursuant to LAMC Section 12.22-A,31, the following conditions are hereby imposed upon the use of the subject property:

1. **Site Development.** Except as modified herein, the project shall be in substantial conformance with the plans and materials submitted by the applicant, stamped "Exhibit A," and attached to the subject case file. No change to the plans will be made without prior review by the Department of City Planning, Expedited Processing Section, and written approval by the Director of Planning. Each change shall be identified and justified in writing. Minor deviations may be allowed in order to comply with the provisions of the Los Angeles Municipal Code or the project conditions.
2. **Base Incentives.**
  - a. **Residential Density.** The project shall be limited to a maximum density of 17 residential units, including On-site Restricted Affordable Units.
  - b. **Floor Area Ratio (FAR).** The project is permitted a maximum FAR of 2.82 to 1.
  - c. **Parking.**
    - i. **Automobile Parking.** The project shall provide a minimum of one (1) automobile parking space per unit.
    - ii. **Bicycle Parking.** Bicycle parking shall be provided in compliance with the Municipal Code and to the satisfaction of the Department of Building and Safety. No variance from the bicycle parking requirements has been requested or granted herein.
    - iii. **Adjustment of Parking.** In the event that the number of Restricted Affordable Units should increase or the composition of such units should change (i.e. the number of bedrooms, or the number of units made available to Senior Citizens and/or Disabled Persons), and no other Condition of Approval or incentive is affected, then no modification of this determination shall be necessary, and the number of parking spaces shall be re-calculated by the Department of Building and Safety based upon the ratios set forth pursuant to LAMC Section 12.22-A,25.
    - iv. **Unbundling.** Required parking may be sold or rented separately from the units, with the exception of all Restricted Affordable Units which shall include any required parking in the base rent or sales price, as verified by HCIDLA.
3. **Additional Incentives.**
  - a. **Yard/Setback.** The project shall be permitted a 30% decrease in the required rear setback.
  - b. **Open Space.** The project shall be permitted a 20% reduction in the required open space provided that the landscaping for the Housing Development Project is sufficient to qualify for the number of landscape points equivalent to 10% more than otherwise required by Section 12.40 of this Code and Landscape Ordinance Guidelines "O".

- c. **Height.** The project shall be permitted one (1) additional story up to 11 additional feet.
- 4. **On-site Restricted Affordable Units.** Prior to issuance of a building permit, the owner shall execute a covenant to the satisfaction of HCIDLA to make 11% of the base number of units, or 9% of the total number of units, whichever is greater, for Extremely Low Income Households, as defined by HCIDLA, for sale or rental as determined to be affordable to such households by HCIDLA for a period of 55 years. In the event, the applicant reduces the proposed density of the project, the number of required reserved On-site Restricted Units may be adjusted, consistent with LAMC Section 12.22-A,31, to the satisfaction of HCIDLA. Enforcement of the terms of said covenant shall be the responsibility of HCIDLA. The applicant shall provide a copy of the recorded covenant to the Department of City Planning for inclusion in this file. The project shall comply with the Guidelines for the Affordable Housing Incentives Program adopted by the City Planning Commission and with any monitoring requirements established by HCIDLA.
- 5. **Changes in On-site Restricted Units.** Deviations that increase the number of On-site Restricted Units or that change the composition of units or change parking numbers shall be consistent with LAMC Section 12.22-A,31.
- 6. **Landscaping.**
  - a. All open areas not used for buildings, driveways, parking areas, recreational facilities or walks shall be attractively landscaped, including an automatic irrigation system, and maintained in accordance with a landscape plan prepared by a licensed landscape architect or licensed architect, and submitted for approval to the Department of City Planning.
  - b. All planters containing trees shall have a minimum depth of 48 inches (48”), including those located on the rooftop area or above a parking garage.
- 7. **Mechanical Equipment.** All mechanical equipment on the roof shall be screened from view. The transformer, if located in the front yard, shall be screened with landscaping.
- 8. **Maintenance.** The subject property (including all trash storage areas, associated parking facilities, sidewalks, yard areas, parkways, and exterior walls along the property lines) shall be maintained in an attractive condition and shall be kept free of trash and debris.
- 9. **Design Conformance.**
  - a. Architectural treatments on all elevations shall be adhered to including the use of projected metal windows, metal, and wood screens. The courtyard open space planter areas shall incorporate bench seating and landscaping that provides for shade.
  - b. Access to the mail room shall not interfere with the driveway.
- 10. **Lighting.** Outdoor lighting shall be designed and installed with shielding, such that the light source cannot be seen from adjacent residential properties or the public right-of-way, nor from above.

11. **Electric Vehicle Parking.** All electric vehicle charging spaces (EV Spaces) and electric vehicle charging stations (EVCS) shall comply with the regulations outlined in Sections 99.04.106 and 99.05.106 of Article 9, Chapter IX of the LAMC.
12. **Solar Panels.** Solar panels shall be installed on the project's rooftop space to be connected to the building's electrical system. A minimum 15% of the roof area shall be reserved for the installation of a solar photovoltaic system, to be installed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, in substantial conformance with the plans stamped "Exhibit A".

### **Administrative Conditions**

13. **Final Plans.** Prior to the issuance of any building permits for the project by the Department of Building & Safety, the applicant shall submit all final construction plans that are awaiting issuance of a building permit by the Department of Building & Safety for final review and approval by the Department of City Planning. All plans that are awaiting issuance of a building permit by the Department of Building & Safety shall be stamped by Department of City Planning staff "Final Plans". A copy of the Final Plans, supplied by the applicant, shall be retained in the subject case file.
14. **Covenant.** Prior to the effectuation of this grant, a covenant acknowledging and agreeing to comply with all the terms and conditions established herein shall be recorded in the County Recorder's Office. The agreement (standard master covenant and agreement form CP-6770) shall run with the land and shall be binding on any subsequent owners, heirs or assigns. The agreement with the conditions attached must be submitted to the Department of City Planning for approval before being recorded. After recordation, a certified copy bearing the Recorder's number and date shall be provided for inclusion in case file.
15. **Notations on Plans.** Plans submitted to the Department of Building & Safety, for the purpose of processing a building permit application shall include all of the Conditions of Approval herein attached as a cover sheet, and shall include any modifications or notations required herein.
16. **Approval, Verification and Submittals.** Copies of any approvals, guarantees or verification of consultations, review of approval, plans, etc., as may be required by the subject conditions, shall be provided to the Department of City Planning prior to clearance of any building permits, for placement in the subject file.
17. **Code Compliance.** Use, area, height, and yard regulations of the zone classification of the subject property shall be complied with, except where granted conditions differ herein.
18. **Department of Building & Safety.** The granting of this determination by the Director of Planning does not in any way indicate full compliance with applicable provisions of the Los Angeles Municipal Code Chapter IX (Building Code). Any corrections and/or modifications to plans made subsequent to this determination by a Department of Building & Safety Plan Check Engineer that affect any part of the exterior design or appearance of the project as approved by the Director, and which are deemed necessary by the Department of Building & Safety for Building Code compliance, shall require a referral of the revised plans back to the Department of City Planning for additional review and sign-off prior to the issuance of any permit in connection with those plans.
19. **Department of Water and Power.** Satisfactory arrangements shall be made with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) for compliance with LADWP's Rules



Governing Water and Electric Service. Any corrections and/or modifications to plans made subsequent to this determination in order to accommodate changes to the project due to the under-grounding of utility lines, that are outside of substantial compliance or that affect any part of the exterior design or appearance of the project as approved by the Director, shall require a referral of the revised plans back to the Department of City Planning for additional review and sign-off prior to the issuance of any permit in connection with those plans.

20. **Enforcement.** Compliance with and the intent of these conditions shall be to the satisfaction of the Department of City Planning.
21. **Expedited Processing Section Fee.** Prior to the clearance of any conditions, the applicant shall show proof that all fees have been paid to the Department of City Planning, Expedited Processing Section.
22. **Indemnification and Reimbursement of Litigation Costs.**

Applicant shall do all of the following:

- a. Defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City from any and all actions against the City relating to or arising out of, in whole or in part, the City's processing and approval of this entitlement, including but not limited to, an action to attack, challenge, set aside, void, or otherwise modify or annul the approval of the entitlement, the environmental review of the entitlement, or the approval of subsequent permit decisions, or to claim personal property damage, including from inverse condemnation or any other constitutional claim.
- b. Reimburse the City for any and all costs incurred in defense of an action related to or arising out, in whole or in part, of the City's processing and approval of the entitlement, including but not limited to payment of all court costs and attorney's fees, costs of any judgments or awards against the City (including an award of attorney's fees), damages, and/or settlement costs.
- c. Submit an initial deposit for the City's litigation costs to the City within 10 days' notice of the City tendering defense to the applicant and requesting a deposit. The initial deposit shall be in an amount set by the City Attorney's Office, in its sole discretion, based on the nature and scope of action, but in no event shall the initial deposit be less than \$50,000. The City's failure to notice or collect the deposit does not relieve the applicant from responsibility to reimburse the City pursuant to the requirement in paragraph (b).
- d. Submit supplemental deposits upon notice by the City. Supplemental deposits may be required in an increased amount from the initial deposit if found necessary by the City to protect the City's interests. The City's failure to notice or collect the deposit does not relieve the applicant from responsibility to reimburse the City pursuant to the requirement in paragraph (b).
- e. If the City determines it necessary to protect the City's interest, execute an indemnity and reimbursement agreement with the City under terms consistent with the requirements of this condition.

The City shall notify the applicant within a reasonable period of time of its receipt of any action and the City shall cooperate in the defense. If the City fails to notify the applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding in a reasonable time, or if the City fails to reasonably cooperate in the

defense, the applicant shall not thereafter be responsible to defend, indemnify or hold harmless the City.

The City shall have the sole right to choose its counsel, including the City Attorney's office or outside counsel. At its sole discretion, the City may participate at its own expense in the defense of any action, but such participation shall not relieve the applicant of any obligation imposed by this condition. In the event the applicant fails to comply with this condition, in whole or in part, the City may withdraw its defense of the action, void its approval of the entitlement, or take any other action. The City retains the right to make all decisions with respect to its representations in any legal proceeding, including its inherent right to abandon or settle litigation.

For purposes of this condition, the following definitions apply:

"City" shall be defined to include the City, its agents, officers, boards, commissions, committees, employees, and volunteers.

"Action" shall be defined to include suits, proceedings (including those held under alternative dispute resolution procedures), claims, or lawsuits. Actions includes actions, as defined herein, alleging failure to comply with any federal, state or local law.

Nothing in the definitions included in this paragraph are intended to limit the rights of the City or the obligations of the applicant otherwise created by this condition.

## FINDINGS

### TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITIES AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM /AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVES COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

Pursuant to LAMC Section 12.22-A,31(e), the Director of Planning shall review a Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program project application in accordance with the procedures outlined in LAMC Section 12.22-A,25(g).

1. The incentives are not required to provide for affordable housing costs as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 50052.5 or Section 50053 for rents for the affordable units.

The California Health & Safety Code Sections 50052.5 and 50053 define formulas for calculating affordable housing costs for very low, low, and moderate income households. Section 50052.5 addresses owner-occupied housing and Section 50053 addresses rental households. Affordable housing costs are a calculation of residential rent or ownership pricing not to exceed 25 percent gross income based on area median income thresholds dependent on affordability levels. There were no substantial evidence that would allow the Director to make a finding that the requested incentives are not necessary to provide for affordable housing costs per State Law.

The list of base incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines were pre-evaluated at the time the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program Ordinance was adopted to include various types of relief that minimize restrictions on the size of the project. The base incentives are required to provide for affordable housing costs because the incentives by their nature may result in increasing the scale of the project. The additional incentives requested for a decrease in the required setback, reduction in open space and increase in height would result in building design or construction efficiencies that provide for affordable housing costs. As a result of the prescribed incentives, it is likely that the Director will always conclude that the incentives are required for such projects to provide for affordable housing units as identified by the TOC Guidelines.

**Setbacks.** The requested reduction in yards/setbacks is expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. Eligible Housing Developments located in Tier 2 may utilize a 30% reduction in the required width or depth of one (1) individual yard or setback. In this case, the project would be required to provide a rear yard conforming to the requirements of the R3-1 Zone, which is 15 feet. The project, as proposed, will provide a 10-foot 6-inch rear yard.

**Open Space.** The reduction in open space is expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. This incentive will result in a building design that provides for affordable housing costs and supports the applicant's decision to set aside two (2) dwelling units for Extremely Low Income Households.

**Height.** Eligible Housing Developments in Tier 2 may be permitted a height increase of one (1) additional story up to 11 additional feet. As proposed, the project will utilize an 11-foot increase in height in lieu of the LAMC maximum of 45 feet. This will result in a 56-foot building.

2. **The Incentive will have a specific adverse impact upon public health and safety or the physical environment, or on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and for which there are no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse Impact without rendering the development unaffordable to Very Low, Low and Moderate Income households. Inconsistency with the zoning ordinance or the general plan land use designation shall not constitute a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety.**

There has been no evidence provided that indicated that the proposed incentives will have a specific adverse impact upon public health and safety or the physical environment, or on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. A "specific adverse impact" is defined as, "a significant, quantifiable, direct and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete" (LAMC Section 12.22-A,25(b)).

The project does not involve a contributing structure in a designated Historic Preservation Overlay Zone or on the City of Los Angeles list of Historical-Cultural Monuments. The proposed project and potential impacts were analyzed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the City's L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide and the project was determined to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19, Class 32 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Therefore, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a specific adverse impact on the physical environment, on public health and safety, or on property listed in the California Register of Historic Resources.

3. **The incentives/waivers are contrary to state or federal law.**

There is no substantial evidence in the record that the proposed incentives/waivers are contrary to state or federal law.

#### **ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FINDINGS**

4. The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, which are a part of the Flood Hazard Management Specific Plan adopted by the City Council by Ordinance No. 172,081, have been reviewed and it has been determined that this project is not located in a Flood Zone.

## FINDINGS

### TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITIES AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVE PROGRAM /AFFORDABLE HOUSING INCENTIVES COMPLIANCE FINDINGS

Pursuant to LAMC Section 12.22-A,31(e), the Director of Planning shall review a Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program project application in accordance with the procedures outlined in LAMC Section 12.22-A,25(g).

1. The incentives are not required to provide for affordable housing costs as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 50052.5 or Section 50053 for rents for the affordable units.

The California Health & Safety Code Sections 50052.5 and 50053 define formulas for calculating affordable housing costs for very low, low, and moderate income households. Section 50052.5 addresses owner-occupied housing and Section 50053 addresses rental households. Affordable housing costs are a calculation of residential rent or ownership pricing not to exceed 25 percent gross income based on area median income thresholds dependent on affordability levels. There were no substantial evidence that would allow the Director to make a finding that the requested incentives are not necessary to provide for affordable housing costs per State Law.

The list of base incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines were pre-evaluated at the time the Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program Ordinance was adopted to include various types of relief that minimize restrictions on the size of the project. The base incentives are required to provide for affordable housing costs because the incentives by their nature may result in increasing the scale of the project. The additional incentives requested for a decrease in the required setback, reduction in open space and increase in height would result in building design or construction efficiencies that provide for affordable housing costs. As a result of the prescribed incentives, it is likely that the Director will always conclude that the incentives are required for such projects to provide for affordable housing units as identified by the TOC Guidelines.

**Setbacks.** The requested reduction in yards/setbacks is expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. Eligible Housing Developments located in Tier 2 may utilize a 30% reduction in the required width or depth of one (1) individual yard or setback. In this case, the project would be required to provide a rear yard conforming to the requirements of the R3-1 Zone, which is 15 feet. The project, as proposed, will provide a 10-foot 6-inch rear yard.

**Open Space.** The reduction in open space is expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. This incentive will result in a building design that provides for affordable housing costs and supports the applicant's decision to set aside two (2) dwelling units for Extremely Low Income Households.

**Height.** Eligible Housing Developments in Tier 2 may be permitted a height increase of one (1) additional story up to 11 additional feet. As proposed, the project will utilize an 11-foot increase in height in lieu of the LAMC maximum of 45 feet. This will result in a 56-foot building.

2. **The Incentive will have a specific adverse impact upon public health and safety or the physical environment, or on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources and for which there are no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the specific adverse Impact without rendering the development unaffordable to Very Low, Low and Moderate Income households. Inconsistency with the zoning ordinance or the general plan land use designation shall not constitute a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety.**

There has been no evidence provided that indicated that the proposed incentives will have a specific adverse impact upon public health and safety or the physical environment, or on any real property that is listed in the California Register of Historical Resources. A "specific adverse impact" is defined as, "a significant, quantifiable, direct and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete" (LAMC Section 12.22-A,25(b)).

The project does not involve a contributing structure in a designated Historic Preservation Overlay Zone or on the City of Los Angeles list of Historical-Cultural Monuments. The proposed project and potential impacts were analyzed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and the City's L.A. CEQA Thresholds Guide and the project was determined to be exempt from CEQA pursuant to Article 19, Class 32 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Therefore, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project will have a specific adverse impact on the physical environment, on public health and safety, or on property listed in the California Register of Historic Resources.

3. **The incentives/waivers are contrary to state or federal law.**

There is no substantial evidence in the record that the proposed incentives/waivers are contrary to state or federal law.

#### **ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FINDINGS**

4. The National Flood Insurance Program rate maps, which are a part of the Flood Hazard Management Specific Plan adopted by the City Council by Ordinance No. 172,081, have been reviewed and it has been determined that this project is not located in a Flood Zone.



# COVID-19 UPDATE

## Interim Appeal Filing Procedures

March 27, 2020



Consistent with Mayor Eric Garcetti's "Safer At Home" directives to help slow the spread of COVID-19, the Department of City Planning is implementing new procedures for the filing of appeals for non-applicants that eliminate or minimize in-person interaction. There are two options for filing appeals, which are effective immediately and described below.

### OPTION 1: EMAIL PLUS US MAIL

This is a two-step process including pre-clearance by email of the appeal application followed by application and payment submittal via US Mail.

#### STEP 1:

Email [planning.figcounter@lacity.org](mailto:planning.figcounter@lacity.org) with the subject line: **"Request to File Appeal."** In the email body provide:

- The case number
- Appellant contact information (name, email, telephone number)

Include as individual attachments to the email:

- Copy of Signed Appeal Application
- Justification
- Letter of Determination

City Planning staff will contact the appellant to confirm whether the appeal is complete and meets the applicable provisions of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC). The appellant will then be instructed to move forward with Step 2.

#### STEP 2:

Send appeal application via US Mail, postmarked no later than the last day of the appeal period. The package shall include:

- Original Appeal Application (wet signatures),
- Copy of email correspondence with City Planning staff (from Step 1)
- Appeal fee, check payable to the City of Los Angeles (\$109.47 for an aggrieved party, not the Project Applicant.)

#### Mail the appeal application to:

Department City Planning - Metro DSC  
201 N. Figueroa St., 4th Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

City Planning staff will email and mail the appellant with a receipt for payment. Note: only the original application, email, and check need to be sent via US Mail. This ensures a standard envelope with standard postage is sufficient, and no trip to the Post Office is necessary. Steps 1 and 2 must both be completed. An email alone is not sufficient to satisfy appeal requirements.

### OPTION 2: DROP OFF AT DSC

An appellant may continue to submit an appeal application and payment at any of the three Development Services Center (DSC) locations. City Planning established drop off areas at the DSCs with physical boxes where appellants can drop off appeal applications and payment. **Drop off areas are monitored in secure locations outside the three DSCs (Metro/Downtown, Van Nuys, and West Los Angeles) and are available during regular business hours.**

City Planning staff will follow up with the appellant via email and phone to:

- Confirm that the appeal package is complete and meets the applicable provisions of the LAMC
- Provide a receipt for payment