

#### CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

South Coast Area Office O Oceangate, Suite 1000 ng Beach, CA 90802-4302 (562) 590-5071

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December 22, 2000 May 2, 2001

Staff:

KT-LB

Staff Report: December 18, 2000 Hearing Date: January 9-12, 2001

Commission Action:

### RECORD PACKET COPY

Item Th 8i

STAFF REPORT: REGULAR CALENDAR

**APPLICATION NUMBER: 5-00-448** 

APPLICANT:

**Dennis Moloney** 

AGENT:

Srour & Associates, Attn: Elizabeth Srour

**PROJECT LOCATION:** 

3423 Hermosa Avenue, City of Hermosa Beach

(Los Angeles County)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Demolition of an existing 75 year old single family residence and construction of a three-floor (including semi-subterranean first floor), 25-foot high, 3,746 square foot single family residence with a 410 square foot attached two-car garage and one unenclosed guest parking space, on a 2,736 square foot R1 zoned lot.

> Lot Area **Building Coverage** Pavement Coverage Landscape Coverage

2,736 square feet 1,500 square feet 970 square feet 266 square feet

**Parking Spaces** 

Zoning

R1

Plan Designation

Low Density Residential

Ht above final grade

25 feet

#### SUBSTANTIVE FILE DOCUMENTS:

- City of Hermosa Beach Land Use Plan certified 4/21/82.
- 2. City of Hermosa Beach, Approval in Concept, 11/2/2000.
- 3. Coastal Development Permits 5-00-059 (Danner), 5-00-086 (Wells), 5-00-114 (Heuer) and 5-00-271 (Darcy).
- 4. Wave Runup Study, 3423 The Strand, Hermosa Beach, CA prepared by Skelly Engineering dated November 2000.

#### **SUMMARY OF STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff is recommending <u>APPROVAL</u> of the proposed project subject to two (2) special conditions requiring recordation of an "Assumption of Risk" deed restriction and a "No Future Protective Device" deed restriction. The major issue of this staff report concerns beachfront development that could be affected by flooding during strong storm events. As of the date of this staff report, the applicant agrees with the staff recommendation.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The staff recommends that the Commission **APPROVE** the following resolution with special conditions.

#### **Motion:**

I move that the Commission approve CDP No. 5-00-448 pursuant to the staff recommendation.

Staff Recommends a <u>YES</u> vote. Passage of this motion will result in adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

#### I. APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

The Commission hereby **GRANTS**, subject to the conditions below, a permit for the proposed development on the grounds that the development, as conditioned, will be in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the California Coastal Act of 1976, will not prejudice the ability of the local government having jurisdiction over the area to prepare a Local Coastal Program conforming to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, is located between the sea and first public road nearest the shoreline and is in conformance with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, and will not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act.

#### II. STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment. The permit is not valid and development shall not commence until a copy of the permit, signed by the permittee or authorized agent, acknowledging receipt of the permit and acceptance of the terms and conditions, is returned to the Commission office.

- 2. <u>Expiration</u>. If development has not commenced, the permit will expire two years from the date this permit is reported to the Commission. Development shall be pursued in a diligent manner and completed in a reasonable period of time. Application for extension of the permit must be made prior to the expiration date.
- 3. <u>Interpretation</u>. Any questions of intent or interpretation of any condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.
- 4. <u>Assignment</u>. The permit may be assigned to any qualified person, provided assignee files with the Commission an affidavit accepting all terms and conditions of the permit.
- Terms and Conditions Run with the Land. These terms and conditions shall be perpetual, and it is the intention of the Commission and the permittee to bind all future owners and possessors of the subject property to the terms and conditions

#### III. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

#### 1. Assumption of Risk

- A. By acceptance of this permit, the applicant acknowledges and agrees (i) that the site may be subject to wave up-rush and flooding; (ii) to assume the risks to the applicant and the property that is the subject of this permit of injury and damage from such hazards in connection with this permitted development; (iii) to unconditionally waive any claim of damage or liability against the Commission, its officers, agents, and employees for injury or damage from such hazards; and (iv) to indemnify and hold harmless the Commission, its officers, agents, and employees with respect to the Commission's approval of the project against any and all liability, claims, demands, damages, costs (including costs and fees incurred in defense of such claims), expenses, and amounts paid in settlement arising from any injury or damage due to such hazards.
- B. PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the applicant shall execute and record a deed restriction in a form and content acceptable to the Executive Director, which reflects the above restriction on development. The deed restriction shall include a legal description of the applicant's entire parcel. The deed restriction shall run with the land, binding all successors and assigns, and shall be recorded free of prior liens that the Executive Director determines may affect the enforceability of the restriction. This deed restriction shall not be removed or changed without a Commission amendment to this coastal development permit.

#### 2. No Future Shoreline Protective Device

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- A. By acceptance of this permit, the applicant agrees, on behalf of himself and all other successors and assigns, that no shoreline protective device(s) shall ever be constructed to protect the subject property approved pursuant to Coastal Development Permit No. 5-00-448, including future improvements, in the event that the property is threatened with damage or destruction from waves, erosion, storm conditions or other natural hazards in the future. By acceptance of this permit, the applicant hereby waives, on behalf of himself and all successors and assigns, any rights to construct such devices that may exist under Public Resources Code Section 30235.
- B. PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the applicant shall execute and record a deed restriction in a form and content acceptable to the Executive Director, which reflects the above restriction on development. The deed restriction shall include a legal description of the applicant's entire parcel. The deed restriction shall run with the land, binding all successors and assigns, and shall be recorded free of prior liens that the Executive Director determines may affect the enforceability of the restriction. This deed restriction shall not be removed or changed without a Commission amendment to this coastal development permit.

#### 3. Condition Compliance

Within 180 days of Commission action on this Coastal Development Permit application, or within such additional time as the Executive Director may grant for good cause, the applicant shall satisfy all requirements specified in the conditions hereto that the applicant is required to satisfy prior to issuance of this permit. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the institution of enforcement action under the provisions of Chapter 9 of the Coastal Act.

#### 4. Height

No portion of the proposed structure shall exceed 25 feet in elevation above the existing grade.

#### 5. Parking

A minimum of three parking spaces shall be provided and maintained on the site to serve the approved single family residence.

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#### IV. Findings and Declarations

The Commission hereby finds and declares:

#### A. Project Description

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The subject site is located at 3423 Hermosa Avenue within the City of Hermosa Beach, Los Angeles County (Exhibit #1). The site is a beachfront lot located between the first public road and the sea. The 2,736 square foot lot is located on the inland side of The Strand, an improved public right-of way that separates the residential development from the public beach (Exhibit #2), and is on the seaward side of Hermosa Avenue. The Strand is used by both residents and visitors for recreation activities (walking, jogging, biking, etc.) and access to the shoreline. It extends for approximately 10 miles, from 45th Street (the border between El Segundo and Manhattan Beach) to Herondo Street (the border between Hermosa Beach and Redondo Beach) (Exhibit #3). The project is located within an existing urban residential area, located approximately one-half mile north of the Hermosa Beach Pier. There is an approximately 300-foot wide sandy beach between the subject property and the mean high tide line (Exhibit #4). Vertical public access to this beach is available to pedestrians via public right-of-way at the western ends of 34th Place and 35th Street, approximately 200 feet south and 125 feet north of the project site, respectively (Exhibit #2).

The applicant is proposing demolition of an existing single family residence and construction of a three-floor (including semi-subterranean first floor), 25-foot high single family residence with 3,545 square feet of living space (Exhibit #5, pp. 1-4). On-site parking for the proposed single family residence will be provided by a two-car garage located on the second floor and an open guest parking space on the driveway apron, with vehicular access from Hermosa Avenue (Exhibit #5, p.1). The applicant proposes to construct the residence and guest parking space on a 2,736 square foot R1 zoned lot in Hermosa Beach. Two hundred twenty cubic yards of grading is proposed to allow construction of the semi-subterranean first floor near the eastern end of the lot (Exhibit #6). The soil will be cut from the site and exported to Redondo Beach Disposal Site. No encroachment into City property is proposed.

The applicant demolished the existing structure and graded the lot prior to approval and issuance of a Coastal Development Permit from the Commission. Before the demolition, the Senior Building Inspector of the City of Hermosa Beach Community Development Department determined that it was appropriate to demolish the existing structure (Exhibit #7).

#### B. PREVIOUS COMMISSION ACTION IN PROJECT AREA

The Commission has recently approved new development and residential renovation projects on beachfront lots in Orange County and southern Los Angeles County with

special conditions requiring the recordation of an "Assumption of Risk" deed restriction and "No Future Shoreline Protective Device" deed restriction. Recent projects similar to the currently proposed development in Hermosa Beach include Coastal Development Permits 5-00-059 (Danner), 5-00-086 (Wells), 5-00-114 (Heuer) and 5-00-271 (Darcy). Projects throughout Hermosa Beach are used for comparative purposes in the current situation because of the consistent site characteristics, including the wide sandy beach and improved public right-of way between the subject site and the mean high tide line.

#### C. HAZARDS

Section 30253 of the Coastal Act states, in part:

New development shall:

- (1) Minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazard.
- (2) Assure stability and structural integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs.

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states that:

The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas, and, where feasible, to restore and enhance visual quality in visually degraded areas. New development in highly scenic areas such as those designated in the California Coastline Preservation and Recreation Plan prepared by the Department of Parks and Recreation and by local government shall be subordinate to the character of its setting.

#### 1. Wave Runup and Flooding Hazards

The subject property is on a parcel of shoreline located at the southern portion of Hermosa Beach, which is at the southern end of the Santa Monica Littoral Cell. The lot is fronted by The Strand, a coastal pedestrian right-of-way, which is adjacent to a wide sandy beach (Exhibit #4). This approximately 300-foot wide sandy beach presently provides homes and other structures in the area a measure of protection from wave runup and flooding hazards, however beach erosion is seasonal and is

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subject to extreme storm events that may expose the project to wave runup and subsequent flood damage.

Section 30253 (1) states that new development shall minimize risks to life and property in areas of high geologic, flood, and fire hazard. Since any development on a beachfront site may be subject to flooding and wave attack, the Commission requires wave runup studies for beachfront development to assess the potential hazard from wave attack, flooding and erosion. Commission staff has consistently requested that the wave runup, flooding, and erosion hazard analyses anticipate wave and sea level conditions (and associated wave runup, flooding, and erosion hazards) through the life of the development. For a 75 to 100 year structural life, that would be taking the 1982/83 storm conditions (or 1988 conditions) and adding in 2 to 3 feet of sea level rise. The purpose of this analysis is to determine how high any future storm damage may be so the hazards can be anticipated and so that mitigation measures can be incorporated into the project design.

The applicant provided a Wave Runup Study for the subject property, as is consistently required by the Commission for shoreline development in southern Los Angeles County and Orange County. The Wave Runup Study was prepared by Skelly Engineering and is dated November 2000. Based on the conclusion of the Wave Runup Study done for the property, the proposed development is not anticipated to be subject to hazards from flooding and wave runup during the life of the development (Exhibit #8, p.2).

The shoreline has experienced some erosion despite efforts to control the movement of sand. Skelly Engineering assessed a conservative estimate of the rate of shoreline erosion on the order of one half foot per year. The sandy beach, which is normally over 300 feet wide, west of The Strand provides more than adequate protection to the property. Additionally, "the King Harbor breakwater to south of the site acts as a littoral barrier which helps to stabilize the shoreline in front of the subject property" (Exhibit #8, p.1).

According to the consultant, the subject site is on shoreline located at the southern end of the Santa Monica Littoral Cell. The Wave Runup Study states:

"A littoral cell is a coastal compartment that contains a complete cycle of littoral sedimentation including sources, transport pathways and sediment sinks. The Santa Monica Littoral Cell extends from Point Dume to Palos Verdes Point, a distance of 40 miles. Most of the shoreline in this littoral cell has been essentially stabilized by man. The local beaches were primarily made by man through nourishment as a result of major shoreline civil works projects (Hyperion Treatment Plant, Marina Del Rey, King Harbor, etc.). The up-coast and down-coast movement of sand along the shoreline is mostly controlled by groins, breakwaters and jetties and is

generally to the south. A major sink for the beach sands is the Redondo Submarine Canyon located at the entrance to King Harbor.

Prior to the construction of most of the shoreline stabilization structures near the site the Mean High Tide (MHT) line in November 1935 was about 100 feet from the western property line. The MHT line is now about 300 feet from the western property line" (Exhibit #8, p.1).

There is currently a wide sandy beach in front of the proposed development (Exhibit #4). In addition, the existing development was not adversely affected by the severe storm activities which occurred during the El Niño winter of 1982-83 and the "400 year" wave event of January 18, 1988 (Exhibit #9). Since the proposed development is no further seaward of existing development, which has escaped storm damage during severe storm events, the proposed development is not anticipated to be subject to wave hazard related damage. Nonetheless, any development on a beachfront site may be subject to future flooding and wave attack as coastal conditions (such as sand supply and sea level) change.

The wave runup report concludes the following:

"Wave runup and overtopping will not impact the property over the life of the proposed improvement. The proposed development and existing development will neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or adjacent area. There are no recommendations necessary for wave runup protection. The proposed project minimizes risks from flooding" (Exhibit #8, p.2).

The Commission's Senior Coastal Engineer reviewed Wave Runup Studies for several similar projects on The Strand in Hermosa Beach and, based on the information provided and subsequent correspondence, concurred with the conclusion of the studies that the sites were not subject to hazards from flooding and wave runup. The Commission's Senior Coastal Engineer concurred with the same conclusion found in the Wave Runup Study for 3423 Hermosa Avenue. The proposed development, therefore, can be allowed under Section 30253 of the Coastal Act, which requires new development to "assure stability and structural integrity, and neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area or in any way require the construction of protective devices..."

Although the applicant's report indicates that the site is safe for development at this time, beach areas are dynamic environments, which may be subject to unforeseen changes. Such changes may affect beach processes, including sand regimes. The mechanisms of sand replenishment are complex and may change over time, especially as beach process altering structures, such as jetties, are modified, either through damage or deliberate design. Therefore, the presence of a wide sandy beach at this time does not preclude wave runup damage and flooding from occurring at the subject

site in the future. The width of the beach may change, perhaps in combination with a strong storm event like those which occurred in 1983 and 1988, resulting in future wave and flood damage to the proposed development.

Given that the applicant has chosen to implement the project despite potential risks from wave attack, erosion, or flooding, the applicant must assume the risks. Therefore, the Commission imposes Special Condition 1 for an "Assumption of Risk" agreement. In this way, the applicant is notified that the Commission is not liable for damage as a result of approving the permit for development. The condition also requires the applicant to indemnify the Commission in the event that third parties bring an action against the Commission as a result of the failure of the development to withstand the hazards. In addition, the condition ensures that future owners of the property will be informed of the risks and the Commission's immunity from liability. As conditioned, the Commission finds the proposed project is consistent with Section 30253 of the Coastal Act.

#### 2. No Future Shoreline Protective Device

The Coastal Act limits construction of protective devices because they have a variety of negative impacts on coastal resources, including adverse effects on sand supply, public access, coastal views, natural landforms, and overall shoreline beach dynamics on and off site, ultimately resulting in the loss of beach. Under Coastal Act Section 30235, a shoreline protective structure must be approved if: (1) there is an existing principal structure in imminent danger from erosion; (2) shoreline altering construction is required to protect the existing threatened structure; and (3) the required protection is designed to eliminate or mitigate the adverse impacts on shoreline sand supply.

The Commission has generally interpreted Section 30235 to require the Commission to approve shoreline protection for development only for existing principal structures. The construction of a shoreline protective device to protect new development would not be required by Section 30235 of the Coastal Act. The proposed project involves the construction of a new single family residence. In addition, allowing the construction of a shoreline protective device to protect new development would conflict with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act, which states that permitted development shall minimize the alteration of natural land forms, including beaches which would be subject to increased erosion from such a device.

In the case of the current project, the applicant does not propose the construction of any shoreline protective device to protect the proposed development. It is not possible to completely predict what conditions the proposed structure may be subject to in the future. Consequently, it is conceivable the proposed structure may be subject to wave runup hazards that could lead to a request for a protective device.

Shoreline protective devices can result in a number of adverse effects on the dynamic shoreline system and the public's beach ownership interests. First, shoreline

protective devices can cause changes in the shoreline profile, particularly changes in the slope of the profile resulting from a reduced beach berm width. This may alter the usable area under public ownership. A beach that rests either temporarily or permanently at a steeper angle than under natural conditions will have less horizontal distance between the mean low water and mean high water lines. This reduces the actual area in which the public can pass on public property.

The second effect of a shoreline protective device on access is through a progressive loss of sand as shore material is not available to nourish the bar. The lack of an effective bar can allow such high wave energy on the shoreline that materials may be lost far offshore where it is no longer available to nourish the beach. A loss of area between the mean high water line and the actual water is a significant adverse impact on public access to the beach.

Third, shoreline protective devices such as revetments and bulkheads cumulatively affect shoreline sand supply and public access by causing accelerated and increased erosion on adjacent public beaches. This effect may not become clear until such devices are constructed individually along a shoreline and they reach a public beach. As set forth in earlier discussion, Hermosa Beach is currently characterized as having a wide sandy beach (Exhibit #4). However, the width of the beach can vary, as demonstrated by severe storm events. The Commission notes that if a seasonal eroded beach condition occurs with greater frequency due to the placement of a shoreline protective device on the subject site, then the subject beach would also accrete at a slower rate. The Commission also notes that many studies performed on both oscillating and eroding beaches have concluded that loss of beach occurs on both types of beaches where a shoreline protective device exists.

Fourth, if not sited in a landward location that ensures that the seawall is only acted upon during severe storm events, beach scour during the winter season will be accelerated because there is less beach area to dissipate the wave's energy. Finally, revetments, bulkheads, and seawalls interfere directly with public access by their occupation of beach area that will not only be unavailable during high tide and severe storm events, but also potentially throughout the winter season.

Section 30253 (2) of the Coastal Act states that new development shall neither create nor contribute to erosion or geologic instability of the project site or surrounding area. Therefore, if the proposed structure requires a protective device in the future it would be inconsistent with Section 30253 of the Coastal Act because such devices contribute to beach erosion.

In addition, the construction of a shoreline protective device to protect new development would also conflict with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act. Section 30251 states that permitted development shall minimize the alteration of natural land forms, including sandy beach areas, which would be subject to increased erosion from shoreline protective devices. The development is not subject to wave runup and

flooding. Based on the information provided by the applicant, no mitigation measures, such as a seawall, are anticipated to be needed in the future. The coastal processes and physical conditions are such at this site that the project is not expected to engender the need for a seawall to protect the proposed development. There currently is a wide sandy beach in front of the proposed development that provides substantial protection from wave activity.

To further ensure that the proposed project is consistent with Sections 30251 and 30253 of the Coastal Act, and to ensure that the proposed project does not result in future adverse effects to coastal processes, the Commission imposes Special Condition 2. Special Condition 2 requires the applicant to record a deed restriction that would prohibit the applicant, or future land owner, from constructing a shoreline protective device for the purpose of protecting any of the development proposed as part of this application. This condition is necessary because it is impossible to completely predict what conditions the proposed structure may be subject to in the future.

The Commission has required deed restrictions that prohibit construction of shoreline protective devices for new development on beachfront lots throughout southern Los Angeles County and Orange County. The "No Future Shoreline Protective Device" condition is consistent with prior Commission actions for development along Hermosa Beach. For instance, the Commission approved Coastal Development Permits 5-00-059 (Danner), 5-00-086 (Wells) and 5-00-114 (Heuer) with the "No Future Shoreline Protective Device" condition.

By receiving recordation of a deed restriction agreeing that no shoreline protective devices shall ever be constructed to protect the development approved by this permit, the Commission makes it clear that it's approval is based on the understanding the house will be safe from potential wave runup and flooding damage. Based on Special Condition 2, the Commission also requires that the applicant remove the structure if any government agency has ordered that the structure be removed due to wave runup and flooding hazards. In addition, in the event that portions of the development are destroyed on the beach before they are removed, the landowner shall remove all recoverable debris associated with the development from the beach and ocean and lawfully dispose of the material in an approved disposal site. Such removal shall require a coastal development permit.

As conditioned, the Commission finds that the proposed project is consistent with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act, which requires that permitted development shall minimize the alteration of natural land forms, and Section 30253, which requires that geologic and flood hazards be minimized, and that stability and structural integrity be assured.

#### 3. Conclusion

The Commission finds that hazards potentially exist from wave runup and flooding at the subject site. Therefore, to ensure that the proposed project is consistent with Sections 30251 and 30253 of the Coastal Act and to ensure that the proposed project does not result in future adverse effects to coastal processes, Special Conditions 1 and 2 require the applicant to record "Assumption of Risk" and "No Future Shoreline Protective Device" deed restrictions. The applicant agrees with the staff recommendation and accepts the conditions. As conditioned, the Commission finds that the proposed project is consistent with Coastal Act Sections 30251 and 30253.

#### D. COMMUNITY CHARACTER/VISUAL QUALITY

Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states:

The scenic and visual qualities of coastal areas shall be considered and protected as a resource of public importance. Permitted development shall be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean and scenic coastal areas, to minimize the alteration of natural land forms, to be visually compatible with the character of surrounding areas....

This section of Hermosa Avenue, paralleling The Strand, includes one, two, and three floor single family residences and some older duplexes. The Strand is a heavily used pedestrian path used for walking, jogging, biking and inline skating. The Commission and the City have found that the moderate heights enhance the recreational experience. The majority of these structures do not exceed 25 feet in height. Allowing building heights above the 25-foot limit would serve to negatively impact coastal views and the character of the surrounding community. In order to protect community character and visual quality, Special Condition 4 limits the development at a maximum of 25 feet above the existing grade interpolated by the City of Hermosa Beach Planning Department. This height is consistent with the general height of the area.

The proposed project has a roof height of 25 feet above the existing grade (Exhibit #5, p.4), as interpolated by the City of Hermosa Beach Planning Department. Therefore, the proposed single family residence complies with the 25-foot height limit in the City of Hermosa Beach proposed revision to the Certified LCP and previous Commission approvals. The scenic and visual qualities of the area will not be negatively impacted by the proposed structure. In order to ensure that the proposed project is constructed as approved, the approval is conditioned to limit the roof height to 25 feet. No portion of the structure shall exceed 25 feet in elevation above the grade interpolated by the City of Hermosa Beach Planning Department unless approved by an amendment to this coastal development permit. Only as conditioned is the proposed project consistent with the Coastal Act's visual resource policies.

#### E. PUBLIC ACCESS/PARKING

As described above, The Strand and the adjacent beaches are a public recreational resource. The walkways provide an urban recreational experience popular throughout the Los Angeles area. The Commission has imposed Special Condition 5 to protect the quality of that recreational experience. The Commission has consistently found that a direct relationship exists between residential density, the provision of adequate parking, and the availability of public access to the coast.

Section 30252 of the Coastal Act states, in part:

The location and amount of new development should maintain and enhance public access to the coast by... (4) providing adequate parking facilities....

Many of the older developments in Hermosa Beach do not provide adequate on-site parking. As a result, many residents and guests park on the surrounding streets, where there is a parking shortage, and has negatively impacted public access to the beach. Visitors to the beach use these streets for parking. Residents of the area and their guests are using the small amount of parking that may be available for the general public on the surrounding streets.

To assure the development has adequate parking for the owners' uses, Special Condition 5 is imposed to provide for three on-site parking spaces. In this case, the proposed project provides a two-car garage and a six foot rear setback with an extended driveway apron adjacent to the garage for guest parking (Exhibit #5, p.1). Therefore, the proposed project provides an adequate parking supply for the proposed single family residence. The proposed project is consistent with prior Commission decisions for Hermosa Beach that required two parking spaces per residential unit and provisions for guest parking. The Commission finds that, only as conditioned to maintain the proposed three on-site parking spaces, is the proposed project consistent with Section 30252 of the Coastal Act.

#### F. LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM

Section 30604(a) of the Coastal Act provides that the Commission shall issue a coastal development permit only if the project will not prejudice the ability of the local government having jurisdiction to prepare a Local Coastal Program which conforms with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act:

(a) Prior to certification of the Local Coastal Program, a coastal development permit shall be issued if the issuing agency, or the commission on appeal, finds that the proposed development is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) of this division and that the permitted development will not prejudice the ability of the local

government to prepare a Local Coastal Program that is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200). A denial of a Coastal Development Permit on grounds it would prejudice the ability of the local government to prepare a Local Coastal Program that is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 (commencing with Section 30200) shall be accompanied by a specific finding which sets forth the basis for such conclusion.

On August 20, 1981 the Commission staff denied the City of Hermosa Beach Land Use Plan (LUP) as submitted and certified it with suggested modifications on April 21, 1982. The modifications were accepted and the LUP is certified. The City has prepared a final draft of its zoning and implementation ordinances (LIP) and a revision to their LUP, but these have not yet been certified. Therefore, the standard of review for development in Hermosa Beach is still the Coastal Act.

The proposed development as conditioned is consistent with the public access, recreation, and community character policies of Chapter Three of the Coastal Act. The proposed development as conditioned by the City and the Commission addresses the LUP's concern with respect to the scale of development and the preservation of street parking for public use. The development is consistent with the parking management, density, and land use provisions of the certified LUP and its proposed revisions. Therefore, the Commission finds that approval of the proposed development, as conditioned, will not prejudice the City's ability to prepare a Local Coastal Program consistent with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act, as required by Section 30604(a).

#### G. UNPERMITTED DEVELOPMENT

The applicant demolished the existing structure and graded the lot prior to approval and issuance of a Coastal Development Permit from the Commission. Before the demolition, the Senior Building Inspector of the City of Hermosa Beach Community Development Department determined that it was appropriate to demolish the existing structure (Exhibit #7).

Although unpermitted development has taken place prior to submission of this permit application, consideration of the application by the Commission has been based solely upon Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. Action on the permit does not constitute a waiver of any legal action with regard to the alleged violation nor does it constitute an admission as to the legality of any development undertaken on the subject site without a coastal development permit.

#### H. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

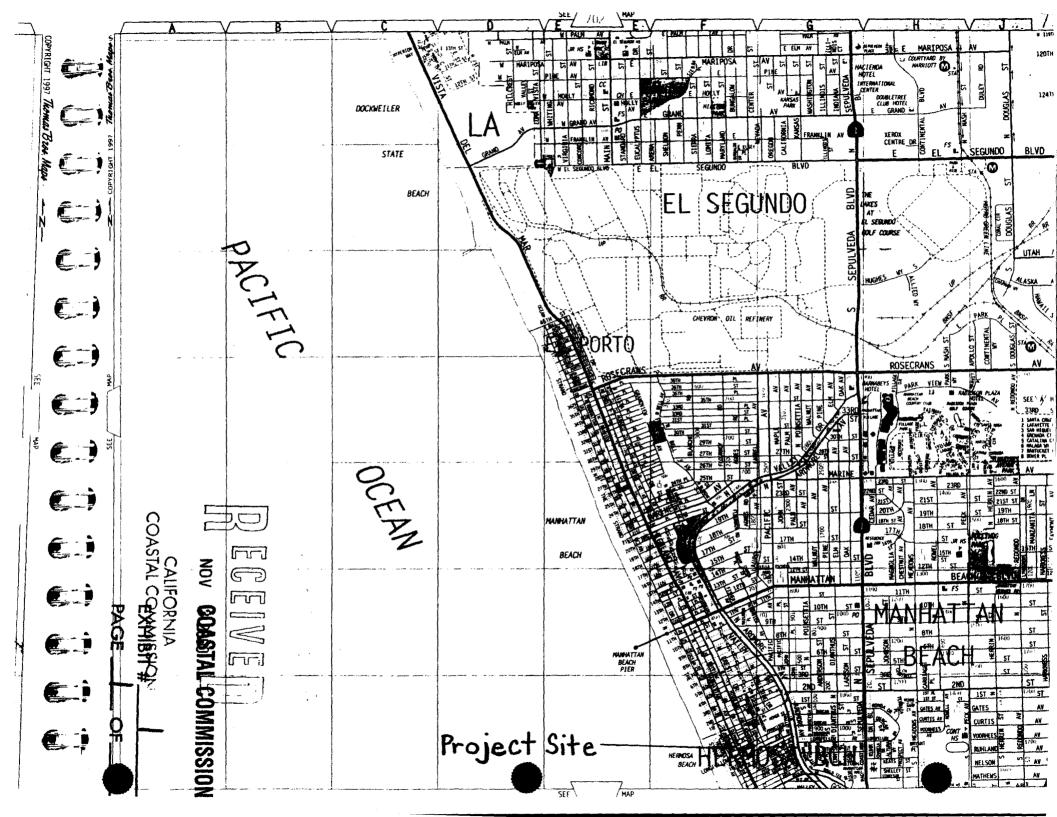
Section 13096 Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations requires Commission approval of a coastal development permit application to be supported by a finding

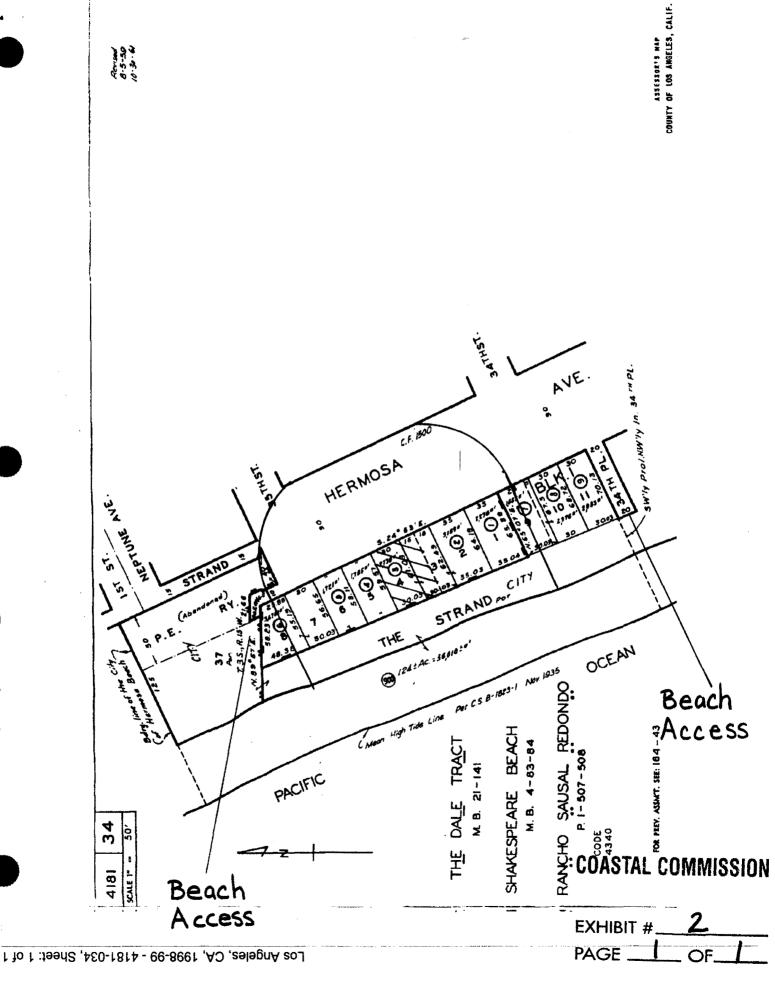
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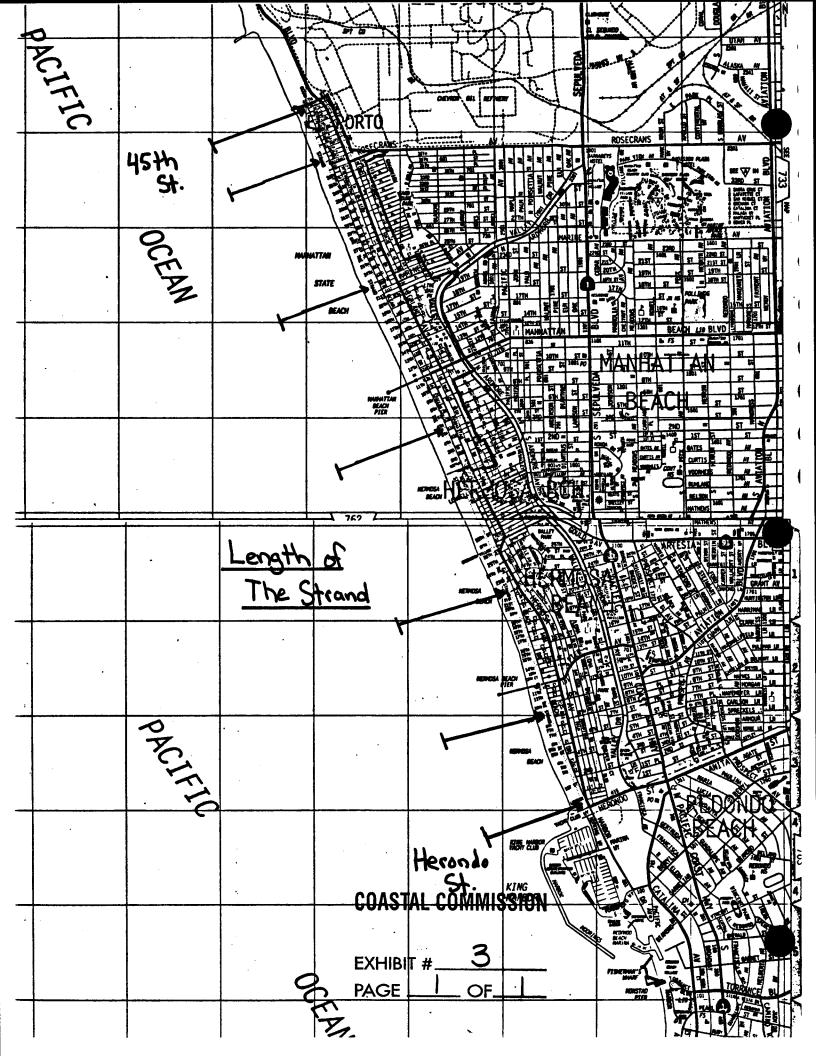
showing the application, as conditioned by any conditions of approval, to be consistent with any applicable requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 21080.5(d)(2)(A) of CEQA prohibits a proposed development from being approved if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available, which would substantially lessen any significant adverse effect that the activity may have on the environment.

The proposed project, as conditioned, has been found consistent with the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. All adverse impacts have been minimized and there are no feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse impact that the activity may have on the environment. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed project can be found consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act to conform to CEQA.

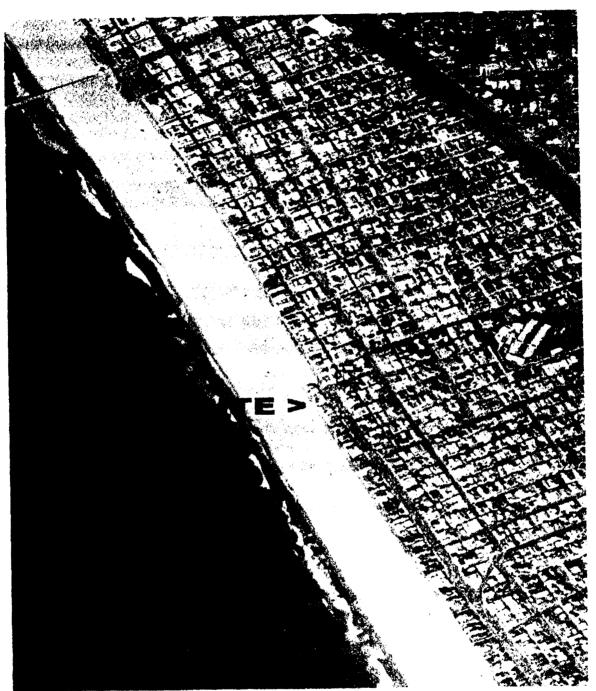
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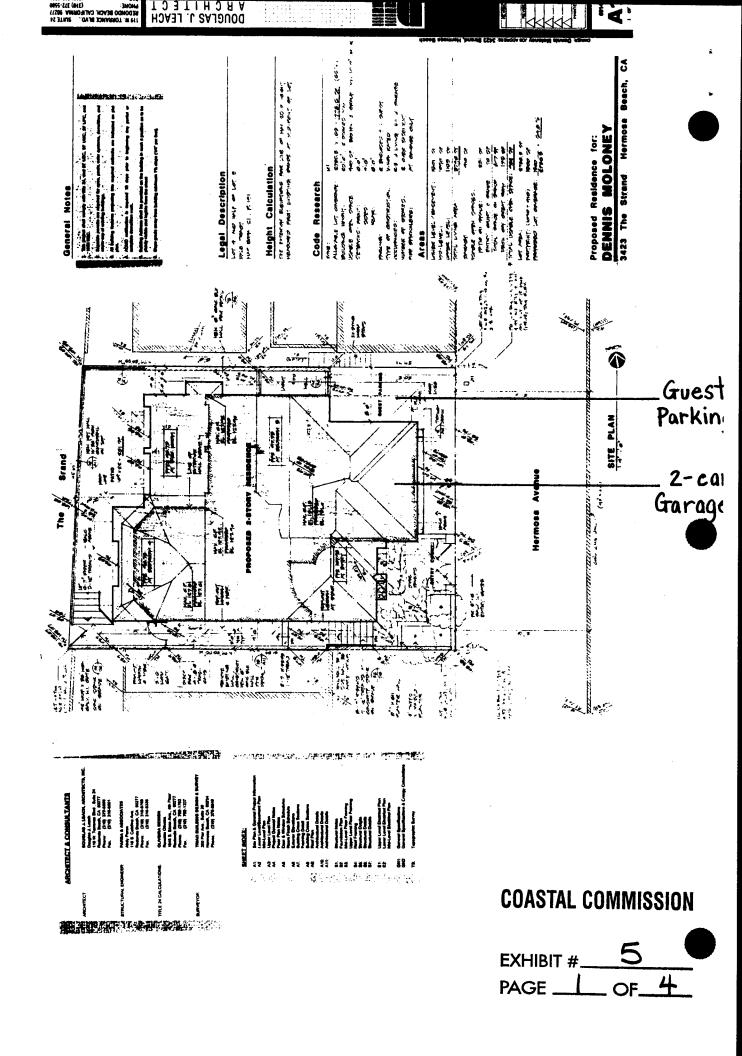
## SKELLY ENGINEERING

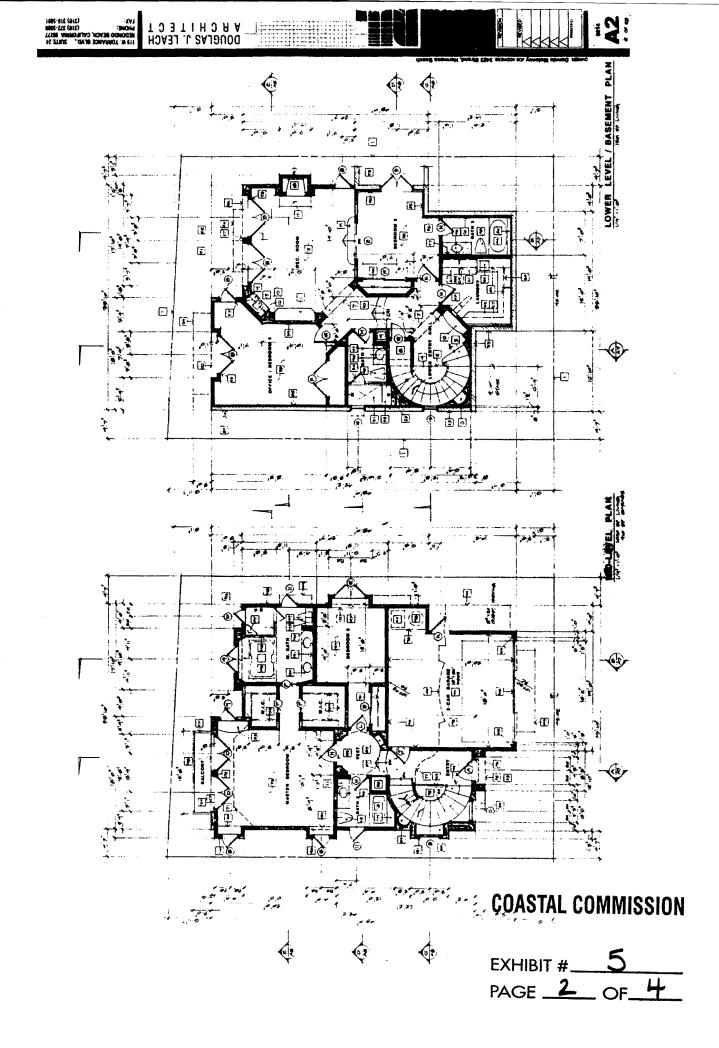


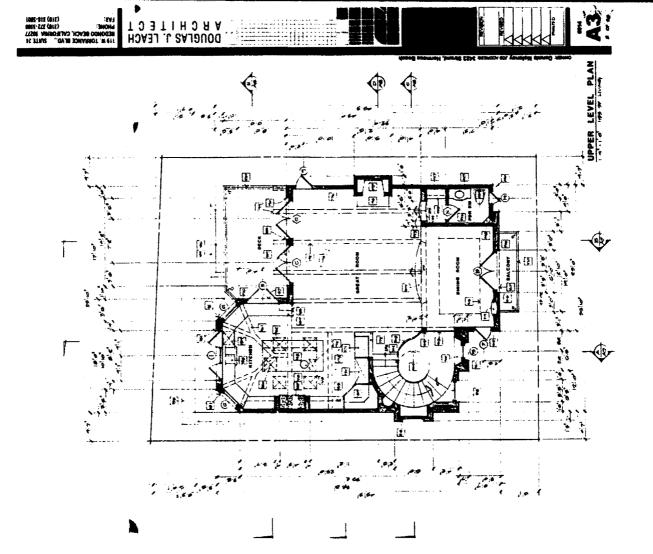
Photograph 2. January 9, 1999 showing typical wide beach (>300') at the site.

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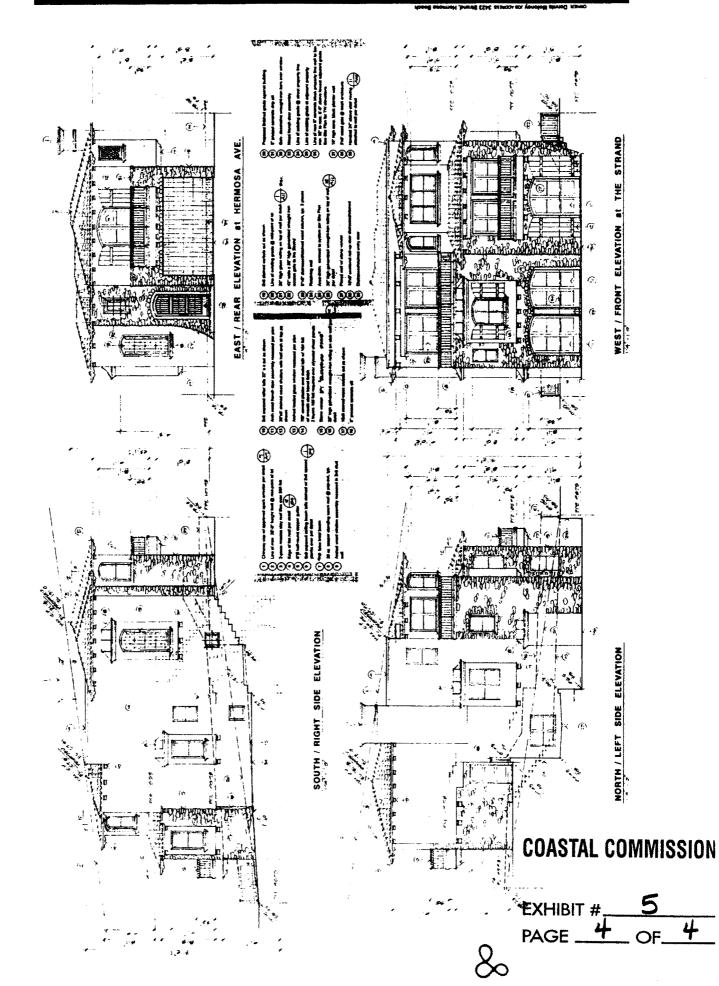




### **COASTAL COMMISSION**

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Job Address: 3923 Strand, Hermosa Beach tor: Vennis Moloney 1413/2000 PAGE 1 of 1 THE STRAND 45.07 100 10 PA 27.01 27.90 1490310 EL. 127.90 CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION DEC 1 4 2000 1490360 EL. 131.0 MACHINA MACHINA 8:0 5 40 Kar Lines COMMISSION COASTAL Hermosa Avenue GRADING PLAN **EXHIBIT** # 109 ---**PAGE** OF ALL GRADING IS CUT

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# City of Hermosa Beach

Civic Center, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, California 90254-3885

December 14, 2000

Ms. Elizabeth Srour 1001 6th Street #110 Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

Subject: 3423 Hermosa Avenue, Demolition

Dear Ms. Suror:

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South Coast Region

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CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

I am responding to your request to provide information to the California Coastal Commission about circumstances pertaining to demolition of the structure on the subject property. That decision was made after it came to our attention that the structure was vulnerable and compromised adjacent properties. I personally observed that the property had been substantially damaged by tenants just prior to the current owner, Dennis Moloney, taking title to the property. This damage rendered the property uninhabitable and unsecured without substantial repairs.

During the normal preparation of vacant property for future demolition, Mr. Moloney had the property inspected with regard to the presence of asbestos as is the AQMD and City requirement prior to demolition. Given the age of the building there was a great deal of asbestos that had to be removed, including, but not limited to, the entirety of the exterior siding (asbestor shingles). Because of the condition of the structure after the asbestos materials were removed, the Fire Department then used the opportunity to practice emergency procedures on the structure, including cutting holes in the roof and other procedures that are normally employed in emergency situations.

At that point I made the determination that the property was vulnerable and that it would be appropriate to demolish the existing structure. The site has now been property protected. We are aware that the property owner has applied for a Coastal Permit for construction of a new residence. As is our policy, we will issue a building permit only after we have received confirmation that a Coastal Permit has been approved.

If you have any questions I can be reached at (310) 318-0235 at the Community Development Department Office from 7-9AM or 4-6PM Monday through Thursday.

Sincerely:

Charlie Swartz

Senior Building Inspector

Community Development Department

cc: Sol Blumenfeld, Director, Community Development

file

**COASTAL COMMISSION** 

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# SKELLY ENGINEERING

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this wave runup study is to determine if the proposed development will be subject to wave runup or wave attack over the typical life (75 years) of the development. If the property will be subject to wave runup or wave attack the analysis will discuss how frequently it will occur, what the predicted water volume and water height will be on the property, and how, if necessary, to manage the overtopping waters. The analysis will also determine if the property will be subject to direct wave attack of the project life. If the property is subject to wave attack then the analysis will include design parameters for wave forces. The analysis uses design storm conditions typical of the January 1988 and winter of 1982-83 type storm waves and beach conditions.

The subject property, 3423 The Strand in Hermosa Beach, is a rectangular lot approximately 30' X 60'. The lot is fronted by The Stand, a coastal boardwalk, which is adjacent to a wide sandy beach (approximately 250-300 feet wide) and the Pacific Ocean. This shoreline is located at the southern end of the Santa Monica Littoral Cell. A littoral cell is a coastal compartment that contains a complete cycle of littoral sedimentation including sources, transport pathways and sediment sinks. The Santa Monica Littoral Cell extends from Point Dume to Palos Verdes Point, a distance of 40 miles. Most of the shoreline in this littoral cell has been essentially stabilized by man. The local beaches were primarily made by man through nourishment as a result of major shoreline civil works projects (Hyperion Treatment Plant, Marina Del Rey, King Harbor, etc.). The up-coast and down-coast movement of sand along the shoreline is mostly controlled by groins, breakwaters, and jetties and is generally to the south. A major sink for the beach sands is the Redondo Submarine Canyon located at the entrance to King Harbor.

Prior to the construction of most of the shoreline stabilization structures near the site the Mean High Tide (MHT) line in November 1935 was about 100 feet from the western property line. The MHT line is now about 300 feet from the western property line. Despite efforts to control the movement of sand along the shoreline, the shoreline has experienced some erosion. A conservative estimate of the rate is on the order of 0.5 feet per year. The wide sandy beach in front of The Strand and this property is normally over 300 feet wide and provides more than adequate protection for the property. The King Harbor breakwater to the south of the site acts as a littoral barrier which helps to stabilize the shoreline in front of the subject property. Over the vast majority of time wave runup will not reach The Strand or the property. However, the beach in this area is subject to seasonal erosion due to extreme event storm events which can erode the beach back to near The Strand.

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### SKELLY ENGINEERING

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Prediction of runup and overtopping on a beach during extreme storm events is a very complex problem. The flow rates presented here represent what is defined as flow which is sustained by continuous volume flow, even though it will actually occur with the cycle of the waves. The calculations made herein use state of the art methods, yet they are based on several simplifying assumptions (see Chapter 7 of SPM). There are several facts that indicate that wave runup and overtopping will not reach the property or adversely impact the property over the life of the structure.

- There is a very wide (> 300feet) sandy beach in front of the property 99.9% of the time.
- A review of aerial photographs over the last four decades shows little overall shoreline retreat in general and a wide sand beach even at times when the beach is seasonally at its narrowest.
- The shoreline erosion rate is small and over the life of the structure should not reduce the beach to less than 200 in nominal wide. (200 width of beach (approximately) is recognized by coastal engineers as a sufficiently wide enough beach to provide back-shore protection)
- The property has not been subject to significant wave runup attack in the past.
- The runup analysis shows that the 100 year wave runup event will not reach the property.
- The presence of the 32 inch high wall on the western side of The Strand will prevent wave overtopping from reaching the property.

In conclusion, wave runup and overtopping will not impact this property over the life of the proposed improvement. The proposed development and existing development will neither create nor contribute significantly to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or adjacent area. There are no recommendations necessary for wave runup protection. The proposed project minimizes risks from flooding. However, the property is relatively low-lying and proper site drainage and drainage control will be necessary.

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Photograph 1. January 19, 1988 where wave runup reached near The Strand.

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