Complete Communities Housing Solutions

Complete Communities Housing Solutions (CCHS) is an optional affordable housing incentive program aimed at encouraging the building of homes near high-frequency transit. The focus is intended to create a variety of housing options for everyone, particularly those at low and middle-income levels. These incentives include investments in neighborhood amenities, such as pocket parks and plazas, as well as the preservation of existing affordable housing units.

This Information Bulletin is a summary of the Complete Communities Housing Solutions regulations and does not include every requirement or restriction. To view all of the requirements and regulations please see San Diego Municipal Code Chapter 14, Article 3, Division 10.

EDITOR'S NOTE
The regulations and guidelines outlined below are not effective within the Coastal Overlay Zone. The regulations and guidelines outlined below will become effective within the Coastal Overlay Zone when the California Coastal Commission unconditionally certifies Ordinance No. O-21275.

I. COMPLETE COMMUNITIES HOUSING SOLUTIONS: IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

A. Site Eligibility
   To be eligible for the CCHS program, sites must first meet the minimum locational, land use, and density requirements as provided below:
   
   1. Zoning allows for residential or mixed use at a minimum of 20 dwelling units per acre or greater for the entirety of the site and the site is located within a Transit Priority Area (TPA).
   2. Split zoned lots may be eligible if the sum of the number of units permitted in each of the zones based on the area of the premises in each zone totals at least 20 dwelling units per acre.
   3. Cannot be located within Proposition A lands.
   4. Cannot be located within a designated historical district.
   5. Cannot be subject to the Old Town Planned District Ordinance.

B. Program Requirements
   Eligible developments are required to meet the minimum program requirements by providing affordable housing, meeting the design standards, and either constructing a promenade or paying a fee.
   
   1. At least 40 percent of the pre-bonus units must be deed-restricted as affordable in accordance with the proportions outlined below:
      
      a. 15 percent of units not to exceed 30 percent of 50 percent of Area Median Income (AMI).
      b. 15 percent of units not to exceed 30 percent of 120 percent of AMI.
      c. 10 percent of units not to exceed 30 percent of 60 percent of AMI.
   
   2. Total pre-bonus units are calculated based on the zone maximum.
      
      a. Density-based zones will determine the total pre-bonus units by calculating the maximum number of units permitted on their premises under the base zone.
      b. Floor Area Ratio (FAR)-based zones will determine the total pre-bonus units by calculating the number of units proposed under the maximum base FAR.
3. Public Amenities
   a. The Neighborhood Enhancement Fund fee applies and is calculated at a rate of $9.00 per square foot of lot area, or $11.00 per square foot of lot area for projects over 95 feet in height.
   b. A public promenade may be constructed in lieu of the fee for development on premises of 25,000 square feet or greater with at least 200 linear feet of street frontage (Promenade regulations apply).

4. Supplemental Development Regulations
   a. Regulations related to pedestrian circulation apply to all developments.
   b. For development located within Communities of Concern, public workshop requirements apply.
   c. Additional regulations apply for buildings over 95 feet in height or on premises over 20,000 square feet.

C. Program Benefits
   In exchange for meeting the requirements of the program, eligible developments may receive incentives without triggering discretionary action. Incentives include, but are not limited to, the following:
   1. A floor area ratio determined by the Tiers identified in the program.
   2. A waiver of specified regulations including maximum residential density and maximum structure height.
   3. Up to five incentives.
   4. Scaling of Development Impact Fees.

D. Other Requirements - Existing Structures
   Where there is an existing structure on the lot, regulations related to the expansion, demolition or conversion of that structure may apply.
   1. If there is an existing structure on the lot additional gross floor area may be added in accordance with the regulations contained in §143.1002 (c) and (d).
   2. If there are existing occupied or unoccupied residential units on the lot, please see §1143.1005 for replacement requirements.

Reference Table

- San Diego Municipal Code, SDMC Chapter 14, Article 3, Division 10