

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

CENTRAL COAST DISTRICT OFFICE  
 FRONT STREET, SUITE 300  
 SAN CRUZ, CA 95060  
 (408) 427-4863

**W 3a**

**RECORD PACKET COPY**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE PERMIT NUMBER 3-01-025**

**Applicant**..... William and Georgeann Beckett Trust

**Project location**..... 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue (West side of Lincoln Street 2 south of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue), Carmel (Monterey County) See Exhibit 1.

**Project description** ..... Demolition of existing 1,075 sq.ft. single family residence, to facilitate construction of a new 1,797 sq.ft. SFR, on a 4000 sq. ft. lot (APN 010-174-025).

**Local Approvals** ..... City of Carmel-by-the-Sea: DS 00-65/RE 00-44, on February 28, 2001 and HR 00-7 on July 17, 2000.

**Note:** Public Resources Code Section 30624 provides that this permit shall not become effective until it is reported to the Commission at its next meeting. If one-third or more of the appointed membership of the Commission so request, the application will be removed from the administrative calendar and set for public hearing at a subsequent Commission meeting. Our office will notify you if such removal occurs. This permit will be reported to the Commission at the following time and place:

June 13, 2001  
9:00 A. M.

**Los Angeles Airport Marriott**  
**5855 West Century Boulevard**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90045 (310) 641-5700**

**IMPORTANT: Before you may proceed with development, the following must occur:** You must sign the enclosed duplicate copy acknowledging the permit's receipt and accepting its contents, including all conditions, and return to our office (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 13150(b) and 13158). Following the Commission's meeting, and once we have received the signed acknowledgment and evidence of compliance with all special conditions, if applicable, we will send you a Notice of Administrative Permit Effectiveness. **Before you can proceed with development, you must have received both your administrative permit and the notice of permit effectiveness from this office.**

**PETER DOUGLAS**  
 Executive Director

*Rich Hyma*  
 By: **Charles Lester**  
 Central Coast District Manager



California Coastal Commission  
 June 13, 2001 Meeting in Los Angeles  
 Staff: M. Watson

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION:** THE FINDINGS FOR THIS DETERMINATION, AND FOR ANY SPECIAL CONDITIONS, APPEAR BELOW.

**STANDARD CONDITIONS**

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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. **Expiration.** If development has not commenced, the permit will expire two years from the date on which the Commission voted on the application. 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. **Interpretation.** Any questions of intent or interpretation of any condition will be resolved by the Executive Director or the Commission.
4. **Assignment.** 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.
5. **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.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION**

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The Executive Director hereby determines that the proposed development is a category of development that qualifies for approval by the Executive Director through the issuance of an administrative permit (Public Resources Code Section 30624). Subject to Standard and Special conditions as attached, said development is in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act of 1976, will not prejudice the ability of the local government to develop a Local Coastal Program in conformity with the provisions of Chapter 3, and will not have any significant adverse effects on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act.

**FINDINGS FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DETERMINATION**

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Demolition of existing residential buildings in Carmel is not a recent phenomenon. However, a series of demolitions in the recent past have engendered controversy over whether or not an existing house represents the historical, architectural, and environmental character of Carmel;

and if a replacement house detracts from Carmel's character because of a modern design, tree removal, proposed house size, or other characteristics. There are a number of examples where a house or houses were demolished and a single, much larger house constructed on the site. In other instances, a single house straddling a lot line has been demolished and two new, smaller houses were constructed. In either of these types of instances, the character of Carmel may or may not be preserved. The size of a house is one aspect of Carmel's character, but not all existing houses in Carmel are small. However, because the lots are almost all relatively small, about 4000 square feet, the general pattern of development is one of smaller houses.

The architectural style of houses in Carmel is another aspect of the City's character. Many of the houses were built in the first quarter of the century in the Craftsman style; others resemble houses that might be found in an English village. Modern style houses, while they do exist, are not prevalent in Carmel.

A third aspect of Carmel's character is the pine and oak dominated landscape. Although the forest landscape is not all natural – there has been enhancement over the years by tree planting – it is one which pervades the City and for which it is known. Demolition can result in tree damage and/or removal. New construction after demolition also may result in the loss of trees, especially if a new structure is built out to the maximum allowed by the zoning.

The character of Carmel is not simple and easy to describe. The three aspects of the City's character briefly described above are not exhaustive. The relative small physical size of the City, about 1 mile wide by 1.5 miles long, contributes to the City's character, as does the absence of sidewalks in the residential areas. Further, Carmel's character is not necessarily expressed by any one aspect, whether that be historical, architectural, environmental, or something else, but is rather a combination of several different aspects, all of which work together synergistically to create the unique ambiance of the City.

**Applicable Policies for Demolitions.** While residential development in most of Carmel is excluded from the requirement for a coastal development permit by virtue of Commission Categorical Exclusion E-77-13, demolitions are not excluded. Because the City of Carmel does not have a certified LCP, the Coastal Commission must issue the coastal development permit. The main issue raised by demolition projects in Carmel is the preservation of community character. Sections 30253 and 30251 of the Coastal Act address the issue of preserving the community character of special communities such as Carmel:

*30251: 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 on 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.*

*30253(5): New development shall where appropriate, protect special communities and neighborhoods which, because of their unique characteristics, are popular visitor destination points for recreational uses.*

These Coastal Act sections as they apply to the proposed project require the protection of the unique community and visual character of Carmel. The City of Carmel is a very popular visitor destination as much for its quaint residential architecture as its renowned commercial shopping area and white sand beaches. Carmel is made special by the style and character of development within City limits. In particular, as a primarily residential community, residential development in Carmel plays a key role in defining the special character of the area.

Although there is no certified LCP for Carmel, structures that have been voluntarily designated as a historic resource enjoy certain protections from demolition under the City's Municipal Code. Without such voluntary designation, as is the case with this application, the subject site is not offered any special protection under local ordinances. When there is information indicating that a structure may be a significant historic resource, it is evaluated under the following Municipal Code criteria: Cultural Heritage, Architectural Distinction and Notable Construction, Unique Site Conditions, or relationship to an Important Person.

**Applicable Policies for New Construction.** Like most new construction in most of Carmel, the new house that is proposed to be built after the existing house is demolished is excluded from the requirement for a coastal development permit by virtue of Commission Categorical Exclusion E-77-13. The regulations governing the proposed new construction are the City's existing regulations. However, due to increased concerns about the preservation of Carmel's unique community character, the Commission has resolved that the City's local review process in combination with Commission staff's best professional judgement on individual projects would be adequate to address the Coastal Act policy direction (under Section 30253) to protect community character.

**Project Description.** The project site is a standard 4,000 sq.ft. rectangular lot, on the west side of Lincoln Street, 2 south of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and about 6 blocks inland from the beach in the southern part of the City. The lot has an existing one-story 1,075 square foot single family residence, proposed for demolition. Three coast live oaks, one acacia, and one Monterey pine are located on the lot and will be preserved. The City's conditions of approval require measures to protect the existing trees and associated roots.

According to the City staff report, the structure slated for demolition was constructed in 1940 and has not been designated as a historic resource. Though the house is greater than 50 years old, it has not retained sufficient integrity to convey a sense of its past and historical context.

**Analysis.** The c. 1940 structure is not listed on any roster of historical or architecturally important structures in the City. The pre-WWII origins of the existing structure can be seen in the non-descript, single-story ranch style architecture; see staff photographs (Exhibit 2, attached). The structure has been through six alterations in the past. Examples of changes are the additions of a bedroom, decks, and patio, a change of doors, new aluminum sliding door and windows. Additionally, the original roofing has been changed, interior plumbing and electrical installed, and a new angle shower mounted. Therefore, while this represents the replacement of an existing moderately-sized residence with a substantially larger building, the proposed demolition would not compromise any historic resources that contribute to Carmel's special community character.

The proposed demolition will not open the way to new development that would be growth inducing or lead to compromise of an existing urban-rural boundary. The subject parcel is located within the city limits of the City of Carmel. The parcel is currently developed with a single family dwelling. Parcels in the vicinity of the subject parcel are developed with single family dwellings at urban densities. All utilities are connected to the existing house on this site. There are adequate public services for the proposed new house. Parking is adequate. Additionally, the proposed new house meets City requirements for maximum height, floor area, coverage, and yard setbacks.

The proposed project will not adversely affect the unique characteristics that make Carmel a special community—see attached Exhibit 3 for site plan and elevations of the replacement structure. Neither the demolition nor the new construction would adversely or significantly affect any significant public view. The area is developed at urban densities and with urban services in an area able to accommodate the replacement of the existing house with a new one. Therefore, the demolition of the existing structures is consistent with Coastal Act Sections 30251 and 30253(5).

**City of Carmel Local Coastal Program.** Section 30604 of the Coastal Act states in part that a coastal development permit shall be granted if the Commission finds that the development will not prejudice the local government's ability to prepare a Local Coastal Program (LCP) in conformity with the resource protection policies of the Coastal Act. The entire City of Carmel falls within the coastal zone, although most development currently is excluded from the requirement for a coastal development permit by Categorical Exclusion E-77-13.

Approximately twenty years ago, the City submitted the Land Use Plan (LUP) portion of its LCP for review by the Coastal Commission. On April 1, 1981, the Commission certified part of the LUP as submitted and part of the LUP with suggested modifications regarding beach-fronting property. The City resubmitted an amended LUP which addressed the beach-fronting properties provisions, but which omitted the previously certified portion of the document protecting significant buildings within the City. On April 27, 1984, the Commission certified the amended LUP with suggested modifications to reinstate provisions for protecting significant structures. However, the City never accepted the Commission's suggested modifications. The City is currently working on a new LCP submittal. The City's work plan promises to examine a number of issues including community character. Commission staff will be meeting with City

staff to discuss measures to ensure that the issue of community character is adequately addressed.

The zoning or Implementation Plan (IP) was certified with suggested modifications on April 27, 1984. The City did not accept the suggested modifications and so the IP remains uncertified. The City is presently working on a new IP submittal.

Since community character is probably the most contentious issue currently in Carmel, the Land Use Plan augmentations and Implementation Plan details will be most crucial to providing future direction in addressing coastal permits in the City of Carmel.

As such, approval of the proposed project will not prejudice the ability of the City to complete its LCP in accordance with Coastal Act requirements.

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 13096** of the California Code of Regulations requires that a specific finding be made in conjunction with coastal development permit applications showing the application to be consistent with any applicable requirements of CEQA. Section 21080.5(d)(2)(i) 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, which the activity may have on the environment. The Coastal Commission's review and analysis of land use proposals has been certified by the Secretary of Resources as being the functional equivalent of environmental review under CEQA. This report has examined the relevant issues in connection with the environmental impacts of this proposal. The Commission finds that, for the reasons stated above, the proposed project will not have any significant adverse effects on the environment within the meaning of CEQA.

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PERMIT RECEIPT/ACCEPTANCE OF CONTENTS**

I/We acknowledge that I/we have received a copy of this permit and have accepted its contents including all conditions.

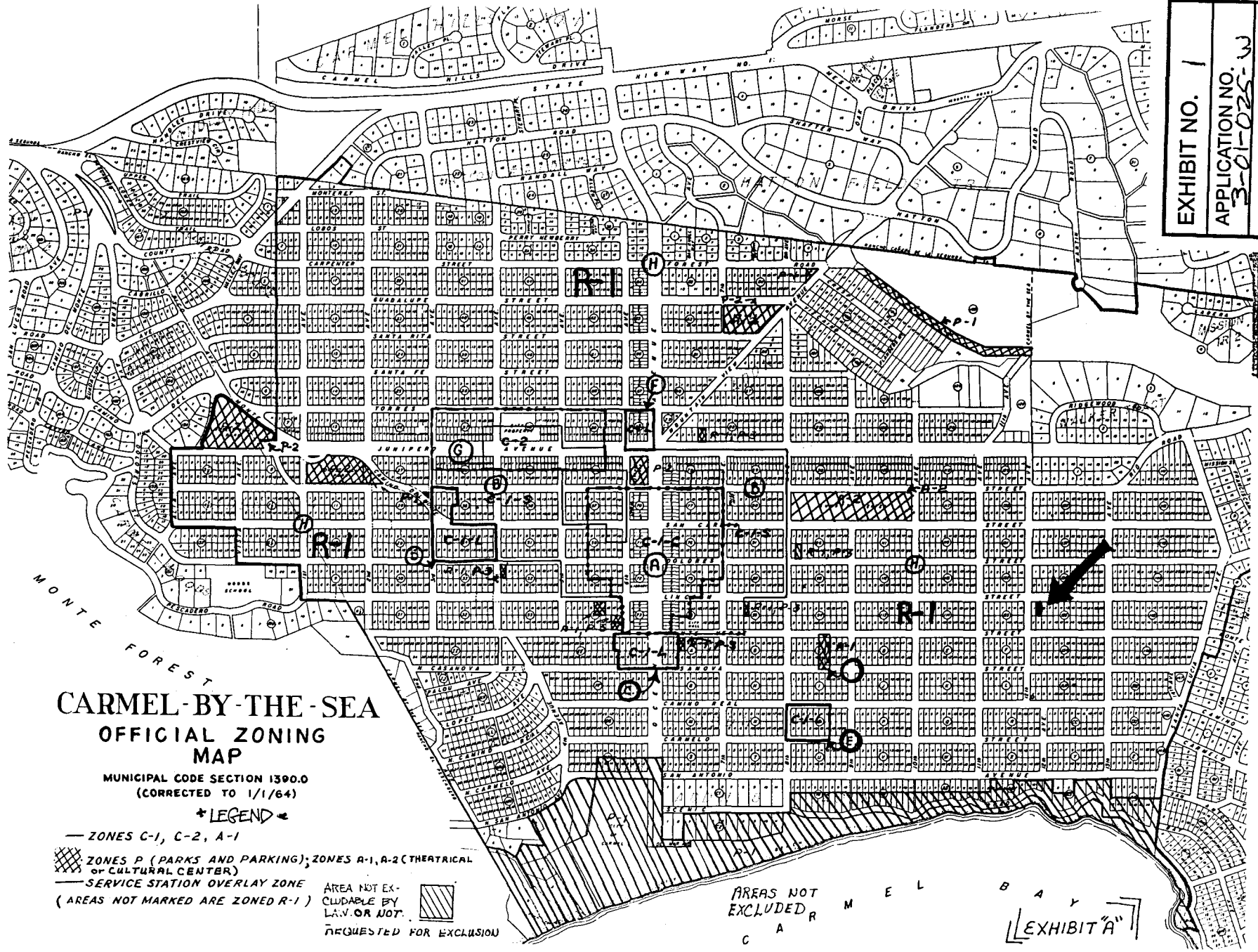
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Applicant's signature

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Date of signing

EXHIBIT NO. 1  
 APPLICATION NO.  
 3-01-025-W  
 Project location  
 California Coastal Commission



**CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA  
 OFFICIAL ZONING  
 MAP**

MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 1390.0  
 (CORRECTED TO 1/1/64)

**LEGEND**

- ZONES C-1, C-2, A-1
- ▨ ZONES P (PARKS AND PARKING); ZONES A-1, A-2 (THEATRICAL OR CULTURAL CENTER)
- SERVICE STATION OVERLAY ZONE (AREAS NOT MARKED ARE ZONED R-1)
- ▨ AREA NOT EXCLUDABLE BY LAW OR NOT REQUESTED FOR EXCLUSION

AREAS NOT EXCLUDED  
 R M E L B A Y  
 C A [EXHIBIT "A"]



EXHIBIT NO. 2

APPLICATION NO.  
3-01-025-W

Existing Structure

 California Coastal Commission









