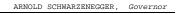
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

SAN DIEGO AREA 7575 METROPOLITAN DRIVE, SUITE 103 SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-4421 (619) 767-2370





 Filed:
 7/28/06

 49th Day:
 9/1/06

 180th Day:
 1/10/07

 Staff:
 Laurinda Owens-SD

 Staff Report:
 8/24/06

 Hearing Date:
 9/13-15/06

AMENDMENT REQUEST STAFF REPORT AND PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION

Application No.: 6-04-163-A1

Applicant:	Cameron Brothers	Agent:	Thomas Jenkins, KPA Associates		
Original Description:	Construction of two, three-story, 30-ft. high, two-unit residential buildings totaling 8,662 sq.ft. with attached two-space garage for each unit including landscaping and hardscaping. Also proposed is consolidation of six existing lots and vacated alley into one parcel totaling 7,940 sq.ft.				
Proposed Amendment:	Demolition of an existing non-conforming commercial/retail building and consolidation of remaining portions of two lots into existing site for a total lot area of approx. 9,278 sq.ft.; increase in size of the two previously-approved two-unit residential buildings from 8,662 sq.ft. to 10,206 sq.ft. total; and, resiting the two structures on the now larger subject site which will extend from Queenstown Court at the north to Pismo Court to the south.				
Site:	3742 Strand Way, Mission B APN 423-583-15 & -16.	each, Sai	n Diego, San Diego County.		
Substantive Fi	le Documents: Certified Miss Ordinance: CDP #6-04-163 a		h Precise Plan and Planned District -163RF		

STAFF NOTES:

Summary of Staff's Preliminary Recommendation:

Staff is recommending approval of the proposed project, with special conditions. The proposed amendment involves a lot consolidation of two adjacent lots onto the subject property resulting in an increase in size of lot area from 7,940 sq.ft. to 9,278 sq.ft. and the demolition of a non-conforming commercial/retail structure that presently encroaches into the public right-of-way of Ocean Front Walk (public boardwalk). The two two-unit residential structures will still observe the same general building footprint and configuration as the originally approved residences but will include a 722 sq.ft. increase in gross floor area, will observe a larger space between the two structures and will extend

all the way to Pismo Court to the south. The proposed changes to the southern residential structure will result in the proposed overall development being situated adjacent to designated public view corridors both to the north and south of the site. However, the proposed development does not alter the project's consistency with protection of public views. In addition, proposed special conditions require landscape plans to limit any hardscaping and landscaping to vegetation which will not have an adverse effect on public views toward the ocean and that any proposed fencing within the north and south side yard setbacks be at least 75% open so as not to obstruct views. With the special conditions, the proposed amendment is consistent with all applicable provisions of the certified LCP.

I. <u>PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION</u>:

The staff recommends the Commission adopt the following resolution:

<u>MOTION</u>: I move that the Commission approve the proposed amendment to Coastal Development Permit No. 6-04-163-A1 pursuant to the staff recommendation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL:

Staff recommends a **YES** vote. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the amendment as conditioned and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A PERMIT AMENDMENT:

The Commission hereby approves the coastal development permit amendment on the ground that the development as amended and subject to conditions, will be in conformity with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. Approval of the permit amendment complies with the California Environmental Quality Act because either 1) feasible mitigation measures and/or alternatives have been incorporated to substantially lessen any significant adverse effects of the amended development on the environment, or 2) there are no feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that would substantially lessen any significant adverse impacts of the amended development on the environment.

II. Special Conditions.

The permit is subject to the following conditions:

The following condition replaces Special Condition #1 of the original permit in its entirety:

1. <u>Final Plans</u>. **PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL**

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the applicants shall submit to the Executive Director for review and written approval revised final site, building and elevation plans for the permitted development. Said plans shall be stamped approved by the City of San Diego and be in substantial conformance with the plans submitted by KPA Associates, Inc. date stamped 7/28/06.

The permittee shall undertake development in accordance with the approved final plans. Any proposed changes to the approved final plans shall be reported to the Executive Director. No changes to the approved final plans shall occur without an amendment to this coastal development permit unless the Executive Director determines that no amendment is legally required.

The following condition replaces Special Condition #2 of the original permit in its entirety:

2. <u>Final Landscape/Yard Area Fence Plans</u>. **PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**, the applicant shall submit to the Executive Director for review and written approval final landscaping and fence plans approved by the City of San Diego. The plans shall be in substantial conformance with the landscape plans as submitted by KPA Associates, Inc. dated 7/28/06 and shall include the following:

- a. A view corridor, an average of 10 ft. wide, shall be preserved in the south yard area adjacent to Pismo Court and in the north yard area adjacent to Queenstown Court allowing the 18-inch articulation. All proposed landscaping in the south and north yard areas shall be maintained at a height of three feet or lower (including raised planters) to preserve views from the street toward the ocean. One tall tree with a thin trunk such as a palm tree is permitted in the north and south yard area view corridors (for a total of two tall trees on site).
- b. All landscaping shall be drought-tolerant and (1) native or (2) non-invasive plant species (i.e., no plant species listed as problematic and/or invasive by the California Native Plant Society, the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, or as may be identified from time to time by the State of California shall be employed or allowed to naturalize or persist on the site. No plant species listed as 'noxious weed' by the State of California or the U.S. Federal Government shall be utilized within the property).
- a. Any fencing in the south and north side yard setback area shall permit public views and have at least 75 percent of its surface area open to light.
- d. A written commitment by the applicant that five years from the date of the issuance of the coastal development permit for the residential structure, the applicant will submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Director, a landscape monitoring report, prepared by a licensed Landscape Architect or qualified Resource Specialist, that certifies whether the on-site

landscaping is in conformance with the landscape plan approved pursuant to this Special Condition. The monitoring report shall include photographic documentation of plant species and plant coverage.

The permittee shall undertake the development in accordance with the approved landscape plans. Any proposed changes to the approved plans shall be reported to the Executive Director. No changes to the plans shall occur without a Commission-approved amendment to the permit unless the Executive Director determines that no such amendment is legally required.

5. <u>Prior Conditions of Approval</u>. All other terms and conditions of Coastal Development Permit No. A-6-LJS-04-163, as amended, not specifically modified herein, shall remain in full force and effect.

6. Deed Restriction. PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL

DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the applicant shall submit to the Executive Director for review and approval documentation demonstrating that the applicant has executed and recorded against the parcel(s) governed by this permit a deed restriction, in a form and content acceptable to the Executive Director: (1) indicating that, pursuant to this permit, the California Coastal Commission has authorized development on the subject property, subject to terms and conditions that restrict the use and enjoyment of that property; and (2) imposing the Special Conditions of this permit as covenants, conditions and restrictions on the use and enjoyment of the Property. The deed restriction shall include a legal description of the entire parcel or parcels governed by this permit. The deed restriction shall also indicate that, in the event of an extinguishment or termination of the deed restriction for any reason, the terms and conditions of this permit shall continue to restrict the use and enjoyment of the subject property so long as either this permit or the development it authorizes, or any part, modification, or amendment thereof, remains in existence on or with respect to the subject property. This deed restriction shall supercede and replace the deed restriction recorded pursuant to Special Condition #4 of Coastal Development Permit #6-04-163, approved on June 8, 2005, which deed restriction is recorded as Instrument No. 2006-0134741 in the official records of San Diego County.

IV. Findings and Declarations.

The Commission finds and declares as follows:

1. <u>Permit History/Amendment Description</u>. The proposed project is an amendment to CDP #6-04-163, approved by the Commission on 6/8/05, which was for the construction of two, three-story, 30-ft. high, two-unit residential buildings totaling 8,662 sq.ft. with an attached two-space garage for each unit (for a total of 8 parking spaces) on a vacant site. Each unit was proposed as a one-family apartment. Also approved was landscaping and hardscaping and consolidation of six existing lots and a portion of a vacated alley into one parcel totaling 7,940 sq.ft. The subject site is located adjacent to

the public boardwalk (Ocean Front Walk) between Queenstown Court and Pismo Court in the community of Mission Beach in the City of San Diego.

The proposed changes to the development through the subject amendment request consist of consolidating portions of two additional adjacent lots into the subject property for a total lot area of 9,278 sq.ft. (an increase from 7,940 sq.ft.) and demolition of an existing non-conforming commercial/retail building at the southwest corner of the site. While the proposed development will remain largely the same, including a similar building footprint, the two proposed residential structures will be slightly larger in size, resulting in an overall increase from 8,662 sq.ft. to 10,206 sq.ft. In addition, the two residential structures will be further spread out on the subject site, which will now occupy an entire block between two courts (Queenstown Court and Pismo Court) such that there will be more open space between the two structures (ref. Exhibit No. 2). Aside from those changes described above, the remainder of the proposed residential structures is the same as the originally-proposed residences including the floor plans, etc.

Although the City of San Diego has a certified LCP for the Mission Beach community, the subject site is located in an area where the Commission retains permit jurisdiction. Therefore, Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act is the standard of review, with the City's LCP used as guidance.

2. Visual Quality. Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states, in part:

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.

In addition, Section 132.0403 of the City's certified Land Development Code, which the Commission uses for guidance, states the following:

- [...]
 - (a) If there is an existing or potential public view between the ocean and the first public roadway, but the site is not designated in a land use plan as a view to be protected, it is intended that views to the ocean shall be preserved, enhanced or restored by deed restricting required side yard setback areas to cumulatively form functional view corridors and preventing a walled off effect from authorized development.

[...]

(e) *Open fencing* and landscaping may be permitted within the view corridors and visual accessways, provided such improvements do not significantly obstruct

public views of the ocean. Landscaping shall be planted and maintained to preserve public views.

The City's certified implementation plan defines open fencing as "a fence designed to permit public views that has at least 75 percent of its surface area open to light." The proposed development is located between the first coastal road and sea.

Section 103.0526.13 Mission Beach PDO, which the Commission uses for guidance also contains the following requirement:

"...Landscaping located within the required yards for Courts and Places shall protect pedestrian view corridors by emphasizing tall trees with canopy areas and ground cover. Landscaping materials shall not encroach or overhang into the Courts and Places rights-of-way below the height of 10 feet above the right-of-way." (p.10)

The certified Mission Beach Precise Plan and Local Coastal Program Addendum, which the Commission uses for guidance also states:

"Views to and along the shoreline from Public areas shall be protected from blockage by development and or vegetation." (p.14)

In the original permit, the proposed development raised three separate issues with regard to protection of public views: 1) the proposed structures encroached into the required setback areas; 2) the proposed structures were not terraced at the upper levels; and, 3) landscape improvements were proposed in the required yard areas that would impact public views to the ocean.

With the proposed amendment, the development will observe a minimum of an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. setback for both its frontages on Queenstown Court and Pismo Court. These setbacks include an 18" articulation which consists of portions of the setbacks extending 18" into the setback area with an equal amount of area that is situated behind the setback line to help break up the building façade, etc. In addition, these articulations are also proposed along the west frontage next to the public boardwalk. However, these intrusions are minor in nature, still provide for a general 7-foot setback from the public boardwalk at the upper levels and a minimum 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. (up to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.) setback at the ground level which remain the same as the Commission previously approved. Although the two buildings will be somewhat larger, they will be located on a larger lot (as a result of the proposed lot consolidation) and as such, they will be spread out further on the subject site. The proposed project, as amended, will not have any adverse impacts on public views through incorporation of these design features.

Through the subject amendment request the currently proposed building setbacks and articulations are the same as those approved by the Coastal Commission (ref. Exhibit No. 4/Revised Findings and special conditions for original project).

Landscape Improvements. With regard to protection of public views as related to landscape improvements in the required yard areas, in the Mission Beach community, the public rights-of-way of the various courts and places, which are generally east/west running streets, comprise the community's public view corridors. In addition, the public boardwalk (Ocean Front Walk), which runs north/south along the beach, serves not only as a highly popular public access, but also serves as a view corridor along the shoreline. As amended, the project site is located adjacent to both Queenstown Court and Pismo Court immediately adjacent to the Ocean Front Walk public right-of-way. There is the potential for proposed landscaping in the yard areas to impede views to the ocean (both initially and over time, as plant materials/trees mature). Through the amended project, since the two residential buildings will now occupy an entire block which extends from Queenstown Court to the north to Pismo Court to the south, it is necessary to require that landscaping in <u>both</u> the north yard area setback and the south yard area setback consist of low-level vegetation so as to protect public views to the ocean.

As such, Special Condition #2 requires that the applicant submit landscape plans that require that all proposed landscaping and hardscaping consist of only low level material that do not impede views to the ocean. In this particular case, the permitted landscape elements include plant materials that do not impede views (limited to a height of about 3 ft.) and two trees with a thin trunk (such as a Palm tree). In addition, hardscape improvements are also limited to a height of 3 feet (i.e., raised planters). Through the above-cited condition, it can be assured that any improvements proposed in the yard areas will not impede public views toward the ocean. Special Condition #4 requires the permit and findings be recorded to assure future property owners are aware of the permit conditions. Special Condition #3 of this permit amendment states that conditions of the original permit not specifically modified by this amendment remain in full force and effect.

In addition, the proposed amendment results in the consolidation of eight existing lots (originally six lots) and a portion of a vacated alley into one parcel totaling 9,278 sq.ft. However, even though the new lot will be larger in size, it will be compatible in size with the other lots in the area. Also, the proposed two-unit residential structures will remain visually compatible with the surrounding development in terms of bulk and scale, even with their slight increase in size, consistent with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act.

In addition, the slight change to the layout of the structures on the subject property will actually open up more views to the ocean as there will be more space between the two structures. Furthermore, as part of the proposed amendment, an existing non-conforming structure is proposed to be removed. That structure encroaches beyond the western property line into the public right-of-way of Ocean Front Walk by approximately one foot and along its southern frontage next to Pismo Court, observes a 0-ft. setback where 10 ft. is required. As such, its removal will eliminate all such encroachments. The new residential structures, as proposed to be amended, will be spread out further on the site as it will be larger in area. Furthermore, the structures will not encroach into the public right-of-way of Ocean Front Walk as the existing non-conforming structure does. As such, public views will be greatly enhanced both along Pismo Court as well as along the

public boardwalk at the southwest corner of the subject site, consistent with the certified LCP and Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act addressing protection of visual resources. In summary, as conditioned to limit hardscape and landscape features to a height that does not significantly obstruct public views of the ocean, the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on views to and along the shoreline. Furthermore, the Commission finds the proposed amended development, as conditioned, consistent with the visual resource protection policies of the Coastal Act.

3. <u>Public Access/Recreation</u>. Coastal Act sections 30210, 30211, 30212(a) and 30221 are applicable to the project and state the following:

Section 30210

In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse.

Section 30212(a)

(a) Public access from the nearest public roadway to the shoreline and along the coast shall be provided in new development projects except where:

- (3) it is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or the protection of fragile coastal resources,
 - (3) adequate access exists nearby, or, [...]

Section 30211

Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation.

Section 30221

Oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for recreational use and development unless present and foreseeable future demand for public or commercial recreational activities that could be accommodated on the property is already adequately provided for in the area.

The project site is located adjacent to the public beach and boardwalk. The boardwalk is a heavily-used recreational facility frequented by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, skateboarders, runners, and persons in wheelchairs. The walkway is accessible from the east/west courts and streets off of Mission Boulevard, and provides access to the sandy

beach at stairways located at various points along the seawall. Access to the beach can be gained nearest the project site at the end of Queenstown Court and Pismo Court adjacent to the project site. Thus, adequate access exists very nearby, for purposes of Coastal Act Section 30212.

In addition, eight on-site parking spaces are proposed to serve the new development. The Ocean Front Walk boardwalk was originally constructed in 1928, and runs along the western side of Mission Beach from the South Mission Beach Jetty north approximately 2.36 miles to Thomas Avenue in the community of Pacific Beach. The project site is located in an area where the public boardwalk has already been widened. The amended project will result in demolition of a non-conforming structure which occupies the southwest corner of the site and then to consolidate portions of two lots into the subject property. As the existing non-conforming commercial/retail structure presently extends into the public right-of-way of Oceanfront Walk by approximately one foot and has a 0 setback adjacent to Pismo Court, where 10 ft. is required, its removal will greatly improve public access along the boardwalk, as well as adjacent to Pismo Court. One of the two proposed residential structures will be located at this corner of the property and will observe all required building setbacks at the ground level without any encroachment into the public right-of-way.

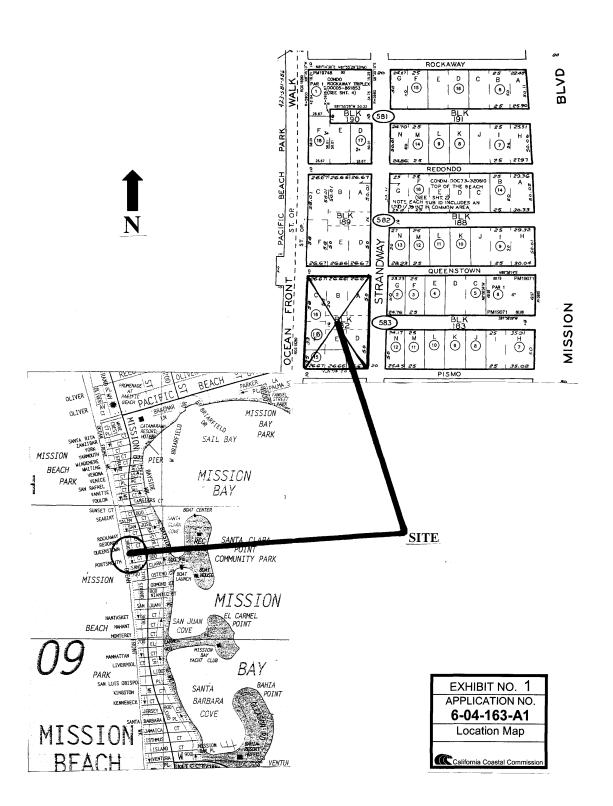
To address potential concerns with regard to construction activities on public access on this oceanfront property and given its proximity to the public boardwalk, a special condition of the original permit (which remains in full force and effect) requires that construction work not occur between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day. In summary, the proposed project, as amended, will not adversely affect public access opportunities in this area and is consistent with the certified LCP and the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act.

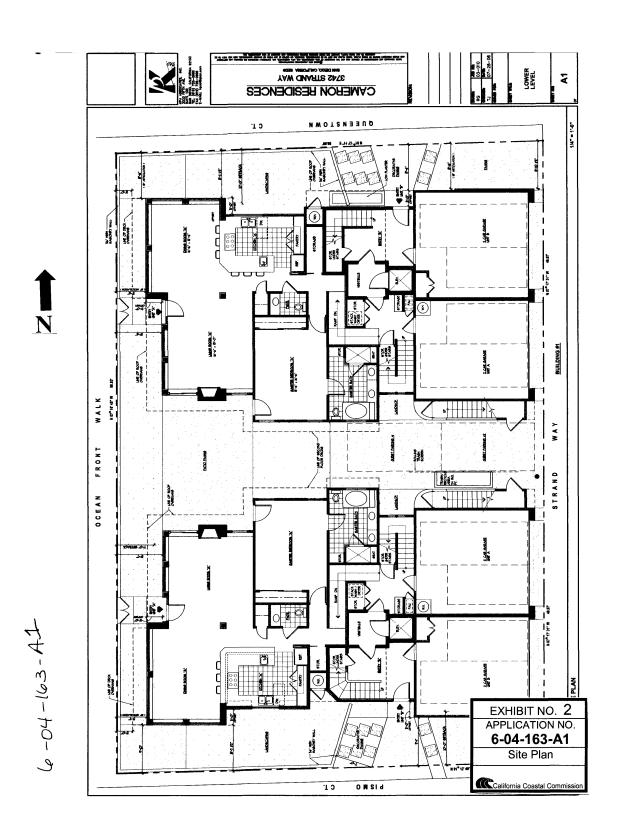
4. <u>Local Coastal Planning</u>. As conditioned, the subject proposal complies with the existing LCP provisions cited above pertaining to protection of public views to the ocean. The Commission finds that, as conditioned, for submittal of landscape/yard area/fence plans that require that hardscaping and landscaping not exceed 3 feet in height, the proposal is consistent with all applicable Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act and will not to prejudice the ability of the City of San Diego to continue to implement its certified LCP for the Mission Beach area of the City of San Diego.

5. <u>Consistency with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</u> Section 13096 of the Commission's Code of Regulations requires Commission approval of Coastal Development Permits to be supported by a finding showing the permit, as conditioned, 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 which the activity may have on the environment.

The proposed project has been conditioned in order to be found consistent with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. Mitigation measures, including conditions addressing preservation of public views to the ocean will minimize all adverse environmental impacts. As conditioned, there are no feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse impact which the activity may have on the environment. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed amended project, as conditioned, is the least environmentally-damaging feasible alternative and is consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act to conform to CEQA.

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6-04-163-A1

Demolition Plans for Non-conforming

Structure at Southwest Corner of Site

California Coastal Commission

6-04-163-A1 Page 13

CALIFORNIA COASTA S/N DIEGO AREA 7575 METROPOLITAN DRIVE, SUITE 10		. 1		
SAN DIEGO, CA 92109-4421 (619) 767-2370	SEE SUBSEQUENT PAGE / FOR COMMISSION ACTION 114a	Gange Staff: Staff Report: Hearing Date:	LRO-SD 8/25/05 9/14-16/05	
	REVISED CONDITION	IS AND FINDINGS		
Application 1	No.: 6-04-163	CONDITIONS, F MODIFIED IN	INDINGS, ETC. ADDENDUM	
Applicant:	Cameron Brothers A	gent: Thomas Jenkins & E Matt Peterson <u>; Susa</u>		
Description:	Construction of two, three-story totaling 8,662 sq.ft. with attache landscaping and hardscaping. A existing lots and vacated alley i	ed two-space garage for ea Also proposed is consolida	ch unit including tion of six	
	Lot Area7,940 sq.Building Coverage4,425 sq.Pavement Coverage1,625 sq.Landscape Coverage1,890 sq.Parking Spaces8ZoningR-NPlan DesignationResidentProject Density21.9 duaHt abv fin grade30 feet	ft. (56%) ft. (20%)		
Site:	3742 Strand Way, Mission Bea	ch, San Diego, San Diego	County.	· .
Substantive I	File Documents: Certified Missio Ordinance	n Beach Precise Plan and I	Planned District	
Staff recomm Commission project with	Commission Action: nends the Commission adopt the f 's action on June 8, 2005. In its a special conditions addressing subr	ction, the Commission app nittal of final plans (addre	proved the ssing permitted	2 () 2
	acks), revised landscape/yard are: mission Action: June 8, 2005.	a fence plans, and timing o	f construction.	
<u>Commission</u> Secord, Shal	ers on Prevailing Side: Chairwon lenberger, Iseman and Kruer.	nan Caldwell, Neely, Peter	s, Potter, Reilly,	
STAFF NOT			AP	XHIBIT NO. PLICATION N -04-163-A

6-04-163 <u>Revised Findings</u> Page 2

Summary of Staff's Preliminary Recommendation:

Staff is recommending approval of the proposed project, subject to special conditions. The applicant is proposing to construct two three-story duplex structures adjacent to the public boardwalk. The ground floor and upper levels are not proposed to be terraced or "stepped back" to break up the building façade and to protect public views to the ocean as required by the certified LCP and the Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. In addition, the applicant is also proposing a 4 1/2 ft. high raised planter in the north side yard setback. This setback area is located next to Queenstown Court which is a public view corridor to the ocean. The proposed raised planter and any associated landscaping in this area along with the proposed three story structure will result in an obstruction of views towards the ocean and along the public Boardwalk, inconsistent with Coastal Act policies. Therefore, staff recommends that special conditions be added that require that the applicant revise their building plans to meet the required setback requirements and provide a minimum 7 ft. setback at the ground level and an additional setback for the upper levels on the western side of the structure such that the building steps back from the public Boardwalk as it gets higher. In addition, proposed special conditions requires revised landscape plans to limit any hardscaping and landscaping to vegetation which will not have an adverse effect on public views toward the ocean and that any proposed fencing within the north side yard setback be at least 75% open so as not to obstruct views. Because work during the summer in this location can have significant impacts on public access, a special condition is recommended that addresses timing of construction to avoid impacts to public access during the summer season. The proposed two, two-unit residential structures, as conditioned, are consistent with all applicable Coastal Act policies.

Due to Permit Streamlining Act requirements, the Commission must act on this application at the June hearing.

Standard of Review: Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act.

I. PRELIMINARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

The staff recommends the Commission adopt the following resolution:

<u>MOTION: I move that the Commission approve Coastal</u> Development Permit No. 6-04-163 pursuant to the staff recommendation.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL:

Staff recommends a **YES** vote. Passage of this motion will result in approval of the permit as conditioned and adoption of the following resolution and findings. The motion passes only by affirmative vote of a majority of the Commissioners present.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PERMIT:

Ξ.

The Commission hereby approves a coastal development permit for the proposed development and adopts the findings set forth below on grounds that the development as conditioned will be in conformity with the policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act. Approval of the permit complies with the California Environmental Quality Act because either 1) feasible mitigation measures and/or alternatives have been incorporated to substantially lessen any significant adverse effects of the development on the environment, or 2) there are no further feasible mitigation measures of the development on the environment, and the substantially lessen any significant adverse impacts of the development on the environment.

The staff recommends the Commission adopt the following resolution:

I. MOTION:	I move that the Commission adopt the revised
	findings in support of the Commission's action on
	June 8, 2005 concerning approval of Coastal
	Development Permit No. 6-04-163.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION OF APPROVAL:

<u>Staff recommends a YES vote on the motion. Passage of this motion will result</u> in the adoption of revised findings as set forth in this staff report. The motion requires a majority vote of the members from the prevailing side present at the June 8, 2005 hearing with at least three of the prevailing members voting. Only those Commissioners on the prevailing side of the Commission's action are eligible to vote on the revised findings.

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT REVISED FINDINGS:

The Commission hereby adopts the findings set forth below for *Coastal Development Permit No. 6-04-163* on the grounds that the findings support the Commission's decision made on June 8, 2005 and accurately reflect the reasons for it.

II. Standard Conditions.

See attached page.

III. Special Conditions.

The permit is subject to the following conditions:

1. <u>Revised Final Plans</u>. PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the applicants shall submit to the Executive Director for review and written approval, revised final site, building and elevation plans for the

6-04-163 <u>Revised Findings</u> Page 4

permitted development. Said plans shall be stamped approved by the City of San Diego and be in substantial conformance with the plans submitted by KPA Associates, Inc. date stamped 12/27/04, except they shall be revised to reflect the following:

- a. The ground floor of the proposed structure shall observe a minimum setback of 7 feet from the western property line <u>allowing the 18-inch articulation</u>. The upper levels of the structure shall be set back a minimum of 10 feet (3 ft more than the ground floor) for 50% of the lot frontage and 12 feet (5 ft. more than the ground floor) for the remaining 50% of the frontage.
- b.__The ground floor and upper floors along the north elevation of the project site shall observe a minimum 10 foot setback from the north property line.

The permittee shall undertake development in accordance with the approved final plans. Any proposed changes to the approved final plans shall be reported to the Executive Director. No changes to the approved final plans shall occur without an amendment to this coastal development permit unless the Executive Director determines that no amendment is legally required.

2. <u>Revised Landscape/Yard Area Fence Plans</u>. PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT, the applicant shall submit to the Executive Director for review and written approval, revised landscaping and fence plans approved by the City of San Diego. The plans shall be in substantial conformance with the plans as submitted by KPA Associates stamp dated 12/27/04, except for the revisions cited below. The plans shall be revised to keep the north yard area (or setback) clear to preserve public views from the street toward the ocean. Specifically, the plans shall be revised to incorporate the following:

- a. A view corridor a minimum of 10 ft. wide shall be preserved in the north yard area adjacent to Queenstown Court <u>allowing the 18-inch articulation</u>. All proposed landscaping and hardscaping in the north yard area shall be limited to a height that does not significantly obstruct public views of the ocean (i.e., about 3 ft. high). The proposed 4 ½ foot high raised planter in the north yard view corridor shall be eliminated. The portions of the proposed 4 ½ foot high planter which exceed 3 feet in height shall be eliminated. One tall tree with a thin trunk such as a palm tree is permitted in the north yard view corridor.
- b. All landscaping shall be (1) drought-tolerant and native or (2) non-invasive plant species (i.e., no plant species listed as problematic and/or invasive by the California Native Plant Society, the California Exotic Pest Plant Council, or as may be identified from time to time by the State of California shall be employed or allowed to naturalize or persist on the site. No plant species listed as 'noxious weed' by the State of California or the U.S. Federal Government shall be utilized within the property.)
- c. Any fencing in the north side yard setback area shall permit public views and

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have at least 75 percent of its surface area open to light.

. . .

d. A written commitment by the applicant that five years from the date of the issuance of the coastal development permit for the residential structure, the applicant will submit for the review and written approval of the Executive Director, a landscape monitoring report, prepared by a licensed Landscape Architect or qualified Resource Specialist, that certifies whether the on-site landscaping is in conformance with the landscape plan approved pursuant to this Special Condition. The monitoring report shall include photographic documentation of plant species and plant coverage.

The permittee shall undertake the development in accordance with the approved landscape plans. Any proposed changes to the approved plans shall be reported to the Executive Director. No changes to the plans shall occur without a Commission-approved amendment to the permit unless the Executive Director determines that no such amendment is legally required.

3. <u>Timing and Staging of Construction</u>. No construction shall take place for the project between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day of any year. Access corridors and staging areas shall be located in a manner that has the least impact on public access via the maintenance of existing public parking areas and traffic flow on coastal access routes. No street (or public boardwalk) closures or use of public parking for the storage or staging of equipment or supplies is permitted.

4. <u>Deed Restriction</u>. **PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF THE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**, the applicant shall submit to the Executive Director for review and approval documentation demonstrating that the applicant has executed and recorded against the parcel(s) governed by this permit a deed restriction, in a form and content acceptable to the Executive Director: (1) indicating that, pursuant to this permit, the California Coastal Commission has authorized development on the subject property, subject to terms and conditions that restrict the use and enjoyment of that property; and (2) imposing the Special Conditions of this permit as covenants, conditions and restrictions on the use and enjoyment of the Property. The deed restriction shall include a legal description of the entire parcel or parcels governed by this permit. The deed restriction for any reason, the terms and conditions of this permit shall continue to restrict the use and enjoyment of the subject property so long as either this permit or the development it authorizes, or any part, modification, or amendment thereof, remains in existence on or with respect to the subject property.

IV. Findings and Declarations.

The Commission finds and declares as follows:

1. <u>Detailed Project Description</u>. Proposed is construction of two, three-story, 30-ft. high, two-unit residential buildings totaling 8,662 sq.ft. with an attached two-space garage for each unit (for a total of 8 parking spaces). Each unit is proposed as a one-

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family apartment. Access will be received from Strandway, the alley immediately adjacent to, and east of, the project site. Landscaping and hardscaping is also proposed consisting of a 4 ½ ft. high raised landscape planter in the north side yard. Also proposed is miscellaneous landscaping and hardscaping and consolidation of six existing lots and a portion of a vacated alley into one parcel totaling 7,940 sq.ft. The subject site is presently vacant.

The subject site is located adjacent to the public boardwalk (Ocean Front Walk) at the southeast corner of Ocean Front Walk and Queenstown Court in the community of Mission Beach in the City of San Diego.

Although the City of San Diego has a certified LCP for the Mission Beach community, the subject site is located in an area where the Commission retains permit jurisdiction. Therefore, Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act is the standard of review, with the City's LCP used as guidance.

2. Visual Quality. Section 30251 of the Coastal Act states, in part:

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.

In addition, Section 132.0403 of the City's certified Land Development Code, which the Commission uses for guidance, states the following:

[...]

(a) If there is an existing or potential public view between the ocean and the first public roadway, but the site is not designated in a land use plan as a view to be protected, it is intended that views to the ocean shall be preserved, enhanced or restored by deed restricting required side yard setback areas to cumulatively form functional view corridors and preventing a walled off effect from authorized development.

[...]

(e) Open fencing and landscaping may be permitted within the view corridors and visual accessways, provided such improvements do not significantly obstruct public views of the ocean. Landscaping shall be planted and maintained to preserve public views.

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The City's certified implementation plan defines open fencing as "a fence designed to permit public views that has at least 75 percent of its surface area open to light." The proposed development is located between the first coastal road and sea.

Section 103.0526.13 Mission Beach PDO, which the Commission uses for guidance also contains the following requirement:

"...Landscaping located within the required yards for Courts and Places shall protect pedestrian view corridors by emphasizing tall trees with canopy areas and ground cover. Landscaping materials shall not encroach or overhang into the Courts and Places rights-of-way below the height of 10 feet above the right-of-way." (p.10)

The certified Mission Beach Precise Plan and Local Coastal Program Addendum which the Commission uses for guidance also states:

"Views to and along the shoreline from Public areas shall be protected from blockage by development and or vegetation." (p.14)

In the Mission Beach community, the public rights-of-way of the various courts and places, which are generally east/west running streets, comprise the community's public view corridors. In addition, the public boardwalk, which runs north/south along the beach, serves not only as a highly popular public access, but also serves as a view corridor along the shoreline. The project site is located immediately adjacent to the public boardwalk (Ocean Front Walk) and Queenstown Court (to the north). Thus, there is the potential for the subject development to impact views to and along the shoreline. As proposed, the subject development will result in two, three-story, two-unit residential structures directly adjacent to the public boardwalk. that not only eneroach into the required building setback areas (side yard and along the boardwalk) but also do not observe a "step back" feature at the upper levels in order to avoid a "walled off effect"and preserve public views along the boardwalk.

The proposed project results in new development adjacent to the public boardwalk, as opposed to a remodel of an existing structure. In January, 2005 the Commission approved CDP #6-04-38/Joeis which resulted in the remodeling of an existing two-story duplex adjacent to the public boardwalk. In that decision, the Commission found that because the proposed development was a remodel to an existing structure — as opposed to new development — that the proposed development did not need to terrace back the upper levels and was permitted to maintain its non-conforming building setbacks. It was also found that the structure would not increase the degree of non-conformity. In this particular case, however, the proposed development is clearly new development resulting in a new structure on the subject property. As such, the proposed development is required to adhere to the current building setbacks as well as the step-back feature of the certified LCP (used for guidance) in order to preserve public views to the ocean along and the adjacent courts and places. Stepping back the upper levels also results in development that is less visually intrusive adjacent to the public boardwalk which is a major public accessway.

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The proposed project results in new development adjacent to the public boardwalk, as opposed to a remodel of an existing structure. In January, 2005 the Commission approved CDP #6-04-38/Jocis which resulted in the remodeling of an existing two-story duplex adjacent to the public boardwalk. In that decision, the Commission found that because the proposed development was a remodel to an existing structure—as opposed to new development—that the proposed development did not need to terrace back the upper levels and was permitted to maintain its non-conforming building setbacks. It was also found that the structure would not increase the degree of non-conformity. In this particular case, however, the proposed development is clearly **new** development is required to adhere to the current building setbacks as well as the step-back feature of the certified LCP (used for guidance) in order to preserve public views to the ocean along and the adjacent courts and places. Stepping back the upper levels also results in development that is less visually intrusive adjacent to the public boardwalk which is a major public accessway.

The proposed development raises three <u>separate-potential</u> issues with regard to protection of public views: 1) the proposed structures encroach into the required setback areas; 2) the proposed structures are not terraced at the upper levels; and, 3) landscape improvements are proposed in required yard areas that will impact public views to the ocean.

Encroachment into Required Setback Areas. For the subject site, the Mission Beach PDO, which the Commission uses as guidance, requires that a 7 ft. building setback be provided from the western property line (adjacent to the public boardwalk) and that a 10 ft. building setback be provided from the northern property line (adjacent to Queenstown Court). The proposed project does not meet these standards because it only provides a 5 1/2 foot setback from the Boardwalk and a 8 1/2 foot setback from the northern property line. In addition, Section 103.0526 of the Mission Beach PDO allows structures to encroach 18" into the required building setback provided that an equal area of the proposed structure is set back 18" further behind the required building setback line. The project is proposed to be designed in this manner and will observe a 5 1/2-foot setback from the Boardwalk and an 8 1/2-foot setback from the northern property line for portions of the proposed structure. However, such these intrusions, although appearing to be are minor in nature, could and do not result in impacts on public views to and along the shoreline from the boardwalk and Queenstown Court. Although Tthe Commission has typically required that projects located next to the boardwalk and public street ends not be permitted to intrude into the yard setback areas, regardless whether or not a vertical offset is provided (i.e., an area equivalent to the intrusion that is provided behind the setback area) as the vertical offset does not compensate for view impacts associated with intrusion of the structure, although minimally, in the view corridors. Such encroachments in other project areas (further inland or between Mission Blvd. and Bayside Walk or Ocean Front Walk) do not raise potential concerns with regard to protection of public views. However, such is not the case for the subject site. The proposed encroachments into the yard setbacks, iIn this particular case, the proposed 18"

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<u>encroachments</u> will <u>not</u> result in, not only an adverse visual impacts by projecting into a view corridor, but also a psychological barrier and possible impediment to public access along the coastal access route. As such, the proposed project should be redesigned to observe a full setback required along these important frontages.

<u>Terracing Upper Levels</u>. Another method used to open up and improve public views in scenic areas and along view corridors is to require that buildings, as they get higher, to terrace or step-back. This helps reduces the potential for a "walled-off" effect next to an access/view corridor and reduces the massing of the building as its height increases. However, iIn the case of the proposed development, the three story building has been designed just the opposite. Aadjacent to Queenstown Court, the upper levels actually overhang three feet into the required building setback area. In other words, the upper levels, instead of terracing back from the first level, actually-project into the setback area beyond the first floor. Although The proposed overhang at the upper levels intrudes into the viewshed of the public view corridor looking west from Strandway along Queenstown Court, thereby adversely affecting public views to the ocean it is minor in nature, still provides for a general 7-foot setback from the public boardwalk, and is proposed to break up the building mass so that the building appears different in design as viewed from the boardwalk. The Commission finds that, in this particular case, this architectural feature does not adversely affect public views to the ocean.

In addition, along the public boardwalk, the same concern is raised. Section 103.0526.4 of the certified Mission Beach PDO requires that along the boardwalk, there be a seven foot building setback for the first story. However, it is not clear as to the required setbacks for the upper levels as the section is written such that it can be interpreted in other ways. and that additional levels above the second story be set back three more feet for 50% of the lot fronting on the walk, and five feet for the remaining 50% However, the intent of the language is clear -- to create an offset to the building to break up the bulk and mass for upper levels. Thus, structures are required to be terraced back at the upper levels to break up the building façade and minimize their seaward encroachment adjacent to a public right of way, in this case, the public boardwalk of Ocean Front Walk. However, the proposed development is not consistent with this requirements. The western facade of the ground floor of the structure is set back only 5 1/2 feet at its closest point from the western property line (utilizing the 18" articulation), with the upper floors actually projecting into the setback area beyond the first floor for a small portion of the structure. However, the Commission finds Fthe proposed overhang at the upper levels doesintrudes into the viewshed of the public boardwalk, adversely affecting public views and is inconsistent with the above cited LCP requirements as well as with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act.

<u>Landscape Improvements</u>. The last concern with regard to protection of public views relates to landscape improvements in the required yard areas. The applicant is proposing a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high raised planter in the north side yard adjacent to Queenstown Court. Not only does the height of the planter potentially interfere with public views looking down Queenstown Court toward the ocean, but the planting of tall vegetation and/or trees in this area will also intrude into the public viewshed towards the ocean. Even shrubs which

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are lower in height planted on top of a $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. raised planter will interfere with public views of the ocean in this location. As noted above, both the Coastal Act and the certified LCP (which is used for guidance) require that public views to and along the shoreline be protected. As such, it is important, in this particular case, to maintain and enhance views to the ocean from Queenstown Court. For this reason, the proposed development cannot be found consistent with the visual resource and public view protection policies of the Coastal Act.

To address these concerns, Special Condition #1 requires that the applicant submit revised plans that require that the proposed buildings eomply with all required building setbacks (ground floor and upper levels) such that the structures not interfere with public observe a 7-foot setback from the western property line allowing the allowing the 18-inch atticulation (offset into the setback area)views to and along the shoreline. In addition, Special Condition #2 requires that the applicant submit revised landscape/side yard area fence plans that have been modified to limit landscape and hardscape improvements to only low levels that do not impede views to the ocean. Specifically, the portions of the proposed 4 ½ -foot high planter which exceeds 3 feet in height shall be reduced in height to not exceed 3 ft. In this particular case, the permitted landscape elements include plant elements that do not impede views (limited to a height of about 3 ft.) and <u>one</u> tree with a thin trunk (such as a Palm tree). Through these conditions, it can be assured that any improvements proposed in the north side yard areas will not impede public views toward the ocean. Special Condition #5 requires the permit and findings be recorded to assure future property owners are aware of the permit conditions.

In a response to a letter dated 5/3/05-from Commission staff to the City of San Diego addressing development projects that have been designed without the upper level stepback feature, the City sent Commission staff a letter dated 5/26/05 (ref. Exhibit #6). The City's letter suggests that the PDO language is being interpreted incorrectly by the Commission and is not consistent with previous interpretations by the City and the Coastal Commission (ref. Exhibit #7 for the PDO language). The Commission does not agree with the City staff's statements. While the Commission agrees there are projects that are exceptions where structures do extend into the setback areas (many of these structures are pre Coastal Act), the Commission's interpretation has been expressed to City staff and applicants on numerous occasions in Commission staff comments on projects early in their review through the City. These comments have in many cases resulted in projects being redesigned to address the identified concerns before they come before the Commission for approval.

Also, tThe applicant's representative has suggested that the Commission has approved many projects along the boardwalk that project into the setback areas. However, this is not correct. In reviewing the permit files for the projects specifically cited by the applicant's representative, the plans, in many cases, do not match what has been built or portrayed on submitted exhibits. Other coastal development permits cited by the applicant's representative as example of residential structures approved by the Coastal Commission that include projections into the setback areas along the boardwalk are not even for residential structures (i.e., for condo conversions and privacy walls). However,

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there are some older development projects that appears to incorporate the encroachment into the setback area, as well. Thus, it seems that the application of this design requirement has not been applied consistently in past years by the Commission.

In addition, it should be noted that in this particular case, the subject development is located within the Commission's area of original permit jurisdiction where Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act are the standard of review, with the City's LCP is used only as guidance. Specifically, Section 30251 of the Coastal Act requires that new development be sited and designed to protect views to and along the ocean. In this particular case, as conditioned, no impacts on public views will occur. In the case of the proposed development, allowing the 3-story structure to extend and project into the view corridors along the Queenstown Court and Ocean Front Walk (the public boardwalk) will result in adverse impacts on public views, inconsistent with the this policy.

In addition, the proposed project results in the consolidation of six existing lots and a portion of a vacated alley into one parcel totaling 7,940 sq.ft. However, even though the new lot will be larger in size, it will be compatible in size with the other lots in the area. Also, the proposed two-unit residential structures will be visually compatible with the surrounding development in terms of bulk and scale, consistent with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act.

In summary, the subject development, specifically the proposed building setbacks and landscape features, will result in public view blockage from adjacent view corridors. As conditioned to require that the structures observe the required building setbacks along the western and northern frontages adjacent to the public boardwalk and adjacent vertical visual and public accessway and to limit hardscape and landscape features to a height that does not significantly obstruct public views of the ocean, including reduction in height of portions of the planter that exceed 3 feet in height, the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on views to and along the shoreline. Furthermore, the Commission finds the proposed development, as conditioned, consistent with the visual resource protection policies of the Coastal Act.

3. <u>Public Access/Recreation</u>. Coastal Act sections 30210, 30211, 30212(a) and 30221 are applicable to the project and state the following:

Section 30210

In carrying out the requirement of Section 4 of Article X of the California Constitution, maximum access, which shall be conspicuously posted, and recreational opportunities shall be provided for all the people consistent with public safety needs and the need to protect public rights, rights of private property owners, and natural resource areas from overuse.

Section 30212(a)

(a) Public access from the nearest public roadway to the shoreline and along the

coast shall be provided in new development projects except where:

(1) it is inconsistent with public safety, military security needs, or the protection of fragile coastal resources,

(2) adequate access exists nearby, or, [...]

Section 30211

Development shall not interfere with the public's right of access to the sea where acquired through use or legislative authorization, including, but not limited to, the use of dry sand and rocky coastal beaches to the first line of terrestrial vegetation.

Section 30221

Oceanfront land suitable for recreational use shall be protected for recreational use and development unless present and foreseeable future demand for public or commercial recreational activities that could be accommodated on the property is already adequately provided for in the area.

The project site is located adjacent to the public beach and boardwalk. The boardwalk is a heavily-used recreational facility frequented by pedestrians, bicyclists, skaters, skateboarders, runners, and persons in wheelchairs. The walkway is accessible from the east/west courts and streets off of Mission Boulevard, and provides access to the sandy beach at stairways located at various points along the seawall. Access to the beach can be gained nearest the project site at the end of Queenstown Court adjacent to the project site to the south. Thus, adequate access exists very nearby, for purposes of Coastal Act Section 30212.

In addition, eight on-site parking spaces are proposed to serve the new development. The existing structure is located at the southeast corner of Queenstown Court and Ocean Front Walk (the public boardwalk) in the Mission Beach community of the City of San Diego. The Ocean Front Walk boardwalk was originally constructed in 1928, and runs along the western side of Mission Beach from the South Mission Beach Jetty north approximately 2.36 miles to Thomas Avenue in the community of Pacific Beach.

The project site is located in an area where the public boardwalk has already been widened. In this particular case, the proposed development is proposed to intrude into the required building setbacks adjacent to Ocean Front Walk and Queenstown Court, as noted in the previous finding. As conditioned, to redesign the development to observe the required building setbacks and to terrace back the upper levels, the proposed project can be found consistent with the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act. In addition, <u>However</u>, to address potential concerns with regard to construction activities on public access on this oceanfront property and given its proximity to the public boardwalk, Special Condition #3 requires that construction work not occur between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day. As conditioned, it can be assured that the

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proposed development does not interfere with public access opportunities and is consistent with the public access and recreation policies of the Coastal Act.

4. Local Coastal Planning. In addition to non-compliance with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act, tThe subject proposal also-does not comply with the existing LCP provisions cited above pertaining to protection of public views to the ocean. Specifically, a 4 1/2-foot high planter is proposed in the north side yard which will intrude into the adjacent view corridor._the first floor and second floor setbacks do not meet LCP setback requirements. As noted above, the PDO requires that levels above the first level be setback further beyond the required first floor setback so as to "step back" the development. In this case, that setback for the upper levels should be 10 feet but the applicant proposes to observe only a 5 1/2 ft. setback. Thus, the proposed project will result in a three-story development directly adjacent to the public boardwalk, with no "step back feature for upper levels" as required by the LCP. Therefore, the Commission finds that only as conditioned, for submittal of revised landscape/yard area/fence plans that require that the upper level be stepped back to break up the building façadethe portions of the proposed 4 1/2 foot high planter which exceed 3 feet in height be eliminated, can the subject proposal be found not to prejudice the ability of the City of San Diego to continue to implement its certified LCP for the Mission Beach area of the City of San Diego.

5. <u>Consistency with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</u> Section 13096 of the Commission's Code of Regulations requires Commission approval of Coastal Development Permits to be supported by a finding showing the permit, as conditioned, 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 which the activity may have on the environment.

The proposed project has been conditioned in order to be found consistent with Chapter 3 policies of the Coastal Act. Mitigation measures, including conditions addressing preservation of public views to the ocean will minimize all adverse environmental impacts. As conditioned, there are no feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen any significant adverse impact which the activity may have on the environment. Therefore, the Commission finds that the proposed project is the least environmentally-damaging feasible alternative and is consistent with the requirements of the Coastal Act to conform to CEQA.

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

1. <u>Notice of Receipt and Acknowledgment</u>. 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.

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- 2. <u>Expiration</u>. 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. <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.
- 5. <u>Terms and Conditions Run with the Land</u>. 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.

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COMMISSION ACTION ONSEP 1 6 2005

TATE OF CALIFORNIA -- THE RESOURCES AGENCY CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION SAN DIEGO AREA 7575 METROPOLITAN DRIVE, SUITE 103 SAN DIEGO, CA 92108-4402 (519) 757-2370



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ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,

<u>Addendum</u>

September 12, 2005

 To:
 Commissioners and Interested Persons

 From:
 California Coastal Commission

 San Diego Staff

Subject: Addendum to Item 14a, Coastal Commission Permit Application #6-04-163 (Cameron Brothers), for the Commission Meeting of 9/14/05

Staff recommends the changes below be made to the above-referenced staff report. Language to be removed shall be struck out (i.e., struck out) and language to be added shall be in bold type (i.e., **bold type**) and double-underlined (i.e., <u>double-underlined</u>).

1. On Page 8 of the staff report, the first paragraph was inadvertently re-inserted into the staff report when it should have been deleted.

The proposed project results in new development adjacent to the public boardwalk, as opposed to a remodel of an existing structure. In January, 2005 the Commission approved CDP #6-04-38/Joeis which resulted in the remodeling of an existing two story duplex adjacent to the public boardwalk. In that decision, the Commission found that because the proposed development was a remodel to an existing structure — as opposed to new development — that the proposed development did not need to terrace back the upper levels and was permitted to maintain its non-conforming building setbacks. It was also found that the structure would not increase the degree of non-conformity. In this particular case, however, the proposed development is clearly new development is required to adhere to the current building setbacks as well as the step back feature of the certified LCP (used for guidance) in order to preserve public views to the ocean along and the adjacent courts and places. Stepping back the upper levels also results in development that is less visually intrusive adjacent to the public boardwalk which is a major public accessway.

2. On Page 8 of the Staff Report, the last sentence on the page shall be corrected as follows:

[...] <u>Although</u> \mp the Commission has typically required that projects located next to the boardwalk and public street ends not be permitted to intrude into the yard setback areas, regardless whether or not a vertical offset is provided (i.e., an area equivalent to the intrusion that is provided behind the setback area) as the vertical offset does not

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compensate for view impacts associated with intrusion of the structure, although minimally, in the view corridors. Such eneroachments in other project areas (further inland or between mission Blvd. and Bayside Walk or Ocean Front Walk) do not raise potential concerns with regard to protection of public views. However, such is not the case for the subject site. The proposed encroachments into the yard setbacks, <u>i</u>In this particular case, <u>the proposed 18</u>" encroachments will <u>not</u> result in, not only an adverse visual impacts by projecting into a view corridor, but also a psychological barrier and possible impediment to public access along the coastal access route. As such, the proposed project should be redesigned to observe a full setback required along these important frontages.

3. On Page 9 of the staff report, the last sentence in the next to last paragraph shall be corrected as follows:

In addition, along the public boardwalk, the same concern is raised. Section 103.0526.4 of the certified Mission Beach PDO requires that along the boardwalk, there be a seven foot building setback for the first story. However, it is not clear as to the required setbacks for the upper levels as the section is written such that it can be interpreted in other ways. and that additional levels above the second story be set back three more feet for 50% of the lot fronting on the walk, and five feet for the remaining 50% However, the intent of the language is clear--to create an offset to the building to break up the bulk and mass for upper levels. Thus, structures are required to be terraced back at the upper levels to break up the building façade and minimize their seaward encroachment adjacent to a public right of way, in this case, the public boardwalk of Ocean Front Walk. However, the proposed development is not consistent with this requirements. The western façade of the ground floor of the structure is set back 5 1/2 feet at its closest point from the western property line (utilizing the 18" articulation), with the upper floors actually projecting into the setback area beyond the first floor for a small portion of the structure. However, the Commission finds Fthe proposed overhang at the upper levels does not intrudes into the viewshed of the public boardwalk, adversely affect public views and is consistent with the above cited LCP requirements as well as with Section 30251 of the Coastal Act.

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