GAVIN NEWSOM. GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION South Coast District Office 301 E Ocean Blvd., Suite 300 Long Beach, CA 90802-4302 (562) 590-5071



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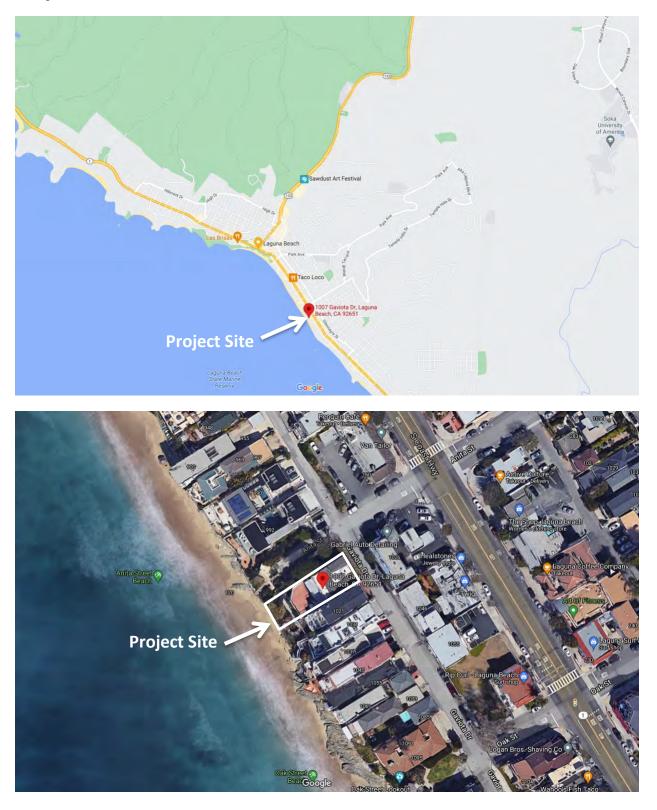
A-5-LGB-21-0043 (LOHBACH STUDIOS) AUGUST 13, 2021

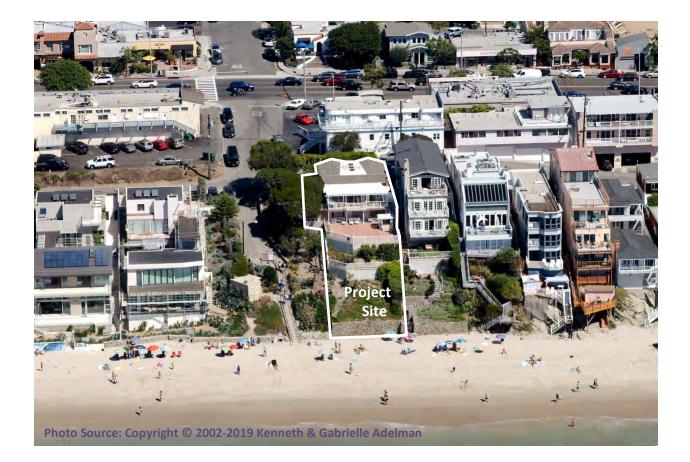
EXHIBITS

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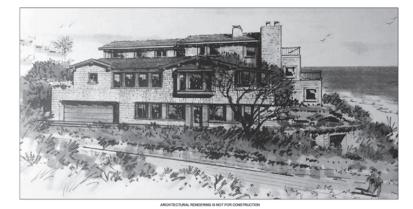
- Exhibit 1 Project Location and Aerials of Project Site
- Exhibit 2 Project Plans
- Exhibit 3 Appeal

Project Site: 1007 Gaviota Drive, Laguna Beach (APN: 644-076-01)





Mike and Lori Gray Residence

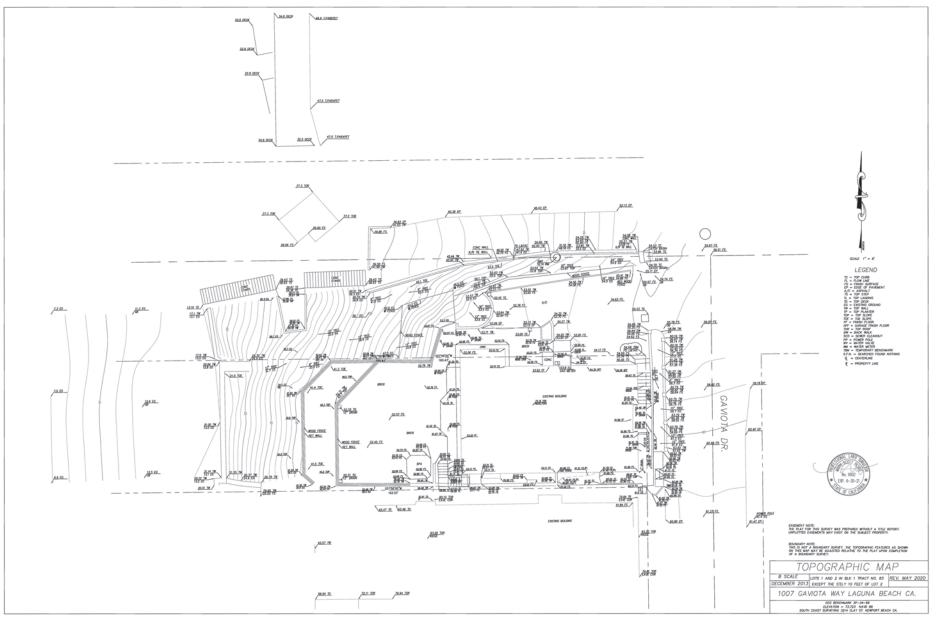


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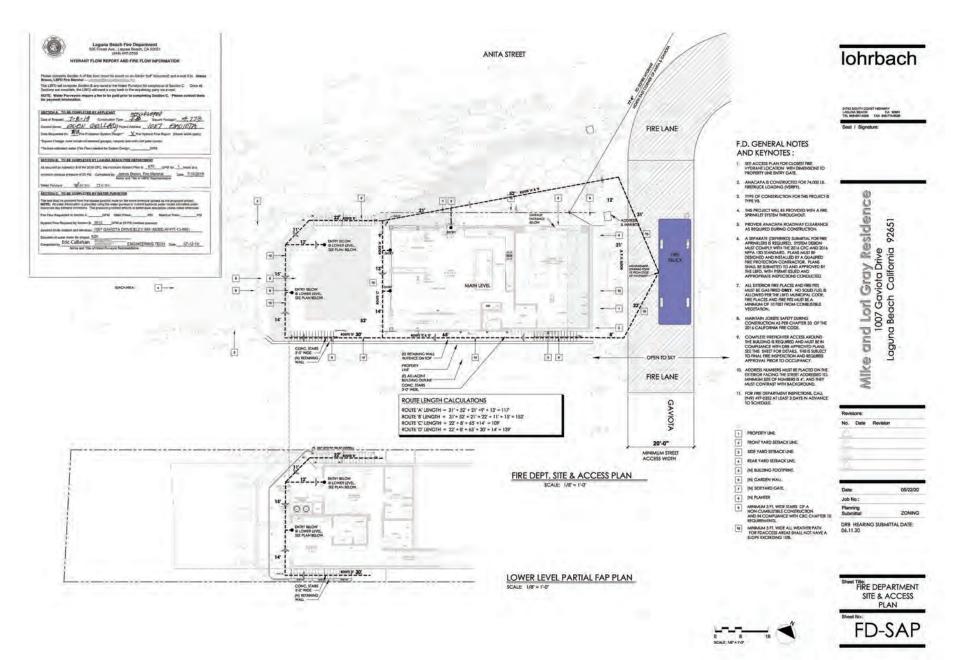


| | | | | | | ri Gray Residence Gaviata Drive ach California 92651 |
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| mann, mar ann an ann ann ann ann ann ann ann an | | Vicinity Map | Owner/Client Mike and Lori Gray st37 Anneton La Guina, CA 52555 Le gal Data Lor Loss to 10 Block 1 Tract No. 83 (Arc Mark 157 Lor 2 Bo 1) Arc Mark 100 Consension Charge R30 Zow R30 Zow R3 Arcte Charge R30 Zow R3 Arcte Charge R3 | Difference Biolowick < | LANDSCAPE L-1 PRELIMENTY LANDSCAPE PLAN L-4 BUILDING EXTERIOR LIGHTING PLAN SEE SHEET FD-SAP for LBFD code requirements. | Submittie: ZONING DR8 HEARING SUBMITTAL DATE 06.11.20 Sheet Title: TITLE SHEET Sheet No: A-0.0 |

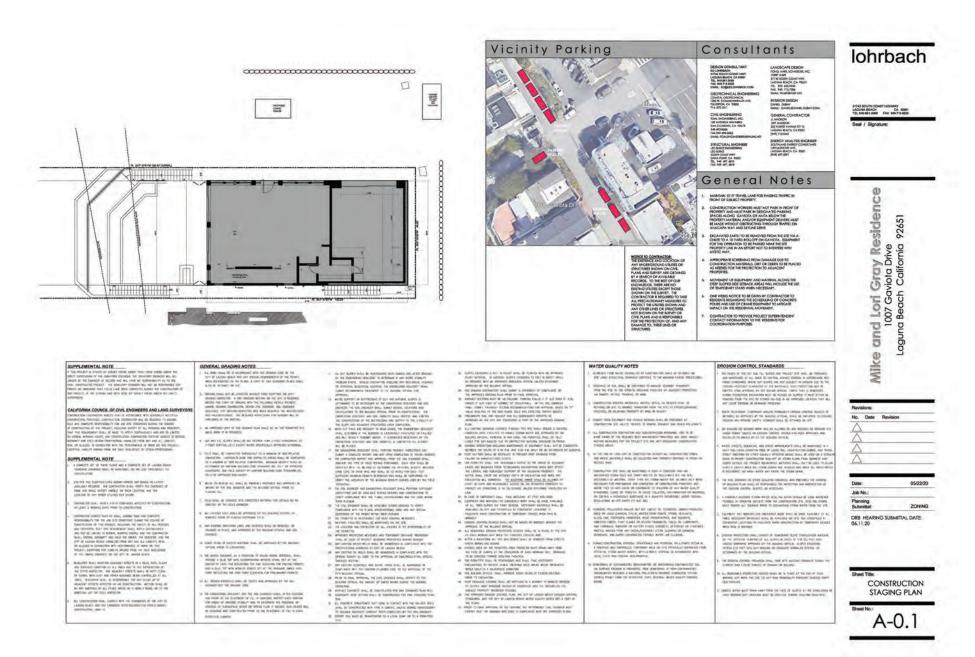
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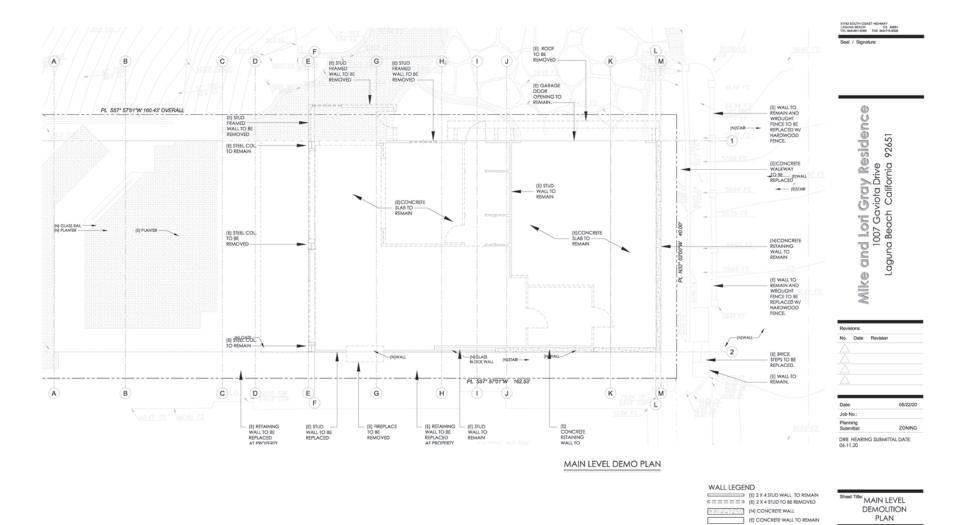


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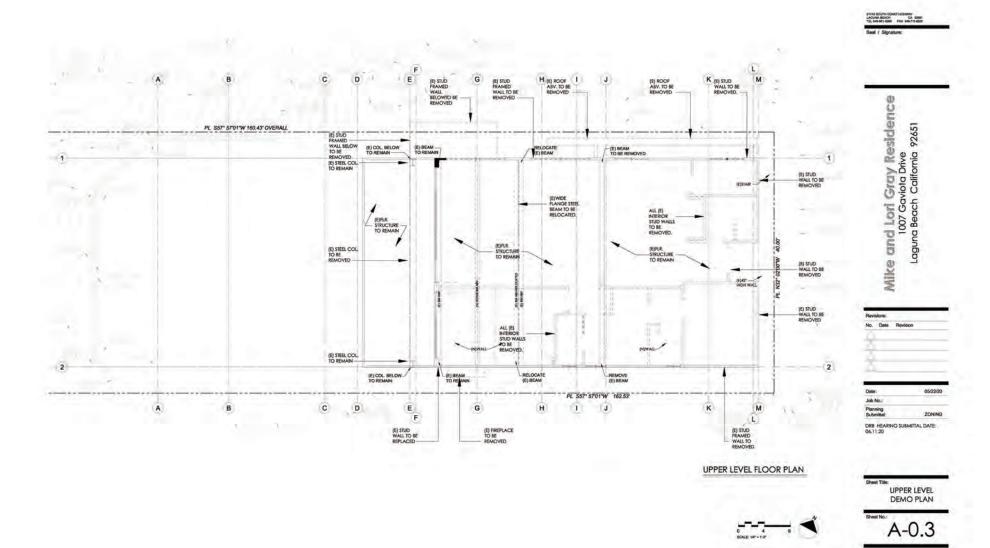
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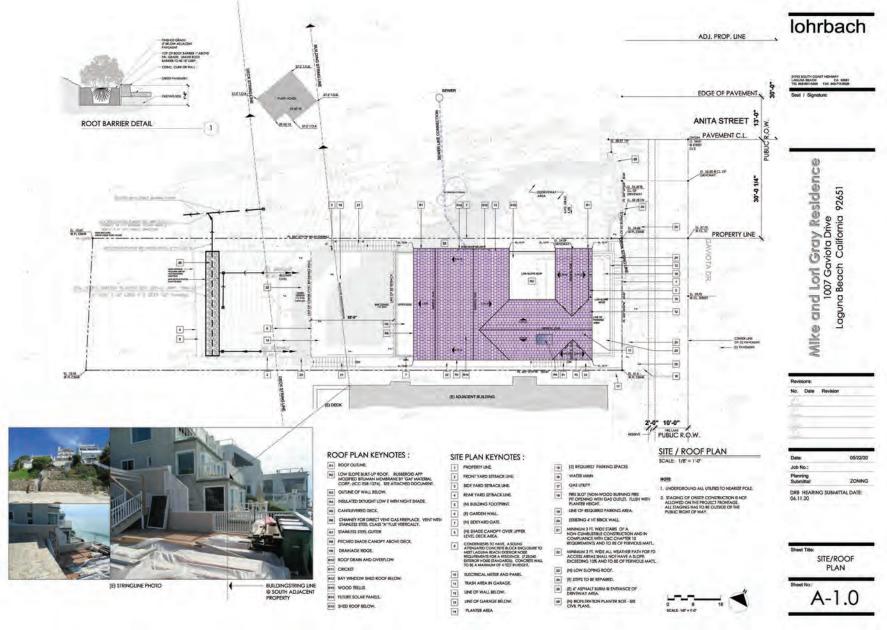
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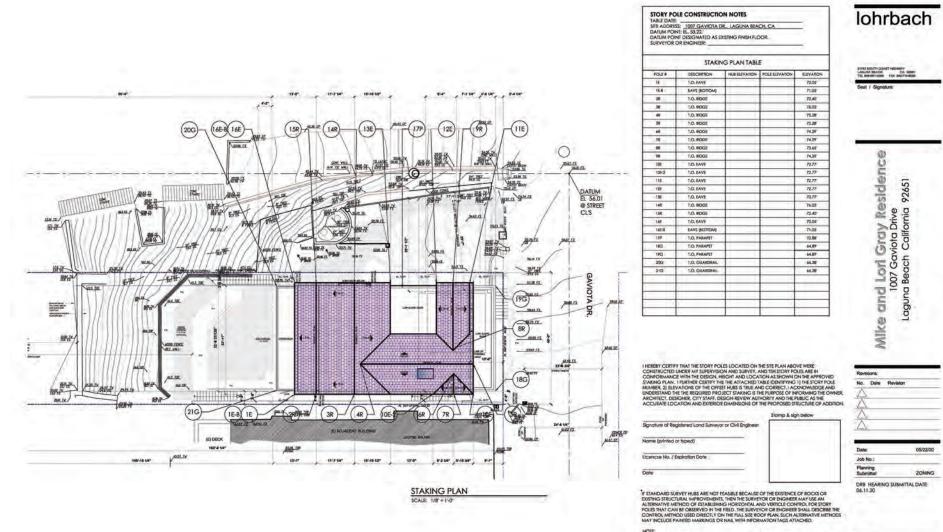


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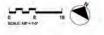


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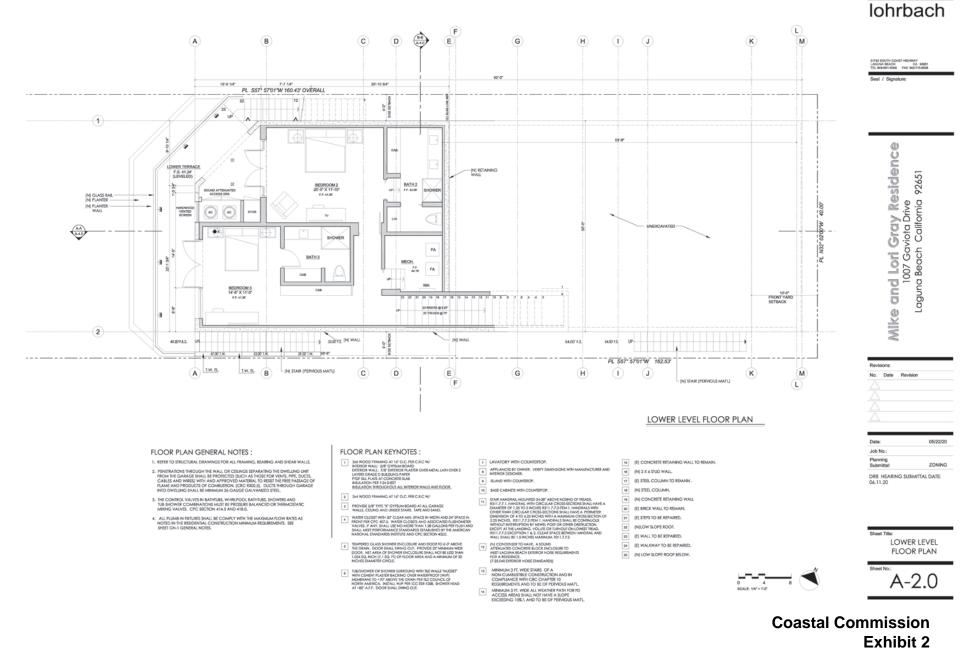




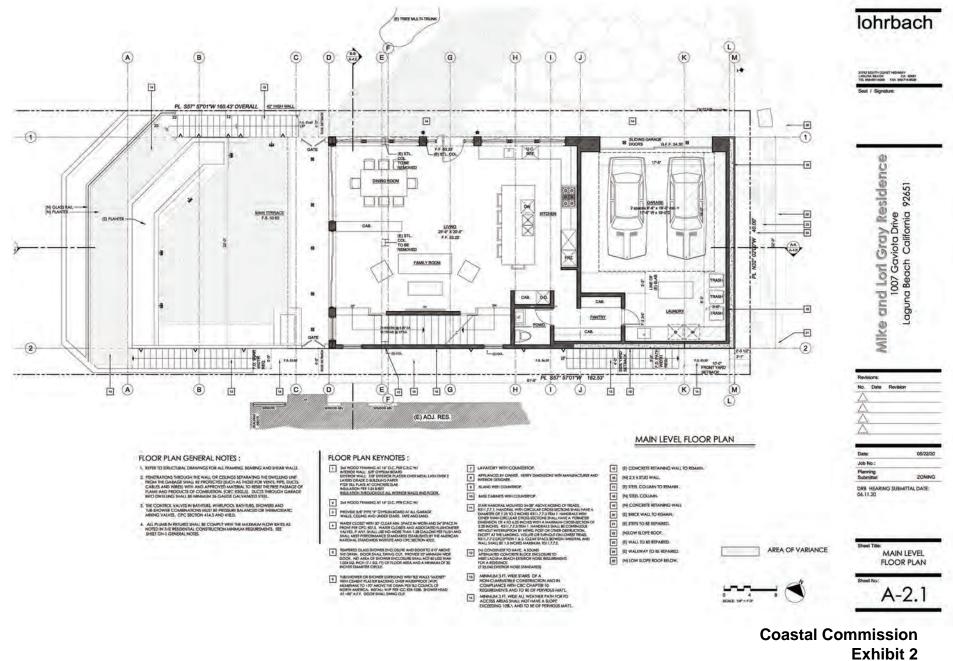
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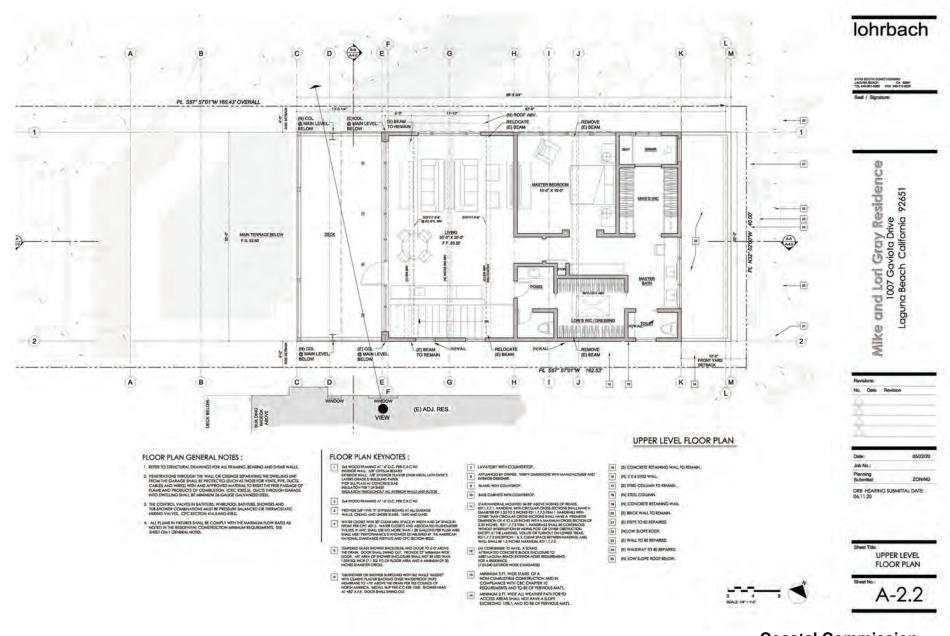
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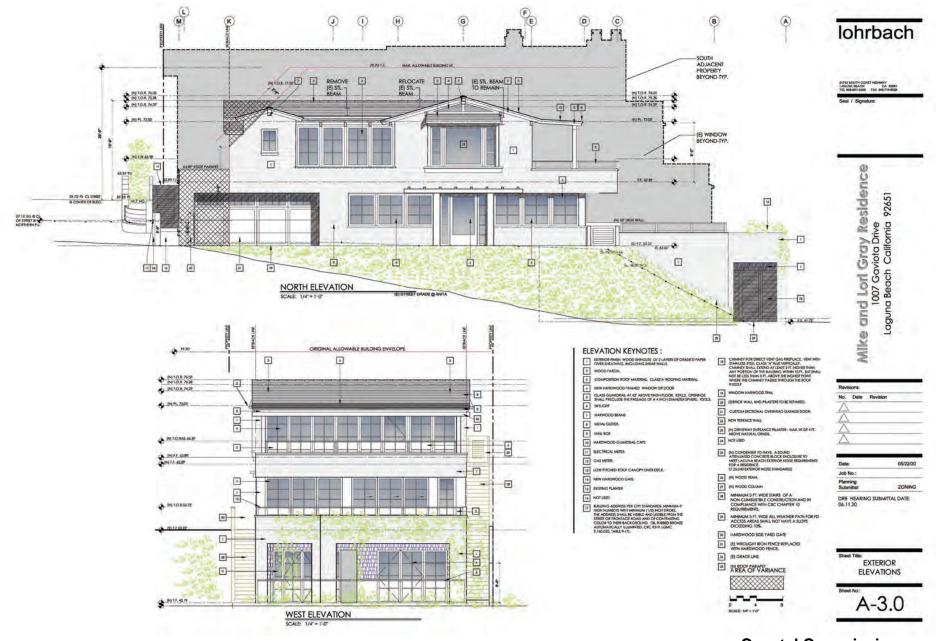
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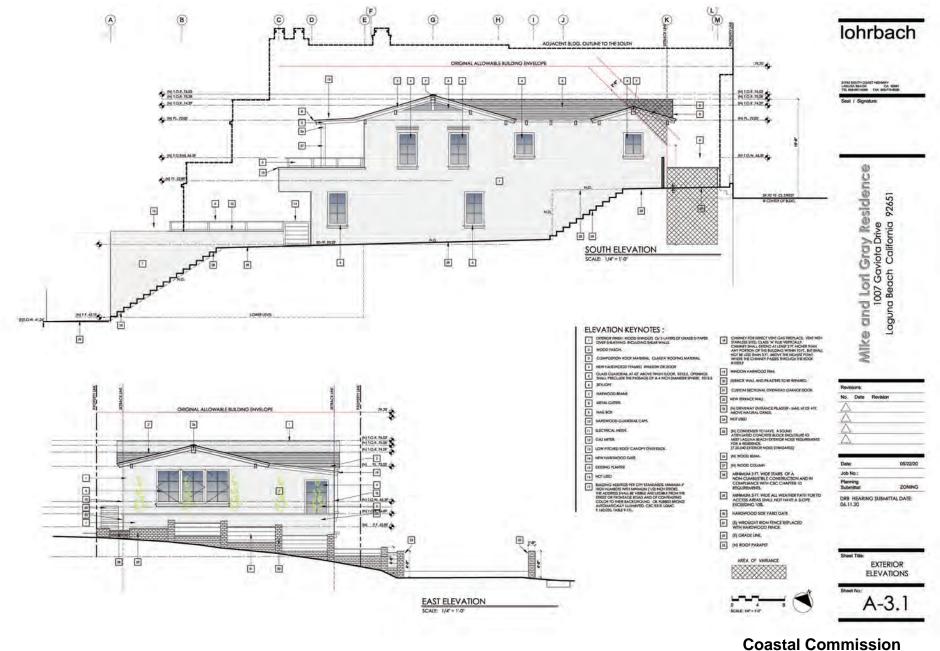
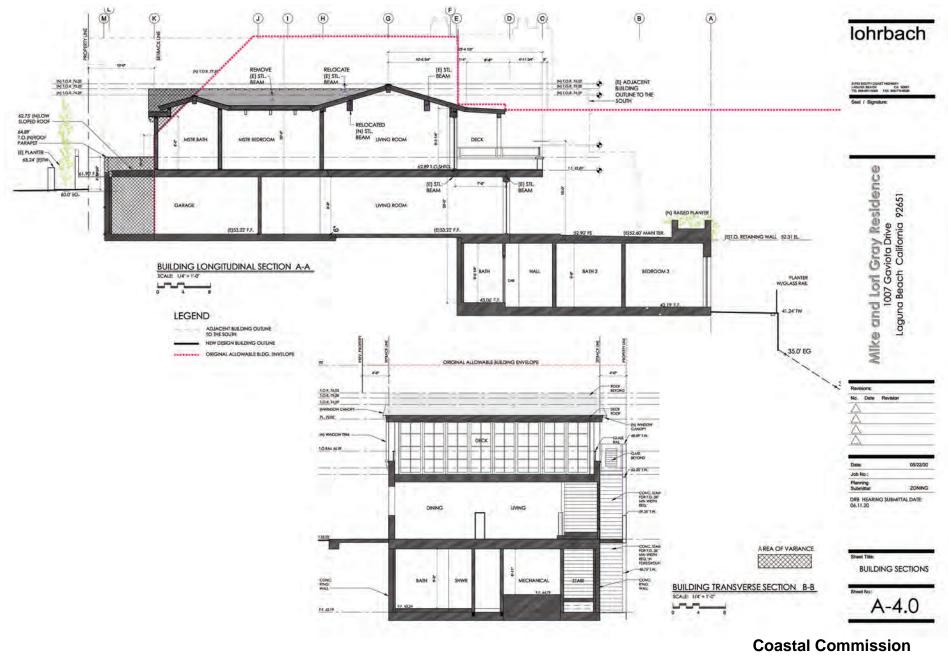


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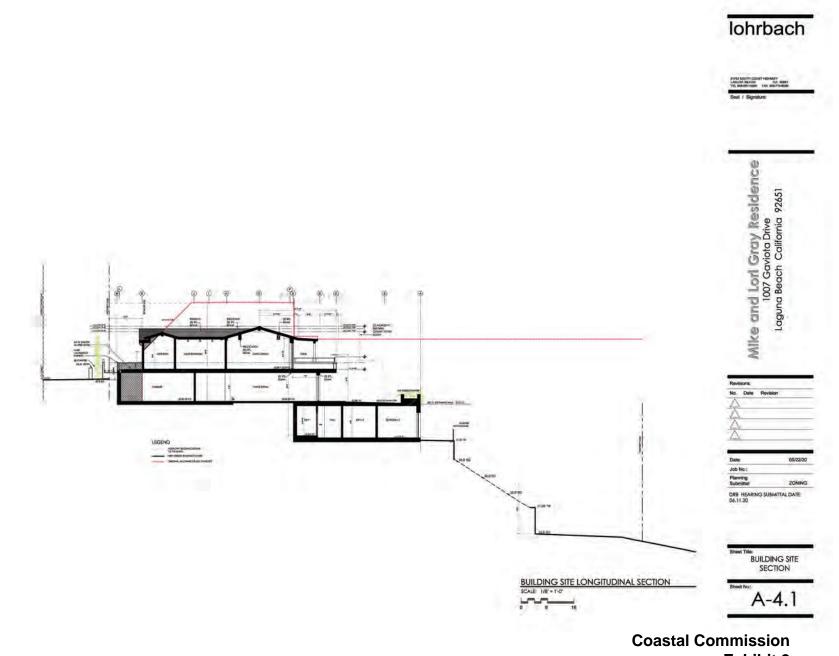
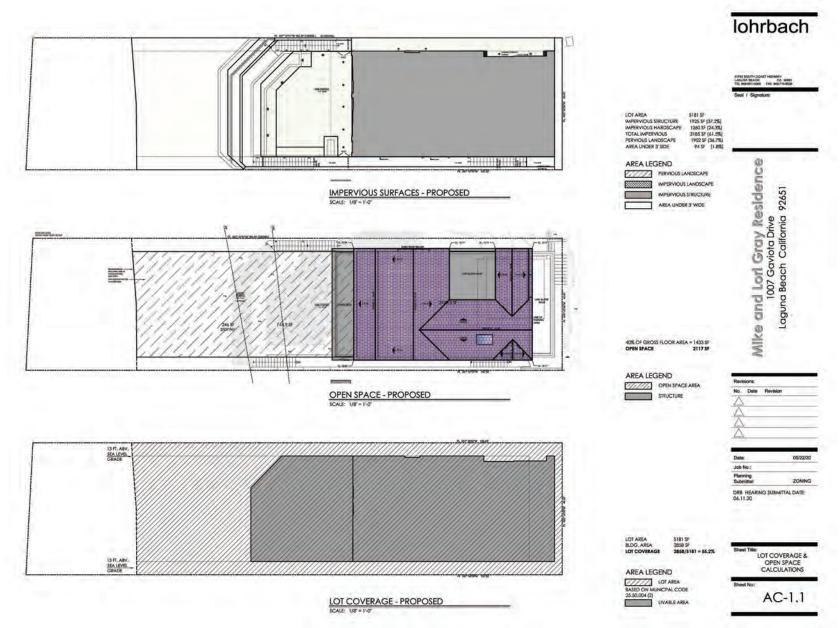


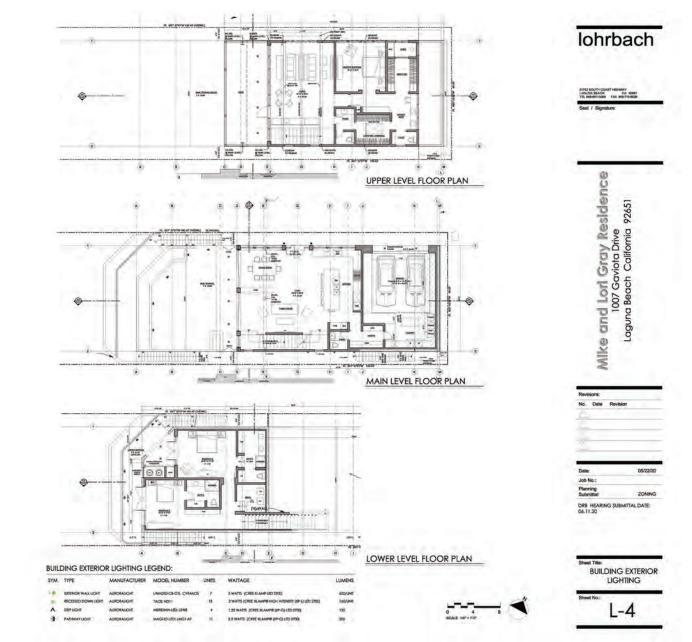
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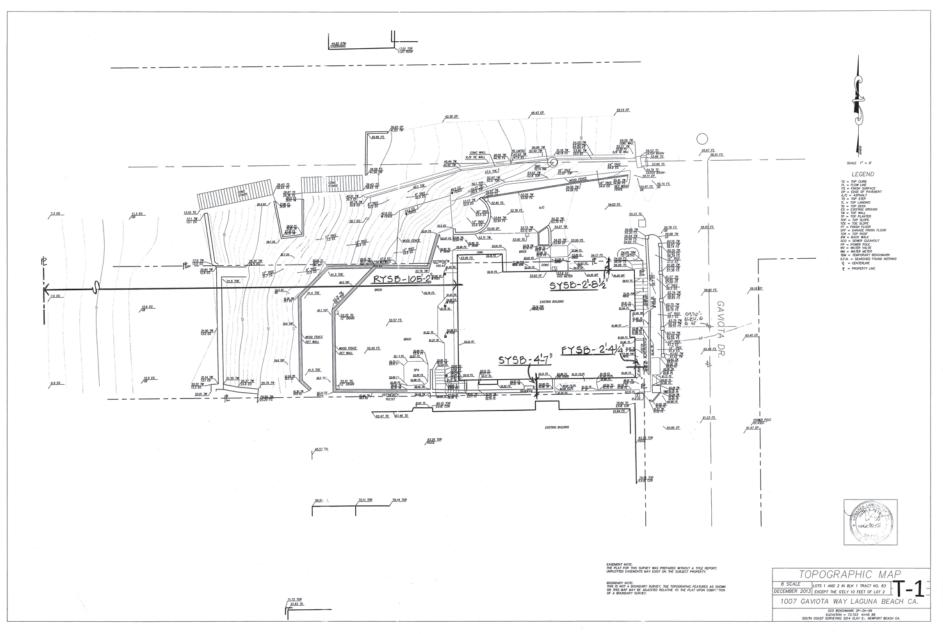
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CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION SOUTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE 301 E. OCEAN BLVD., SUITE 300 LONG BEACH, CA 90802 (562) 590-5071 SOUTHCOAST@COASTAL.CA.GOV



APPEAL FORM

Appeal of Local Government Coastal Development Permit

Filing Information (STAFF ONLY)

| District Office: South Coast | |
|--|--|
| Appeal Number: <u>A-5-LGB-21-0043</u> | |
| Date Filed: 6/22/2021 | |
| Appellant Name(s): Mark & Sharon Fudge | |

APPELLANTS

IMPORTANT. Before you complete and submit this appeal form to appeal a coastal development permit (CDP) decision of a local government with a certified local coastal program (LCP) to the California Coastal Commission, please review <u>the appeal</u> information sheet. The appeal information sheet describes who is eligible to appeal what types of local government CDP decisions, the proper grounds for appeal, and the procedures for submitting such appeals to the Commission. Appellants are responsible for submitting appeals that conform to the Commission law, including regulations. Appeals that do not conform may not be accepted. If you have any questions about any aspect of the appeal process, please contact staff in the Commission district office with jurisdiction over the area in question (see the Commission's <u>contact page</u> at https://coastal.ca.gov/contact/#/).

Note regarding emailed appeals. Please note that emailed appeals are accepted ONLY at the general email address for the Coastal Commission district office with jurisdiction over the local government in question. For the North Coast district office, the email address is <u>SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov</u>. An appeal emailed to some other email address, including a different district's general email address or a staff email address, will be rejected. It is the appellant's responsibility to use the correct email address, and appellants are encouraged to contact Commission staff with any questions. For more information, see the Commission's <u>contact page</u> at <u>https://coastal.ca.gov/contact/#/</u>).

Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 1 of 25

1. Appellant information1

| Name: | Mark and Sharon Fudge | George Weiss - City Councilr | nan |
|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Mailing address: | P.O. Box 130 Laguna Beach, 92652 | 693 Bluebird Cyn Dr, Laguna E | each 92651 |
| Phone number: | 949-481-1100 | 949-295-0832 | |
| Email address: | fudge1@cox.net | gweisslaguna@gmail.com | |
| How did you participa | ate in the local CDP application | and decision-making proc | ess? |
| Did not participate | (Submitted comment) | (Testified at hearing) | (Other) |
| Describe: | | | |
| Mark | and Sharon Fudge attended multiple he | arings since 2016 and submitted co | omments, |
| George Weis | ss cast the single dissenting vote at the Ci | ty Council hearing that approved tl | ne development. |
| | | | |
| participate because y Describe: | ou were not properly noticed). | | |
| why you should be al | ou exhausted all LCP CDP app lowed to appeal (e.g., if the loc ing procedures, or it charges a | al government did not follo | w proper |
| Describe: | | | |
| | | | |
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If there are multiple appellants, each appellant must provide their own contact and participation information. Please attach additional sheets as necessary.
Exhibit 3

2. Local CDP decision being appealed2

| Local government name: | | |
|--|--------------|-------------|
| Local government approval body: | | |
| Local government CDP application number: | | |
| Local government CDP decision: | CDP approval | CDP denial3 |
| Date of local government CDP decision: | | |

Please identify the location and description of the development that was approved or denied by the local government.

| escribe: | |
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² Attach additional sheets as necessary to fully describe the local government CDP decision, including a description of the development that was the subject of the CDP application and decision.

3 Very few local CDP denials are appealable, and those that are also require submit astal a reference of the appeal information sheet for more information.

3. Applicant information

Applicant name(s):

Applicant Address:

4. Grounds for this appeal4

For appeals of a CDP approval, grounds for appeal are limited to allegations that the approved development does not conform to the LCP or to Coastal Act public access provisions. For appeals of a CDP denial, grounds for appeal are limited to allegations that the development conforms to the LCP and to Coastal Act public access provisions. Please clearly identify the ways in which the development meets or doesn't meet, as applicable, the LCP and Coastal Act provisions, with citations to specific provisions as much as possible. Appellants are encouraged to be concise, and to arrange their appeals by topic area and by individual policies.

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4 Attach additional sheets as necessary to fully describe the grounds for appeal.

5. Identification of interested persons

On a separate page, please provide the names and contact information (i.e., mailing and email addresses) of all persons whom you know to be interested in the local CDP decision and/or the approved or denied development (e.g., other persons who participated in the local CDP application and decision making process, etc.), and check this box to acknowledge that you have done so.

Interested persons identified and provided on a separate attached sheet

6. Appellant certifications

I attest that to the best of my knowledge, all information and facts in this appeal are correct and complete.

| Print name | * |
|-------------------|------------|
| Mark Ludge | Thank Jule |
| Signature | \sim 0 |
| Date of Signature | |

7. Representative authorizations

While not required, you may identify others to represent you in the appeal process. If you do, they must have the power to bind you in all matters concerning the appeal. To do so, please complete the representative authorization form below and check this box to acknowledge that you have done so.

I have authorized a representative, and I have provided authorization for them on the representative authorization form attached.

₅ If there are multiple appellants, each appellant must provide their own certification. Please attach additional sheets as necessary.

6 If there are multiple appellants, each appellant must provide their own represent to identify others who represent them. Please attach additional sheets as necessary.

5. Identification of interested persons

On a separate page, please provide the names and contact information (i.e., mailing and email addresses) of all persons whom you know to be interested in the local CDP decision and/or the approved or denied development (e.g., other persons who participated in the local CDP application and decision making process, etc.), and check this box to acknowledge that you have done so.

Interested persons identified and provided on a separate attached sheet

6. Appellant certifications

I attest that to the best of my knowledge, all information and facts in this appeal are correct and complete.

| Print name | George Weiss |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 1 11. |
| | Sullim |
| Signature | |
| Date of Signatu | ure _ JUNE 2/2021 |

7. Representative authorizations

While not required, you may identify others to represent you in the appeal process. If you do, they must have the power to bind you in all matters concerning the appeal. To do so, please complete the representative authorization form below and check this box to acknowledge that you have done so.

I have authorized a representative, and I have provided authorization for them on the representative authorization form attached.

5 If there are multiple appellants, each appellant must provide their own certification. Please attach additional sheets as necessary.

6 If there are multiple appellants, each appellant must provide their own representative authorization form to identify others who represent them. Please attach additional sheets as necessary.

Coastal Commission

Exhibit 3 Page 6 of 25

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION 455 MARKET STREET, SUITE 300 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105-2219 VOICE (415) 904-5200 FAX (415) 904-5400



DISCLOSURE OF REPRESENTATIVES

If you intend to have anyone communicate on your behalf to the California Coastal Commission, individual Commissioners, and/or Commission staff regarding your coastal development permit (CDP) application (including if your project has been appealed to the Commission from a local government decision) or your appeal, then you are required to identify the name and contact information for all such persons prior to any such communication occurring (see Public Resources Code, Section 30319). The law provides that failure to comply with this disclosure requirement prior to the time that a communication occurs is a misdemeanor that is punishable by a fine or imprisonment and may lead to denial of an application or rejection of an appeal.

To meet this important disclosure requirement, please list below all representatives who will communicate on your behalf or on the behalf of your business and submit the list to the appropriate Commission office. This list could include a wide variety of people such as attorneys, architects, biologists, engineers, etc. If you identify more than one such representative, please identify a lead representative for ease of coordination and communication. You must submit an updated list anytime your list of representatives changes. You must submit the disclosure list before any communication by your representative to the Commission or staff occurs.

Your Name

CDP Application or Appeal Number _____

| Lead | Representative | |
|------|----------------|--|
| | | |

Your Signature

Date of Signature _____

Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 7 of 25 Additional Representatives (as necessary)

| Name | Name | |
|---|-----------------|--|
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Your Signature_____

Date of Signature _____

This Project is similar to multiple appeals already brought forward that have been found to present substantial issues. The City's approval of the project allowed for development that is inconsistent with the certified LCP in the following ways:

- 1. Improper bluff edge determination
- 2. Allowed new development to rely on an existing shoreline protective device/Did not require a waiver of future shoreline protection.
- 3. Allowed obsolete structures (three seawalls) to remain at the site in conjunction with new development
- 4. Allowed for encroachment of private development into public coastal access.
- 5. Other issues: Un-permitted demolition of a Duplex and replacement with SFR on the Coast. Possibly inconsistent with SB330.

History

This project started out as a 'minor remodel' limited to interior work and a small expansion of the garage in 2014. Over-the-counter building permits were issued. It was "Red Tagged" by the City on December 22, 2014 due to the work exceeding the scope of the permit. Appellants have objected to the project since 2016 when it went before the Design Review Board for its first discretionary permits including the subject CDP. We have spoken at multiple public hearings and have submitted multiple comments to the Design Review Board, the Planning Commission, and the City Council about proposed development at, and adjacent to this site.

In 2018, the City attempted to sell the public's Coastal Access to the applicant for a 'contribution' of \$540,000 through an abandonment of a portion of the unimproved Anita Street right-of-way. Through this action the easement area would revert to the owners of the property at 1007 Gaviota by operation of law according to the Agenda Bill presented to the City Council on 5/22/18. The item was continued to the June 12th Council meeting and was then tabled. The item has not yet returned to the Council.

The applicant, City staff and Coastal Commission staff have had numerous interactions regarding the development proposed at the site and proposed at the Public Beach Access point directly adjacent to the site to the north (Anita Street Beach Access stairs). Despite Coastal staff's specific concerns, comments and recommendations, the applicant, City staff and decision makers have ignored those concerns and recommendations.

1. Bluff edge determination has not been made consistent with the Certified Land Use Element (LUE) definition, and, furthermore, all requirements relating to bluff top development have not been properly assessed (such as minimum required setbacks for development). Although directed by Coastal Staff **(Exhibit 1)** to use the certified LUE definition to determine the bluff edge, the applicant did not do so, and the City did not require a proper determination. Instead, they relied on the Coastal Commission's previous (1980) calculation when a seawall was allowed to be contracted on the property. This determination was made prior to the certification of the LCP and is irrelevant to the project at hand.

The geologist's last entry in the record (letter dated September 18, 2019) states that in GeoFirm's opinion, that 'no top of bluff is defined and no setbacks are required with respect to the City's review of the project and based on the City definitions in code at that time." This is due to the original determination being made based on the LBMC §25.50.004 definition of an oceanfront bluff, which has repeatedly been found by the Commission to be superseded by the LUE definition.

Due to this miscalculation, the approved development on the oceanfront bluff does not meet the LCP-required setbacks for new development on oceanfront bluffs, among other site constraints and requirements that apply. These include such restrictions as lot coverage maximums (LBMC 25.50.020), and the removal of non-conforming or obsolete structures which is discussed further below.

A proper bluff edge determination is necessary to properly consider and review the project's consistency with the LCP.

The City's findings do not provide an adequate degree of factual and legal support for its decision to approve the proposed development and grant a Local CDP. Therefore, the Commission should find that the appeal does raise a substantial issue with respect to the projects conformance with the certified LCP.

2. Project approval allowed new development to rely on existing shoreline protective devices. Nor did the City require a waiver of rights to future shoreline protection as a condition of approval.

LUE **Action 7.3.9** Ensure that new development, major remodels and additions to existing structures on oceanfront and oceanfront bluff sites do not rely on existing or future bluff/shoreline protection devices to establish geologic stability or protection from coastal hazards. A condition of the permit for all such new development on bluff property shall expressly require waiver of any such rights to a new bluff/shoreline protection device in the future and recording of said waiver on the title of the property as a deed restriction.

The project can not rely on existing shoreline protective devices as the project constitutes new development which is not entitled to bluff or shoreline protection now or at any point in the future. Additionally, the city erred in not requiring a waiver of future shoreline protective devices.

The City's approval of this project with no required waiver of rights to shoreline protection effectively prejudices its certified LCP and could adversely impact surrounding bluff top structures that may be redeveloped in the future. Therefore, these contentions raise a substantial issue.

<u>3. Project approval allowed obsolete structures to remain at the site in</u> <u>conjunction with new development. The existing non-conforming</u> <u>structure was not brought into conformity with the LCP.</u>

The seawalls that were approved by the Coastal Commission in 1980 became obsolete once the existing structure was illegally demolished at the applicant's hand in 2014.

The certified LUP contains the following policy regarding unpermitted and obsolete development which encroach into oceanfront bluffs:

LUE Action 7.3.8 On oceanfront bluff sites, require applications where applicable, to identify and remove all un-permitted and/or obsolete structures, including but not limited to, protective devices, walkways and stairways, which encroach into oceanfront bluffs.

Furthermore, LUE Action 7.3.10 states:

Allow oceanfront and oceanfront bluff homes, commercial structures, or other principal structures, that are legally nonconforming as to the oceanfront and/or oceanfront bluff edge setback, to be maintained and repaired; however, improvements that increase the size or degree of nonconformity, including but not limited to development that is classified as a major remodel pursuant to the definition in the Land Use Element Glossary, shall constitute new development and cause the pre-existing nonconforming oceanfront or oceanfront bluff structure to be brought into conformity with the LCP.

The project was originally a 'minor remodel' approved as an over-the-counter building permit application on August 6, 2014. No discretionary permits were sought at the time. The work quickly exceed the scope of the permit, was 'red-tagged' in December of 2014 and required to come before the Design Review Board in 2016 as a "demolition and new development" project. At that point, the Staff Report indicated that the applicant intended to demolish the entire structure and build a new single-family residence. However, the applicant did not demolish the existing structure in its entirety. Due to the nature of the project now being 'new development', or a 'major remodel' pursuant to LUE Glossary Entry 89 (i.e. over 50% has been demolished) it would cause the structure to need to be brought into conformity with the LCP. The current project does not conform with the LCP, therefore, the Commission must find that the appeal presents a substantial issue.

4. Project approval allowed for encroachment of private development into public coastal access.

The City's action approved a revocable encroachment permit into the public right-of-way along Gaviota Drive and Anita Street to construct pilasters, walls, fencing, lighting, irrigation, patio, walkways and a driveway (with gate). The location of this project is directly adjacent to a public beach access way/beach stair at Anita Street.

In 2018, the City considered the abandonment of approximately 1,992 square feet portion of the City's right of way at this site (exempted from the requirement to obtain a CDP) as part of an 'exchange of funds' from the applicant of the 1007 Gaviota project and would have potentially allowed a transfer of public land to a private interest. Coastal Commission staff expressed concerns in a letter to the City dated May 22, 2018 (Exhibit 2). This 'vacation' has not been fulfilled, but the Public Works department has not yet finalized their proposal for the updating of the Anita Street Beach Access stair project so it is unknown what the future holds for this area. Regardless, the granting of a revocable encroachment permit that allows for private use of a public space is inappropriate.

Regardless of the Public Works Department's upcoming proposal, the City's approval of the subject permit's encroachment into the public's space is inappropriate. Since the applicant is building a 'new' single-family residence, they should be required to take access off of Gaviota Street as all other residences have been required to. This would allow for the public right of way to be used for the public's benefit and could provide for a parking space, a loading zone, a viewpoint or any one of a number of public amenities.

5. Other issues

• SB330:

Although the application may have been submitted prior to the Housing Crisis Act of 2019, and the applicant may have legal standing to reduce the density of the project from a duplex to a single-family residence in an R-2 Zone - the subject was never discussed in the Record.

The duplex was *illegally* demolished (did not obtain a permit prior to the demolition). The staff report for the subject permit states that the applicant requests a CDP for the demolition of an "existing dwelling", but does not disclose that the existing dwelling was a duplex. This information was available to previous decision makers in previous hearings (2016) but was never highlighted and consistency with State Law and the LCP were never discussed in light of allowable housing density.

 Recordation of irrevocable offer to dedicate an easement for public access and recreational use on and along the beach, pursuant to the CCC issued CDP in 1980: When the CCC issued a CDP for the installation of 3 seawalls at the site in 1980, a deed restriction was required to grant an irrevocable offer to dedicate an access easement. The City's record reflects that 'it is assumed that the CCC condition was executed', but no further research was done. If the Commission undertakes this permit in a de novo hearing, the easement recordation should be verified.

If the easement recordation has not been executed, the current project would require the same pursuant to Open Space and Conservation Element Policy 3G.

Conclusion

The City Council approved CDP 16-1845 without the support to make required findings per LBMC 25.07.012(G):

- 1. The project is in conformity with all the applicable provisions of the General Plan, including the Certified Local Coastal Program and any applicable specific plans;
- 2. Any development located between the sea and the first public road paralleling the sea is in conformity with the certified local coastal program and with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act;
- 3. The proposed development will not have any significant adverse impacts on the environment within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act.

The evidence in the record shows a lack of factual *conformity with all the applicable provisions of the general plan, including the certified local coastal program...' (LBMC* 25.07.12G(1)). The project as approved in not in conformance with the *public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act (LBMC 25.07.12G(2)).* Unless properly conditioned, the project most certainly will have *'significant adverse impacts on the environment' (LBMC 25.07.12G(3)).* Substantial Issue should be found and the project should be reviewed in accordance with the certified LCP in a de novo hearing.

Coastal staff expressly contacted City staff with concern for similar issues covered by our appeal (**Exhibit 3**), yet the City failed to consider them in their deliberations. Instead, City staff and the applicant ignored all such direction. We personally met with the applicant and his representatives multiple times and had over a dozen phone calls to discuss this matter, as well as attending hearings over a period of six years, but nothing persuaded the applicant to comply with the LCP - thus we have written this appeal.

Thank you for the consideration of our concerns. We ask that Staff recommends a finding of Substantial Issue and that Commissioners make that finding and review the project in a de novo hearing.

Sincerely,

Mark and Sharon Fudge

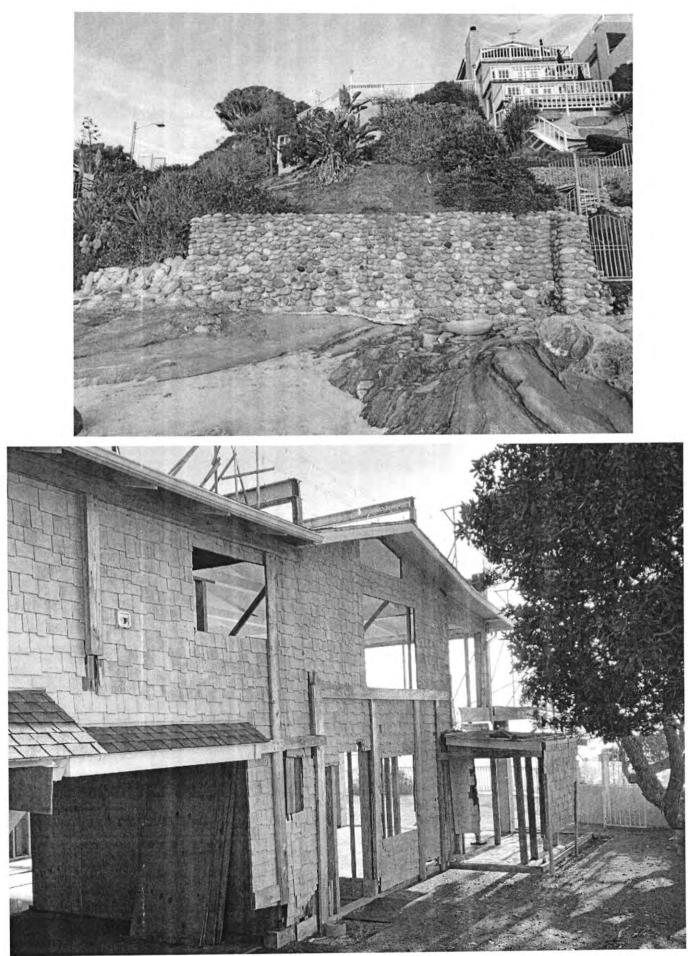
P.O. Box 130, Laguna Beach, CA 92652 (949) 481-1100

Attachments:

- 1. Email from Coastal Staff dated February 8, 2021
- 2. Letter from Coastal Staff to City dated May 22, 2018
- 3. Emails from Coastal Staff to City dated January 10, 2020 and June 10, 2020

Interested Parties:

Gary and Betsy Jenkins @ 1021 Gaviota Drive, Laguna Beach, CA 92651 Larry Nokes (Jenkins' attorney) - address not in the record minutes Carter Mudge - (Applicant's attorney) - address not in the record minutes Steve Kawaratani - (Applicant's representative) - address not in the record minutes



Appeal of 1007 Gaviota, Laguna Beach Loca Loca Page 15 of 25 From: Rehm, Zach@Coastal Zach.Rehm@coastal.ca.gov Subject: Re: 1007 Gaviota, Laguna Beach

- Date: February 8, 2021 at 5:53 PM
 - To: ION Assets, Inc. fudge@ionassetsinc.com, Schwing, Karl@Coastal Karl.Schwing@coastal.ca.gov, Dobson, Amber@Coastal Amber.Dobson@coastal.ca.gov

Cc: markfudge@me.com

Hi Sharon and Mark,

There was a Zoom meeting on 6/23/20. Commission staff geologist Dr. Joe Street, Marlene, and me attended, along with Marc, So, and Nancy from the City, and the applicant Carter Mudge, representative Steve Kawartani, and geologist Dr. Kevin Trigg.

I did not take notes in the meeting but there was a follow up email exchange where I advised Dr. Trigg: "I'm available for a follow up call if needed. The home should be designed with a 25 foot setback fro the bluff edge based on the definition in the Land Use Plan, part of the certified Local Coastal Program."

Dr. Trigg replied: "Thanks. To be clear, I will proceed with the "upper-most termination" as the rule, and take 25' back landward from there."

I have no record of a follow up call or email exchange.

From: ION Assets, Inc. <fudge@ionassetsinc.com> Sent: Monday, February 8, 2021 5:39 PM To: Schwing, Karl@Coastal <Karl.Schwing@coastal.ca.gov>; Dobson, Amber@Coastal <Amber.Dobson@coastal.ca.gov>; Rehm, Zach@Coastal <Zach.Rehm@coastal.ca.gov> Cc: markfudge@me.com <markfudge@me.com> Subject: 1007 Gaviota, Laguna Beach

Hi all,

The project at 1007 Gaviota will be heard by the DRB on Thursday night. We would like to be able to make some comments about the bluff edge as we believe the determination of "no bluff" by GeoFirm is incorrect. The staff report alternately calls the site with a bluff and without.

The staff report references a virtual meeting held on June 23, 2020 between the City, the applicant team and CCC staff where CCC staff indicated that "the location of the bluff is at the oceanward side of the uppermost terrace wall". Is that correct? Could you please let us know the decisions that were made at that virtual meeting regarding the bluff/bluff edge?

We know that this week is crazy for you guys, and would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Thanks, Sharon and Mark

> Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 16 of 25

ZR

South Coast Area Office 200 Oceangate, Suite 1000 Long Beach, CA 90802-4302

(562) 590-5071

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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May 22, 2018

Laguna Beach City Council 505 Forest Ave Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Dear Councilmembers and City staff,

Coastal Commission staff appreciates our shared goals of maximizing public access while addressing difficult land use issues in the City's coastal zone, and we also wish to coordinate our efforts in order to reduce the number of appeals and challenges of City actions on important coastal issues. It has come to the attention of Commission staff that on May 22, 2018, the Laguna Beach City Council ("Council") intends to consider whether the proposed abandonment of an approximate 1,992 square foot portion of City of Laguna Beach ("City") right-of-way for Anita Street, located adjacent to 1007 Gaviota Drive, is consistent with the City of Laguna Beach's General Plan and whether to authorize it. This portion of the right-of-way is located between the first public road and the sea; in fact, it abuts an improved public stairway to the beach. While we have not received any official City notice of the proposed change to the rightof-way, our agency is nonetheless commenting on the matter in order to coordinate with the City and avoid any potential problems under the Coastal Act.

Through this letter, we would like to point out that, under the terms of the Coastal Act and the City's Local Coastal Program ("LCP"), as noted below, the vacation at issue requires Coastal Act/LCP authorization.¹ However, we also note that we have concerns regarding the consistency of the proposed vacation with the LCP and the Coastal Act. Thus, if the City intends to process a CDP for the vacation (as it must if the City intends to legally authorize the vacation in compliance with the Coastal Act), we would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our concerns with City staff before the City moves forward with any final action. We have raised these issues with your staff already and look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further.

According to the City Planning Commission staff report dated April 4, 2018 for the proposed vacation, the "Planning Commission determination for General Plan Consistency does not require approval of a CDP because the proposed action does not constitute development pursuant to Municipal Code Chapter 25.07." As explained below, however, the vacation does constitute development and does require a CDP. The Coastal Act and the City's LCP state that any "development", as defined in the Coastal Act and LCP, undertaken within the coastal zone requires a CDP, unless otherwise exempt. Under the Coastal Act, and the City's LCP, the

¹ We understand the City may be considering processing a coastal development permit ("CDP") later for the creation of a new parcel or lot line adjustment to combine area to be vacated with the abutting property. Although we would encourage the City to consider these matters together, if the City does process a separate CDP for that purpose, it should be made clear that the initial action to authorize the right-of-way vacation is not legally effective unless and until that vacation is authorized through its own CDP. Either way we would still have the concerns expressed in this letter about whether such a CDP would be compliant with the LCP and Coastal Act. **Coastal Commission Exhibit 3**

May 22, 2018 Anita Street Right-of-Way Page 2 of 3

vacation or transfer to a private entity of any public land or interest in public land (including a road easement or right-of-way) that may provide public access to the beach/ocean (including pedestrian or vehicular access) is an action that results in a "change in the intensity of use of water, or of access thereto" and constitutes "development" as defined by Section 30106 of the Coastal Act and Municipal Code Section 25.07.006 (which reads the same), and, therefore, requires a CDP pursuant to Section 30600 of the Coastal Act and Section 25.07.004 of the LCP, unless otherwise exempt, which is not the case with this vacation. As a result, the Commission has a long history of requiring CDPs for vacations of right-of-way. In addition, the creation of a new parcel, or a lot line adjustment, that results from a vacation, requires a CDP.

The fact that the City has apparently allowed the owner (or predecessors-in-interest) to encroach into the City's right-of-way for driveway and landscaping purposes is not relevant to the issue of whether vacation of that portion of the right-of-way results in a "change in the intensity of use of water, or of access thereto." The longstanding private encroachment at issue here was apparently authorized by permission of the City (or not, as the case may be, if the private encroachment was not done by City permission) with respect to a right-of-way to be used generally and freely by the public; vacation of the right-of-way fundamentally changes the *ability* of the City to provide public access to the water via the right-of-way in the future. This is so because it would place the vacated property in private ownership, thus allowing the owner of 1007 Gaviota Drive to immediately exclude the public from use of property, upon vacation, that was heretofore part of a public right-of-way leading to the beach and to the ocean. To illustrate the point, the area proposed to be vacated could potentially be used to provide public amenities such as vehicle or bicycle parking, or some other use supporting shoreline access that is not currently contemplated, rather than being vacated.

Furthermore, the April 4, 2018 Planning Commission Staff Report indicates that "[t]he abandonment area would become a part of the 1007 Gaviota Drive property via a concurrently processed lot line adjustment application." Please note that any lot line adjustment ("LLA"), including any vacation of the right-of-way effectuated by a LLA also constitutes development under Section 30106 of the Coastal Act, Chapter 25.07 of the Municipal Code, and established case law. (*See La Fe, Inc. v. Los Angeles County* (1999) 73 Cal.App.4th 231, 223 ["A lot line change constitutes a 'division of land." The key point is that section 30106 applies to a 'division of land' and such occurred here"].) The City's Director of Community Development recognized as much at the Planning Commission hearing in which the Planning Commission was unable to find General Plan consistency with the proposed vacation.² Thus, as recently as at the Planning Commission stage, City staff was aware of the need for a CDP to legalize the proposed vacation.

As explained above, under the Coastal Act and LCP, the vacation or transfer to a private entity of any public land or interest in such land (including a road easement or right-of-way) that may provide public access to the beach/ocean (including pedestrian or vehicular access) requires the issuance of a CDP. If a public agency would like to vacate or transfer ownership/interest in public lands (including easements and rights-of-way), that agency must first obtain a CDP from either the Commission or from the appropriate local government in the event the land is located

² See Minutes for April 4, 2018 Planning Commission meeting: "Commissioner Sadler asked if the Commission would be reviewing the CDP and lot line adjustment. Mr. Drapkin responded the CDP and lot line adjustment will be reviewed by the City Council. Mr. Pfost noted a lot line adjustment requires abilit 3 CDP." Page 18 of 25

May 22, 2018 Anita Street Right-of-Way Page 3 of 3

in an area where the local government has certified a LCP, such as the case here – the proposed vacation is also located within the Commission's appeal area. As you are no doubt aware, both the Coastal Act and LCP provide for robust protection of public access to the coast, and, therefore, vacation of a public right-of-way adjacent to the coast would warrant significant scrutiny via the CDP process.³

Our staff looks forward to working with the City to resolve this matter in a manner consistent with the Coastal Act and other relevant laws. As this letter is the Executive Director's determination that the proposed vacation requires a CDP, we ask that the City formally respond that either, a) the City agrees with the Executive Directors determination and will process a CDP for the proposed right-of-way vacation, or b) the City does not agree that the vacation requires a CDP and requests that the matter be referred to the Commission for a final determination. (See LCP Section 25.07.012(B)(4).)

Thank you for taking these comments under consideration. Commission staff looks forward to working with City staff to evaluate whether the vacation at issue could be found to be consistent with both the Coastal Act and the City's LCP, as proposed, or if further conditioned. Please feel free to contact me at (562) 590-5071 if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

Charles Posner Supervisor of Planning

cc: Greg Pfost, Director of Community Development Mark and Sharon Fudge

³ The City of Laguna Beach LCP (Open Space Conservation Element) contains the following Policy 6E: Discourage the abandonment of dedicated unimproved street rights-of-way, public easements, or other reservations secured by the City, unless such action is in the public interest. The City Shail hot abandos in street, right-of-way, easement or other reservation if it adversely impacts public access to beache Exhibit 3 trails. Page 19 of 25

From: Mark Fudge mark@ionassetsinc.com Subject: Fwd: 1007 Gaviota Drive Date: June 19, 2021 at 2:59 PM

To: ION Assets, Inc. fudge@ionassetsinc.com

MF

Page 20 of 25

Begin forwarded message. From: steve kawaratani <plantman2@mac.com> Subject: Re: 1007 Gaviota Drive Date: January 14, 2020 at 4:28:07 PM PST To: "Pechous, Jim CD" <jpechous@lagunabeachcity.net> Cc: Nancy Csira <ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net>, "Wiener, Marc CD" <mwiener@lagunabeachcity.net>, "Kim, So CD" <<u>skim@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>, Mike Gray <<u>mgray@thepuzzlemakers.com</u>>, Glen Gellatly <<u>glenshir@cox.net</u>>, Steve Dicterow <sdicterow1121@yahoo.com>, John Pietig <jpietig@lagunabeachcity.net>, Carter Mudge <cmudge@terrymudgellp.com> Thank you very much for the timely response Jim. Your explanation is credible without exception, and 1 appreciate the fact that Coastal has a heightened scrutiny on any Laguna project within their purview. Best regards. Sleve On the state of the second sec Staff prepared an initial study for the project at the request of the Design Review Board. Based on the DRB direction, zoning staff completed an initial study to analyze the project's potential environmental effects and, based on the analysis, prepared a draft mitigated negative declaration (MND). As required by law, the City sent the draft MND to the State Clearing House in compliance. with the MND public review requirements. The State Clearing House distributed the draft MND and plans to various State agencies and interested parties, one of which included the Coastal Commission. So it was through the required circulation of the MND and public comment period that Coastal Commission staff obtained a copy of the project plans and came to submit comments. From: steve kawaratani <plantman2@mac.com> Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 8:23 AM To: Pechous, Jim CD < jpechous@lagunabeachcity.net > Cc: Balmer-Csira, Nancy CD <<u>ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>: Wiener, Marc CD <<u>mwiener@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>; Kim, So CD <<u>skim@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>; Mike Gray <mgray@thepuzzlemakers.com>: Glen Gellatiy <glenshir@cox.net>: Dicterow, Steve sdicterow1121@yahoo.com> Subject: Re: 1007 Gaviota Drive INOTICE. This message originated outside of City of Laguna Beach -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments I understand that we're all busy, however, the missive from Coastal has a profound and chilling impact on Mr. Gray's DRB hearing next week. I would not have pressed Nancy or you if I had simply received the acknowledgement you just sent. Perhaps the issue is more urgent for the applicant team than the City... **Coastal Commission** Exhibit 3

On Jan 14, 2020, at 9:11 AM, Pechous, Jim CD < jpechous@lagunabeachcity.net > wrote:

Steve I received your call and will call you today.

From: steve kawaratani <<u>plantman2@mac.com</u>> Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:05 AM To: Balmer-Csira_Nancy CD <<u>ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>: Pechous, Jim CD <<u>jpechous@lagunabeachcity.net</u>> Cc: Wiener, Marc CD <<u>mwiener@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>; Kim, So CD <<u>skim@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>; Mike Gray <<u>mgray@thepuzzlemakers.com</u>>; Glen Gellatly <<u>glenshir@cox.net</u>>: Dicterow. Steve <<u>sdicterow1121@yahoo.com</u>>

Subject: Re: 1007 Gaviota Drive

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Laguna Beach - DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is sale.] Good morning Nancy and Jim,

I hope you are able to take a little time today from your busy schedules to contact me regarding the Coastal concerns.

Respectfully,

Steve 949.290.0210

On Jan 13, 2020, at 2:44 PM, steve kawaratani plantman2@mac.com
wrote:

Hi Nancy and Jim,

I left a message earlier and I would like to discuss this matter at your earliest convenience. I will have to notify Mr. Gray asap.

Best.

Steve

Begin lorwarded message:

From: "Balmer-Osira, Nancy CD" <<u>ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net</u>> Date: January 13, 2020 at 10:47:15 AM PST To: Glen Gollatly <<u>glenshir@cox.net</u>> Subject: 1007 Gavlota Drive

Glen:

See the Coastal Commission concerns below.

NBC

Nancy Csira, Architect Zoning Administrator

Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 21 of 25 Ony or Laguna beach 505 forest Avenue Laguna Beach CA 92651 (949) 497-0332 ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net

City Hall Office Hours. Monday – Thursday 7:30 – 5:30 Every other Friday 7:30 – 4:30 Closed alternating Endays Use the <u>Ask Laguna</u> feature on the City's website to find answers to Frequently Asked Questions 24/7 or submit requests for information

From: Rehm. Zach@Coastal <<u>Zach.Rehm@coastal.ca.gov</u>> Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 5.07 PM To: Balmer-Osira, Nancy CD <<u>ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net</u>> Cc: Dominguez, Christian CD <<u>cdominguez@lagunabeachcity.net</u>>; Seifert, Chloe@Coastal <<u>chloe.seifert@coastal.ca.gov</u>> Subject: RE, Coastal Commission Comment Letter

NOTICE: This message originated outside of Gity 2/Laguna Beach -- DO NOT CLICK in links or open attachmentsurless ymrare sure the content is safe.

Hi Nancy, see attached comment letter re: a pending project at 1061-1065 Gaviota from Chloe-Siefert of our staff.

I have all of the same concerns about another project just up the block at 1007 Gaviota:

- Bluff edge determination
- · Hazards analysis and findings
- Removal of existing non-conforming conditions, specifically a set of retaining walls going down the bluff and a gabion wall on the beach
- Reduction in density in an R-2 zone (how is this allowed with SB 330 taking effect January 1?)

An additional concern with the 1007 Gaviota project is the applicant appears to be proposing to use City right-of-way for a private driveway and patio. A few feet of encroachment on Gaviota may be consistent with the pattern of development, but no portion of the public access way and public view corridor down Anita Street should be sacrificed for private development. CCC staff met with the property owner on the site about two years ago and identified all of these issues. Please ask the property owner to revise the plans and include findings in the City's record to address these concerns.

Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 22 of 25 Thanks and feel free to call me to discuss either or both projects.

Zach Rehm

District Supervisor, Senior Planner California Coastal Commission 301 E. Ocean Blvd, Suite 300 Long Beach, CA 90802 (562) 590-5071

<image006.jpg>

If you need to submit an appeal, an emergency application, or a PRA request please email:SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov

From: Seifert, Chloe@Coastal Sent: Friday, January 10, 2020 4:33 PM To: cdominguez@lagunabeachcity.net Cc: Rehm, Zach@Coastal Subject: Coastal Commission Comment Letter

Dear Mr. Domiguez.

Attached is a comment letter regarding the Notice of Public Hearing for Local CDP Application No. 18-2215. Feel free to call me with any questions at (562) 590-5071

Best Chloe Seilert

Chloe Seifert | Coastal Program Analyst

<image007.png>

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION South Coast District Office 301 E. Ocean Blvd, Suite 300 Long Beach, CA 90802 (562) 590-5071 <image008.png>
<image009.png>
<image010.png2
<image011.png2</pre>

Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 23 of 25 From: Rehm, Zach@Coastal Zach.Rehm@coastal.ca.gov Subject: Fw: Laguna Beach DRB June 11 Agenda Item 12 -1007 Gaviota Drive Date: June 10, 2020 at 7:13 PM To: Fudge fudge1@cox.net

From: Rehm, Zach@Coastal Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:03 PM To: Nancy Csira <ncsira@lagunabeachcity.net> Cc: So Kim <SoK@rpvca.gov> Subject: Laguna Beach DRB June 11 Agenda Item 12 -1007 Gaviota Drive

Hi Nancy,

Coastal Commission staff have reviewed the staff report posted on the City's website for tomorrow's DRB meeting. We have the following comments, which are supplemental to the comments provided by email January 20:

1) The site is clearly on a coastal bluff based on a review the topo plans, satellite imagery, and the definition in the Land Use Element of the LCP. The bluff top and bluff edge policies must be applied to new development. Specifically, the home must be set back 25 feet from the bluff edge, accessory structures must be set back 10 feet from the bluff edge, and new development may not rely on existing shoreline protective devices, which must be removed as the pre-existing home has been demolished and they are are now obsolete. The site plans are plainly inconsistent with all of these requirements and no variance is referenced for coastal bluff development.

2) The variance to reduce the front (street side) setback may be justified if it can be demonstrated that neighboring properties enjoy the same reduced setback and the variance is necessary to allow the property owner to move the development back from the bluff (as clearly required by the LCP) and still enjoy economic use of the property.

3) Encroachments on Anita Street cannot be justified as it is a public beach accessway. Any undeveloped portion of the right-of-way should be afforded to the public as a view corridor and and potentially improved with public parking, public benches, or landscaping - not sold or rented (via encroachment permit) to a private party. Encroachments on Gaviota Drive may be justified if they are mitigated by payment into a fund that improves public access Citywide, if they do not impede any existing public access feature (e.g. sidewalk, public parking space), and they are identified as revocable at any time in the future when the City may elect to improve the public-right-of-way.

4) The staff report references the pre-existing structure as a duplex and the proposed development as a single family home. The loss of housing density is an issue of Statewide concern and does not appear to be consiste **Clowsta BCommission** (Housing Crisis Act of 2019). The Coastal Commission has also reviewed **Exhibit 3**

applications for new development for consistency with policies that encourage density to be accommodated in existing developed areas, where allowed by zoning. The Laguna Beach Zoning Code and Implementation Plan portion of the certified LCP appear to designate the site as R-2 (multifamily) and a multifamily dwelling previously existed on the site, so it appears a multifamily dwelling could be accommodated in the subject development. The staff report notes that a previous application was withdrawn when the project was presented to the City Council. If the subject application is a new application, it should maintain the existing density on site. If the CDP is an old application (filed in 2016 and in legal standing for a substantially similar proposed project) that point should be clarified in the staff report and the staff report should identify the relevant standards for for consistency with State Law and the LCP.

These are initial comments. If the project moves forward at the DRB hearing tomorrow, it should be denied a CDP because it is plainly inconsistent with the LCP. A better course of action would be for the applicant to work with City staff, Coastal Commission staff, and other interested parties to redesign the project so that it is consistent with City requirements, the LCP, and State Law.

Thanks,

Zach Rehm District Supervisor, Senior Planner California Coastal Commission 301 E. Ocean Blvd, Suite 300 Long Beach, CA 90802 (562) 590-5071

2

If you need to submit an appeal, an emergency application, or a PRA request please email: SouthCoast@coastal.ca.gov

Coastal Commission Exhibit 3 Page 25 of 25