

DATE ISSUED: June 2, 2006 **REPORT NO. PC-06-147**

ATTENTION: **Planning Commission, Agenda of June 8, 2006**

SUBJECT: 4240 FELTON STREET TENTATIVE MAP; PROJECT NO. 88605
PROCESS FOUR

OWNERS: J.A. Hall, LLC (Attachment 8)

APPLICANT: Anthony Taylor Consultants

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the Planning Commission approve a Tentative Map for the conversion of 27 existing residential units to condominiums at 4240 Felton Street, within the City Heights neighborhood of the Mid-City Communities Plan Area?

Staff Recommendation:

1. **Approve** Tentative Map No. 283588 and
2. **Approve** waiver to the requirement to underground existing overhead utilities.

Community Planning Group Recommendation: On March 9, 2006, the City Heights Area Planning Committee voted 12-1-0 to approve the project with recommendations as detailed within this report (Attachment 7).

Environmental Review: This project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(k), Existing Facilities, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This project is not pending an appeal of the environmental determination. The environmental exemption determination for this project was made on November 28, 2005 and the opportunity to appeal that determination ended December 19, 2005. An appeal of this determination was

made by Briggs Law Corporation on December 1, 2005, and subsequently withdrawn on March 16, 2006. Therefore this project can continue through the decision process.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None with this action. All costs associated with the processing of this project are paid by the applicant.

Code Enforcement Impact: None with this action.

Housing Impact Statement: With the proposed conversion of 27 existing apartments to condominiums, there would be a loss of 27 rental units and a gain of 27 for-sale units. This condominium conversion project was deemed complete on November 21, 2005 and is therefore subject to the new regulations regarding Inclusionary housing and tenant relocation assistance.

BACKGROUND

The 050 -acre project site is located at 4240 Felton Street, partially within the RM-1-3 and the CT-2-4 Zones of the Central Urbanized Planned District and the Transit Area Overlay Zone, within the City Heights neighborhood of the Mid-City Communities Plan Area (Attachment 3). The site is presently developed with 3 two story structures containing 12 two bedroom units and 15 one-bedroom units. Twenty-seven off-street parking spaces are provided on the site with 17 accessed from Felton Street at the front and 10 accessed from the alley at the rear. The site is bounded on all sides by multi-family residential uses.

The existing improvements were constructed in 1968. At the time the site was constructed, it was zoned R-4 and would have allowed for 27 dwelling units. The 27 parking spaces provided complied with the parking requirements in effect at the time of construction. The development complied with the zoning and development regulations in effect at the time of construction and no Building or Zoning code violations have been recorded against the property.

The project does not conform with the current maximum density requirement of one unit per 2,000 square feet of lot area, which would allow for 11 units to be constructed today. Under current criteria, 40 off-street parking spaces would be required. The project also has previously-conforming rights to be maintained as outlined in Chapter 12, Article 7, Division 1 of the Land Development Code.

DISCUSSION

Project Description:

The project proposes a Tentative Map for the subdivision of a 050 -acre site to convert 27 existing dwelling units into condominiums on seven existing lots (Attachment 5). The applicant is also requesting that the requirement for the undergrounding of existing overhead utilities be waived.

Section 125.0410 of the San Diego Municipal Code (SDMC) requires that a Tentative Map be

processed for the subdivision of land. According to SDMC Sections 125.0440 and 125.0444, *Findings for Tentative Maps and for Condominium Conversions*, the decisionmaker may approve a Tentative Map for the purposes of the conversion of residential property into a condominium project if the decisionmaker finds that the proposed conversion complies with the requirements of the Subdivision Map Act and the San Diego Municipal Code. Staff has reviewed the proposed condominium conversion and determined that it complies with both the Subdivision Map Act and the San Diego Municipal Code.

Undergrounding of Existing Utilities

San Diego Municipal Code Section 144.0240 allows the subdivider to apply for a waiver from the requirement to underground the existing overhead utilities within the boundary of the subdivision or within the abutting public rights of way. City staff has determined the undergrounding waiver request qualifies under the guidelines of Council Policy 600-25, *Underground Conversion of Utility Lines at the Developer's Expense*, in that the conversion involves a short span of overhead facility (less than 600 feet in length).

The applicant will be required to underground all existing service to the site per Condition No. 21 of the draft Tentative Map resolution (Attachment 6). The applicant would also be required to underground any new service run to any new or proposed structures within the subdivision per Condition No. 4 of the draft Tentative Map resolution (Attachment 6).

The neighborhood currently contains power poles and overhead utilities lines running north and south along the alley, which serve the subject property as well as adjacent properties in the neighborhood. The pole closest to this property, which carries the line serving this site, is located on the opposite side of the alley. As indicated above, all utilities serving this property will be required to be undergrounded. The waiver is being requested for the requirement to underground adjacent utilities serving the surrounding properties. The City's Undergrounding Master Plan for Fiscal Year 2006 designates the site within Block 30, and the date for undergrounding needs to be determined by the City Council. (Attachment 10).

Community Planning Group and Neighborhood Recommendations:

On March 9, 2006, the City Heights Area Planning Committee voted 12-1-0 to approve the project with the following recommendations. (Attachment 7).

1. No waiver or exemption from state and local requirements that existing utility services for this property be placed underground be granted. *Based on the preceding information regarding the undergrounding of the existing utilities, staff continues to support the undergrounding waiver request.*
2. Installation of motion sensitive alley flood lighting. *The applicant has voluntarily agreed to install motion sensitive lighting in the alley.*
3. Installation of the street address at the rear of all buildings, in large numbers. *The*

applicant has voluntarily agreed to install the street address at the rear of all buildings, in large numbers.

4. Place inclusionary housing requirements on site instead of paying the in-lieu fee. *The applicant has chosen to meet the inclusionary housing ordinance requirements by paying the in lieu fee, as allowed within the regulations.*

Project-Related Issues:

The requested conversion of these residential units to condominiums represents primarily a change in ownership. The applicant has certified that the required 60-day Notices of Intent to Convert to Condominiums were provided to the tenants on June 2, 2005 (Attachment 11).

All condominium conversion projects Deemed Complete on or after February 7, 2004, must conform with the new regulations regarding Inclusionary housing and tenant relocation benefits adopted by the City Council on March 15, 2004. This proposed project was Deemed Complete on November 21, 2005, and is therefore subject to these new regulations. The project has been conditioned to require the subdivider conform with the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 13 of the Land Development Code) and demonstrate conformance with the Municipal Code provisions for Tenant Relocation Benefits (Chapter 14, Article 4, Division 5) to the satisfaction of the City Manager and the Housing Commission, prior to the recordation of the Final Map.

The applicant has elected to pay an in-lieu fee of \$46,725 (18,000 square feet x \$2.50) to satisfy the Inclusionary Housing requirement, as allowed by the City's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance (Chapter 14, Article 2, Division 13 of the Land Development Code).

Conclusion:

Staff has reviewed the request for a Tentative Map for the conversion of 27 residential units into condominiums and has found the project to be in conformance with the applicable sections of the San Diego Municipal Code regulating Tentative Maps. Staff believes the requirement findings can be supported and recommends the Planning Commission approve the project as proposed.

ALTERNATIVES

1. **Approve Tentative Map No. 283588 with modifications.**
2. **Deny Tentative Map No. 283588 if the findings required to approve the project cannot be affirmed.**

Respectfully submitted,

**Mike Westlake
Program Manager
Development Services Department**

**Michelle Sokolowski
Development Project Manager
Development Services Department**

WESTLAKE/MS

Attachments:

1. Aerial Photograph
2. Community Plan Land Use Map
3. Project Location Map
4. Project Data Sheet
5. Tentative Map
6. Draft Map Conditions and Subdivision Resolution
7. Community Planning Group Recommendation
8. Ownership Disclosure Statement
9. Project Chronology
10. City's Undergrounding Master Plan – Map 3O
11. Sample of 60-Day Notice of Intent to Convert
12. Photos of Existing Front and Rear Elevations