

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## **REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

DATE ISSUED:	October 1, 2009	REPORT NO. PC-09-074
ATTENTION:	Planning Commission, Agenda of October 8, 2009	
SUBJECT:	HABITERRA - PROJECT NO. 1	36041. PROCESS 5.
OWNER/ APPLICANT:	Marco A. Sanchez and Enrique Salc	edo (Attachment 11)

## **SUMMARY**

<u>Issue(s)</u> - Should the Planning Commission recommend Council approval to demolish an existing house and construct a four unit condominium on a 0.11 acre site at 7460 Herschel Avenue within the La Jolla Community Plan area?

<u>Staff Recommendation</u> - Approve Easement Vacation No. 652678, Tentative Map Waiver No. 477793 and Coastal Development Permit No. 472934.

<u>Community Planning Group Recommendation</u> - On April 7, 2008 the La Jolla Community Planning Association voted 8:0:0 to recommend approval of the proposed project.

<u>Environmental Review</u> - The project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guideline section 15332 as "In-Fill Development." This project is not pending an appeal of the environmental determination. The environmental exemption determination for this project was made on October 9, 2008, and the opportunity to appeal that determination ended October 24, 2008.

<u>Fiscal Impact Statement</u> - No fiscal impact. All costs associated with the processing of the application are recovered through a deposit account funded by the applicant.

Code Enforcement Impact - None with this action.

<u>Housing Impact Statement</u> - The proposed project, located on a 0.11 acre site within the La Jolla Community Planning Area, is designated for Medium High Residential Land Use with a density range of 30-45 dwelling units per acre. Based on this land use designation,



the project site could accommodate five dwelling units. The proposal to demolish one existing residential unit and construct four new residential units is in conformance with that land use designation and density. There would be a gain of three dwelling units on the site. The proposed project would comply with the affordable housing requirements of the City's Inclusionary Affordable Housing Regulations by payment of the Inclusionary Housing In-Lieu Fee.

## **BACKGROUND**

The La Jolla Community Plan designates the site for Medium High Residential land use at a density range of 30-45 dwelling units per acre (Attachment 1). The site is located at 7460 Herschel Avenue in the RM-3-7 Zone within the La Jolla Community Plan area (Attachment 2). The surrounding properties to the west, north, east and south are zoned RM-3-7. The site is presently developed with a single family structure (Attachment 3). All properties adjacent to the site are designated for Medium High Residential land use. Properties to the east and west are developed with medium high density residential while property to the immediate south is developed with a single family residence and property to the north across Pearl Street is developed with professional offices. The dominant land use on Herschel Avenue north and south of Pearl Street is multi-family residential. With the exception of the property immediately west of the site the dominant land use west to Girard Avenue is commercial. The site immediately to the west is developed with apartments.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Project Description**

The project proposes an Easement Vacation, Tentative Map Waiver and Coastal Development Permit to demolish the existing structures, subdivide and develop four residential condominium units with a basement parking garage, site improvements, landscaping and minor improvements in the public right-of-way within the La Jolla Community Plan area (Attachment 4).

The existing drainage easement contains a storm drain which carries storm water runoff from within the neighborhood. The existing drain pipe would be required to be abandoned and a new drain pipe constructed within the public right-of-way of Herschel Avenue. The new storm drain would connect to the existing storm drain in Herschel Avenue and Pearl Street. The vacation of the easement would be conditioned upon the construction and acceptance of the new storm drain by the City Engineer. The easement would not be vacated until the new construction was accepted.

The approval of the proposed Tentative Map Waiver would allow the filing of a Parcel Map to consolidate the existing lots into one lot to create a four unit condominium property (Attachment 5). A waiver from the requirement to underground the existing utilities is also requested. The Deputy City Engineer supports waiving the undergrounding requirement on the basis that the request qualifies under the guidelines of Council Policy No. 600-25 *Underground Conversion of Utility Lines at Developers Expense*. The Deputy City Engineer has determined the conversion would involve a short span of overhead facilities less than a full block in length and that such conversion is not a part of a continuing effort to accomplish a total undergrounding

within a specific street or area. The undergrounding of the existing utilities would be accomplished throughout the neighborhood at a later date.

The Coastal Development Permit would allow the demolition of the existing single family structure and construction of the proposed four unit, three-story condominium structure with a basement parking garage, site improvements, landscaping and minor improvements in the public right-of-way (Attachment 6).

#### General/Community Plan Analysis

The 0.11 acre subject property is designated for Medium High Residential at a density range of 30-45 dwelling units per acre. Based on this land use designation, five dwelling units would be allowed at the project site. The project is proposing four dwelling units. Therefore the proposed density is consistent with the La Jolla Community Plan.

The Residential Element recommends that "in order to regulate the scale of new development, apply development regulations to all residential properties in La Jolla that proportionally relate the building envelope to the existing lot dimensions." The plan also recommends "in order to promote transitions in scale between new and older structures, create visual relief through the use of diagonal or off-setting planes, building articulation, roofline treatment and variations within front yard setback requirements."

The General Plan recommends as one of the goals that infill residential development be "sensitive to the character and quality of existing neighborhoods." The General Plan also recommends locating "buildings on the site so that they reinforce street frontages." The proposed project is an infill project and would contribute to the existing character by retaining the residential use in a predominately residential neighborhood. The General Plan also recommends providing "ground level entries and ensuring that building entries are prominent and visible." The proposed project would contribute to creating a safe neighborhood by locating the front doors and windows on the ground level facing the street.

The proposed project is located on a reasonably level site adjacent to other residential uses. The project would include adequate on-site landscaping and jacaranda trees which is the prevailing street tree currently on Pearl Street. This is consistent with the community plan master street tree list. The building is articulated with off-setting planes to vary the bulk and scale of the massing and steps the corner of the building back from the street intersection. Subterranean parking is proposed to meet all parking requirements. There are no deviations requested with the project proposal. Therefore, the proposed project would not adversely affect the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the La Jolla Community Plan and the General Plan.

#### **Conclusion**

Staff has reviewed the request for an Easement Vacation, Tentative Map Waiver and Coastal Development Permit and all issues identified through the review process have been resolved in conformance with adopted City Council policies and regulations of the Land Development Code. Staff has provided draft findings to support approval of the Easement Vacation, Tentative Map Waiver and Coastal Development Permit (Attachments 7, 8 and 9) and draft conditions of approval (Attachments 8 and 10). Staff recommends the Planning Commission recommend the City Council approve the project as proposed.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

- 1. Approve Easement Vacation No. 652678, Tentative Map Waiver No. 477793 and Coastal Development Permit No. 472934, with modifications.
- 2. Deny Easement Vacation No. 652678, Tentative Map Waiver No. 477793 and Coastal Development Permit No. 472934, if the findings required to approve the project cannot be affirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Westlake Program Manager Development Services Department

### **BROUGHTON:JSF**

Attachments:

- 1. Community Plan Land Use Map
- 2. Aerial Photograph
- 3. Project Location Map
- 4. Project Site Plan
- 5. Tentative Map Waiver
- 6. Project Plans
- 7. Draft Easement Vacation Resolution
- 8. Draft Tentative Map Waiver Resolution with Conditions
- 9. Draft Coastal Development Permit Resolution with Findings
- 10. Draft Coastal Development Permit with Conditions
- 11. Ownership Disclosure Statement
- 12. Community Planning Group Recommendation
- 13. Project Data Sheet
- 14. Project Chronology

John S. Fisher Development Project Manager Development Services Department



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## **Community Plan Land Use Map**

HABITERRA – 7460 HERSCHEL AVENUE

PROJECT NO. 136041 - La Jolla







Aerial Photo HABITERRA – 7460 HERSCHEL AVENUE

**PROJECT NO. 136041** 

N.L. (1
North





## **Project Location Map** <u>HABITERRA – 7460 HERSCHEL AVENUE</u> PROJECT NO. 136041



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# TENTATIVE MAP WAIVER EXHIBIT ATTACHMENT 7953



PR0JECT #136041

LOCATION

ABOVE GROUND

UNDERGROUND

UNDERGROUND

UNDERGROUND

UNDERGROUND

6. TOPOGRAPHY PER VICTOR RODRIGUEZ-FERNANDEZ (SURVEYED 07/01/2007)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

CABLE

UTILITY

**FI FCTRICAI** 

WATER/SEWER

TELEPHONE

GAS

THE NORTHERLY 10 FEET OF THE EASTERLY 80 FEET OF LOT 30 AND THE EASTERLY 80 FEET OF LOTS 31 AND 32, BLOCK 16, CENTER ADDITION TO LA JOLLA PARK, IN THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AS PER MAP NO, 915, FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY ON AUGUST 4, 1904.

ON-SITE UTILITY TABLE



ATTACHMENT

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ATTACHMENT

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