



LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

200 North Spring Street, Room 272, Los Angeles, California, 90012-4801, (213) 978-1300
www.planning.lacity.org

LETTER OF DETERMINATION

MAILING DATE: OCTOBER 19, 2023

Case No. DIR-2023-1240-TOC-VHCA-1A
CEQA: ENV-2023-1241-CE
Plan Area: Palms – Mar Vista – Del Rey

Council District: 5 – Yaroslavsky

Project Site: 3751 South Delmas Terrace

Applicant: Jason Grant, Local Development

Appellant: Tiffany Bradshaw, Residents of Delmas Terrace

At its meeting of **October 12, 2023**, the Los Angeles City Planning Commission took the actions below in conjunction with the approval of the following Project:

Construction, use, and maintenance of a new, six-story, 19,384 square-foot residential building with 17 dwelling units, including two dwelling units set aside for affordable housing (or 10 percent of the proposed density) and reserved for Extremely Low Income (ELI) Households. The building will be constructed with five residential levels above one ground floor level of residential lobby and parking and one subterranean level of parking. The Project will provide a total of 14 automobile parking spaces, and 17 long-term and two short-term bicycle parking spaces.

1. **Determined**, based on the whole of the administrative record, that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Section 15332, Class 32, and there is no substantial evidence demonstrating that an exception to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 applies;
2. **Denied** the appeals and **sustained** the Planning Director's Determination dated June 16, 2023;
3. **Approved** with Conditions, pursuant to Section 12.22 A.31 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC), a 70 percent increase in density, consistent with the provisions of the Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Affordable Housing Incentive Program along with the following three incentives for a qualifying Tier 3 project totaling 17 dwelling units, reserving two units for Extremely Low Income (ELI) Household occupancy for a period of 55 years:
 - a. Setbacks (Side Yards). To permit up to a 30 percent decrease in the required width or depth of two individual side yards or setbacks;
 - b. Setbacks (Rear Yard). To permit up to a 30 percent decrease in the required width or depth of the rear yard; and
 - c. Height. To permit an increase in height of two additional stories up to 22 additional feet;
4. **Adopted** the attached Conditions of Approval; and
5. **Adopted** the attached Findings.

The vote proceeded as follows:

Moved: Gold
Second: Zamora
Ayes: Leung, Mack, Millman
Absent: Cabildo, Choe, Lawshe, Noonan

Vote: 5 – 0



Cecilia Lamas, Commission Executive Assistant II
Los Angeles City Planning Commission

Fiscal Impact Statement: There is no General Fund impact as administrative costs are recovered through fees.

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.

Attachments: Conditions of Approval, Findings, Appeal Filing Procedure (CEQA)

c: Heather Bleemers, Senior City Planner
Esther Ahn, City Planner

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

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. **Expiration.** In the event that this grant is not utilized within three years of its effective date (the day following the last day that an appeal may be filed), the grant shall be considered null and void. Issuance of a building permit, and the initiation of, and diligent continuation of, construction activity shall constitute utilization for the purposes of this grant.
22. **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.
23. **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 of, 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. Pursuant to Section 12.22 A.25(g)(2)(i)(c) of the LAMC and Section 65915(3) of the California Government Code, the Director shall approve a density bonus and requested incentive(s) unless the director finds that.

- a. *The incentives do not result in identifiable and actual cost reductions 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 a percent gross income based on area median income thresholds dependent on affordability levels. There was no substantial evidence in the record 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 to reduce the required width or depth of two (2) individual side yards or setbacks, the required width or depth of the rear yard, and increase of two (2) additional stories up to 22 additional feet in height for a Tier 3 project pursuant to the TOC Guidelines 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.

Side Yard Setbacks. The requested use of a 30 percent reduction in two (2) individual side yards is expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. Eligible Housing Developments located in a residential zone may utilize up to a 30 percent decrease in the side yard requirements. The Menu of Incentives allows for the reduction in two (2) individual side yard or setback to count as one (1) incentive for a project located in a Tier 3 TOC area. The project is requesting the reduction of two (2) side yards as one (1) incentive. In this case, the project would be required to provide side yards conforming to the requirements of the R3 Zone, which includes nine-foot side yards. The project as proposed, will provide six-foot four-inches side yards.

Rear Yard Setbacks. The requested use of a 30 percent reduction in the rear yard is

expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. Eligible Housing Developments located in a residential zone may utilize up to a 30 percent decrease in the rear yard requirements. The project is requesting one (1) incentive. In this case, the project would be required to provide rear yard conforming to the requirements of the R3 Zone, which includes an 15-foot rear yard. The project as proposed, will provide a 11-foot nine-inches rear yard.

Height. The requested use of up to two (2) additional stories and a 22-foot increase height is expressed in the Menu of Incentives in the Transit Oriented Communities Guidelines. Eligible Housing Developments located in a residential zone may utilize up to two (2) additional stories and a 22-foot increase in height. In this case, the project would be required to provide unlimited stories and a maximum of 45 feet in height. The project as proposed, will provide six (6) stories and a maximum height of 67 feet.

- b. *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 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.

- c. *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

2. 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 located outside of a flood zone.

3. It has been determined based on the whole of the administrative record that the project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15332 (Class 32), and there is no substantial evidence demonstrating that an exception to a categorical exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, applies.

The proposed project qualifies for a Class 32 Categorical Exemption because it conforms to the definition of "In-fill Projects". The project can be characterized as in-fill development within urban areas for the purpose of qualifying for Class 32 Categorical Exemption as a result of meeting five established conditions and if it is not subject to an Exception that would disqualify it. The Categorical Exception document prepared by Department of City Planning and attached to the subject case file provides the full analysis and justification for project conformance with the definition of a Class 32 Categorical Exemption.



LOS ANGELES CITY PLANNING APPEAL FILING PROCEDURES

Entitlement and CEQA appeals may be filed using either the Online Application System (OAS) or in person Drop Off at DSC (Development Services Center).

Online Application System: The OAS (<https://planning.lacity.org/oas>) allows appeals to be submitted entirely electronically online; fee payment is by credit card or e-check.

Drop off at DSC: Appeals of this determination can be submitted in person at the Metro or Van Nuys DSC locations, and payment can be made by credit card or check. City Planning has established drop-off areas at the DSCs with physical boxes where appellants can drop off appeal applications; alternatively, appeal applications can be filed with staff at DSC public counters. Appeal applications must be on the prescribed forms, and accompanied by the required fee and a copy of the determination letter. Appeal applications shall be received by the DSC public counter and paid for on or before the above date or the appeal will not be accepted.

Forms are available online at <http://planning.lacity.org/development-services/forms>. Public offices are located at:

Metro DSC

(213) 482-7077
201 N. Figueroa Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Van Nuys DSC

(818) 374-5050
6262 Van Nuys Boulevard
Van Nuys, CA 91401

West Los Angeles DSC

(CURRENTLY CLOSED)
(310) 231-2901
1828 Sawtelle Boulevard
West Los Angeles, CA 90025

City Planning staff may follow up with the appellant via email and/or phone if there are any questions or missing materials in the appeal submission, to ensure that the appeal package is complete and meets the applicable Los Angeles Municipal Code provisions.

An appeal application must be submitted and paid for before 4:30 PM (PST) on the final day to appeal the determination. Should the final day fall on a weekend or legal City holiday, the time for filing an appeal shall be extended to 4:30 PM (PST) on the next succeeding working day. Appeals should be filed early to ensure that DSC staff members have adequate time to review and accept the documents, and to allow appellants time to submit payment.



QR Code to Online
Appeal Filing



QR Code to Forms
for In-Person Filing

Online Appeal Filing

QR Code to Forms for In-
Person Appeal Filing

QR Code to BuildLA
Appointment Portal for
Condition Clearance

Only an applicant or any owner or tenant of a property abutting, across the street or alley from, or having a common corner with the subject property can appeal this Transit Oriented Communities/Density Bonus Compliance Review Determination. Per the Density Bonus Provision of State Law (Government Code Section 65915), the Density Bonus increase in units above the base density limits per the underlying zone(s) and the appurtenant parking reductions are not a discretionary action and therefore cannot be appealed. Only the requested incentives are appealable. Per LAMC Sections 12.22 A.25 and 12.22 A.31, appeals of Density Bonus Compliance Review and Transit Oriented Communities cases with the Director of Planning or Zoning Administrator as the initial decision maker are heard by the City Planning Commission.

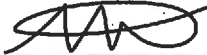
Vincent P. Bertoni, AICP
Director of Planning

Approved by:



Heather Bleemers, Senior City Planner

Prepared by:



Michelle Carter, City Planner
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