

Council Meeting of
July 26, 2011

SUPPLEMENTAL #1 TO ITEM 13A

Honorable Mayor and Members
of the Torrance City Council
City Hall
Torrance, California

Members of the Council:

**SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL #1 TO COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM 13A
MOD11-00006(PRE09-00007): JIM & BETSY DELURGIO**

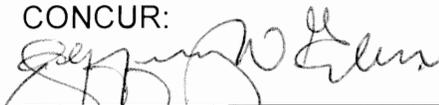
The attached correspondence was received after the item was completed.

Respectfully submitted,

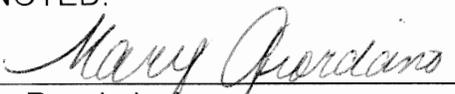
JEFFERY W. GIBSON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

By 
Gregg D. Lodan, AICP
Planning Manager

CONCUR:


Jeffery W. Gibson
Community Development Director

NOTED:


for LeRoy J. Jackson
City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Correspondence

Martinez, Oscar

From: Sullivan, Patrick
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 3:36 PM
To: Lodan, Gregg; Martinez, Oscar
Subject: FW: Please Eliminate Conditions #14 and #15 from Precise Plan PRE09-00007

Gregg & Oscar

Supplemental correspondence from Betsy Delurgio.

Patrick

Patrick Q. Sullivan

Assistant City Attorney

Office of the City Attorney

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-----Original Message-----

From: Scotto, Frank
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 3:06 PM
To: Sullivan, Patrick
Subject: FW: Please Eliminate Conditions #14 and #15 from Precise Plan PRE09-00007

From: Betsy Delurgio [mailto:betsy@delurgio.com]
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2011 12:54 PM
To: Scotto, Frank
Subject: RE: Please Eliminate Conditions #14 and #15 from Precise Plan PRE09-00007

Dear Mayor Scotto,

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. It is much appreciated, and we have supporting documents and video of the offenses to our family and property if requested. We really did not want to go down this path in our last hearing so much because it is very negative and we were told by the Planning Department that landscaping was not included for a Precise Plan. We also understand mostly from our neighbors, the Guzmans' and the Boyds, situations that once your house is built the acrimony against your family will also settle. One of the neighbors commented to the Guzman's after their hearing, "the games are over". Mr. Guzman was furious when he heard this and at the time we didn't quite understand why this upset him so much. We now do understand because immediately after our City Council hearing ended last year, Vicki Radel walked up to Jim and said, "The games are over. I got you your second story." To hear this is quite insulting as the applicant, as this has never been a game to us, and it has been a horrible period of our life as we have been repeatedly attacked by our neighbors for simply trying to remodel our home for our family. We understand the intent of the Overlay, and we are trying our best to do remodel our home in a way that has least impact to all of our neighbors. We believe the vagueness of the Hillside Overlay creates unnecessary challenges for the applicant as

07/25/2011

you do not know precisely what you can or cannot build, and encourages tension between neighbors, particularly when they have been as disruptive to the integrity of the process as our neighbors have been. We happen to have the same group of neighbors as the Guzmanns', and a few of them with the support of the RHA president will do their best to muddle this process. Tuesday will be our 4th hearing for our remodel. Our oldest daughter was five when we moved into this house and she is now going into middle school in September. We still are unclear as to exactly what we can do to improve our property without accepting damage to our property rights.

Jim sent out an email to please come by our home at any time before our hearing on 7/26 to see for yourself how we have already improved our property and as a result our neighbors also benefit from our efforts. Our address is 209 Via el Toro. Again this has never been a game to us, and 98% of our neighbors are wonderful and supportive, and we have great relationships with them. You are not going to hear much from them as they do not want to put themselves at risk of being publicly slandered or sued by our litigious neighbors. When you mentioned in our last hearing that we will have a pool party and the neighbors won't come, we realized you don't have a full understanding of the situation, and you certainly do not know us or our character very well. This type of commentary came from other Council Members as well, and only fuels the negativity that may unfortunately and unnecessarily exist. We don't appreciate this at all as we have invested in this community, and done our best to reach out even to these few neighbors that persistently twist the truth. It is such a disturbing and trying time for us right now when it should be a positive time to improve our home. Remodeling our home will not only serve to improve the standard of living for our family, but a proper home that meets the standards of such an awesome beach community will benefit our neighborhood as well.

We do appreciate that you have taken so much time to understand the merit of our thoughtfully designed project, and we have always agreed with what we think may be the intentions of the conditions, as we clearly showed what vegetation we had planned to remove in our last hearing. The problem is the conditions are unbalanced and we cannot live with the consequences of continuous litigation and harassment which result from these conditions.

Regards,

Betsy Delurgio

From: Scotto, Frank [mailto:FScotto@TorranceCA.gov]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 11:54 AM
To: Betsy Delurgio
Subject: RE: Please Eliminate Conditions #14 and #15 from Precise Plan PRE09-00007

Mrs. Delurgio, thank you for your email and letter. I have read it. frank scotto

From: Betsy Delurgio [betsy@delurgio.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2011 11:37 AM
To: Barnett, Gene; Brewer, Tom; Furey, Pat; Numark, Cliff; Rhilinger, Susan; Sutherland, Bill; Scotto, Frank
Cc: Martinez, Oscar; Lodan, Gregg; Gibson, Jeff
Subject: Please Eliminate Conditions #14 and #15 from Precise Plan PRE09-00007

Dear Mayor Scotto and Members of the City Council,

07/25/2011

Please take the time to read the attached letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With appreciation,

Betsy Delurgio