



Fusion Engineering and Technology
1810 Gillespie Way Suite 207
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 736-2800

All Receive - Agenda Item # 9
For the Information of the:
CITY COUNCIL
Date 6/25/24 CA CC
CM ACM DCM (3)

City of Carlsbad City Council Hearing June 25, 2024

Subject: 939 Begonia Court
Variance – Hillside Development Ordinance

Hello City Council Member,

Please find below Civil Engineer notes / summary regarding the subject variance application.

1. Construction Options:

- a. **Exhibit 'A':** Restore Slope with Reinforcement. Construction difficulty. Long term erosion concern. City Staff Engineers have made comments / statements that over steepened 1.5:1 (67%) inclination 'sliver' fill slope is acceptable, but they are not the responsible charge Civil / Geotechnical Engineer.
- b. **Exhibit 'B':** Singular 6' Retaining Wall with Reinforced Slope. Significant grading operation to facilitate grid installation of over steepened 1.5:1 slope.
- c. **Exhibit 'C':** Singular Over Height (H=11' max exposed) Retaining Wall with 2:1 Slope. Large temp backcut required. Similar construction concerns as above option.
- d. **Exhibit 'D':** Structurally Retrofit Existing Retaining Walls in place. Least impactful to slope.
- e. **Exhibit 'E':** 2:1 Slope projection. For reference only.

2. Variance Justification:

- a. Community Statistics (236 Lots Studied):
 - i. 939 Begonia Court 47% Slope Encumbrance vs 22% Average (w/ Rear Yard Slope). Only one other lot within study area has over 45% slope encumbrance.
- b. Immediate Neighborhood Statistics (937 to 942 Begonia Court):
 - i. Avg Lot Slope Encumbrance = 34% (939 is 1.39X Avg)
 - ii. Average useable rear yard area = 3,519 s.f. (939 is 2,506 s.f., or 29% Less than Avg)

3. Community Support:

- a. **Exhibit 'F':** Petition in support of existing retaining walls to remain signed by 67 neighbors.

4. Precedence:

- a. Hom Residence (2170 Twain Avenue):
 - i. **Exhibit 'G':** Already had a singular developer installed retaining wall (6' max exposed per HDO) with ~3ksf of useable back yard area. Said wall could have been extended, while meeting HDO, to provide identical increase in area of house pad level as City approved (multiple) terraced walls.
 - ii. 14,070 s.f., 1 of 3 lots with over 0.3 acre out of 149 total residential lots per Map 14340. 43.6% Slope encumbrance, 25' high, both less than 939 Begonia.
 - iii. **Exhibit 'H':** Multiple other properties in this community have constrained back yards, separate from 'cut back slope' lots. Furthermore, the 'cut back' nature of the developer installed slope has no bearing on the reality experienced by the homeowner, i.e. when the homeowner purchased the lot the slope was existing and they bought 'as is', same as Begonia.
 - iv. **Exhibit 'I':** Hom residence retaining wall variance documentation do not provide evidence of meeting surficial and global stability factor of safety requirements.



Fusion Engineering and Technology
1810 Gillespie Way Suite 207
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 736-2800

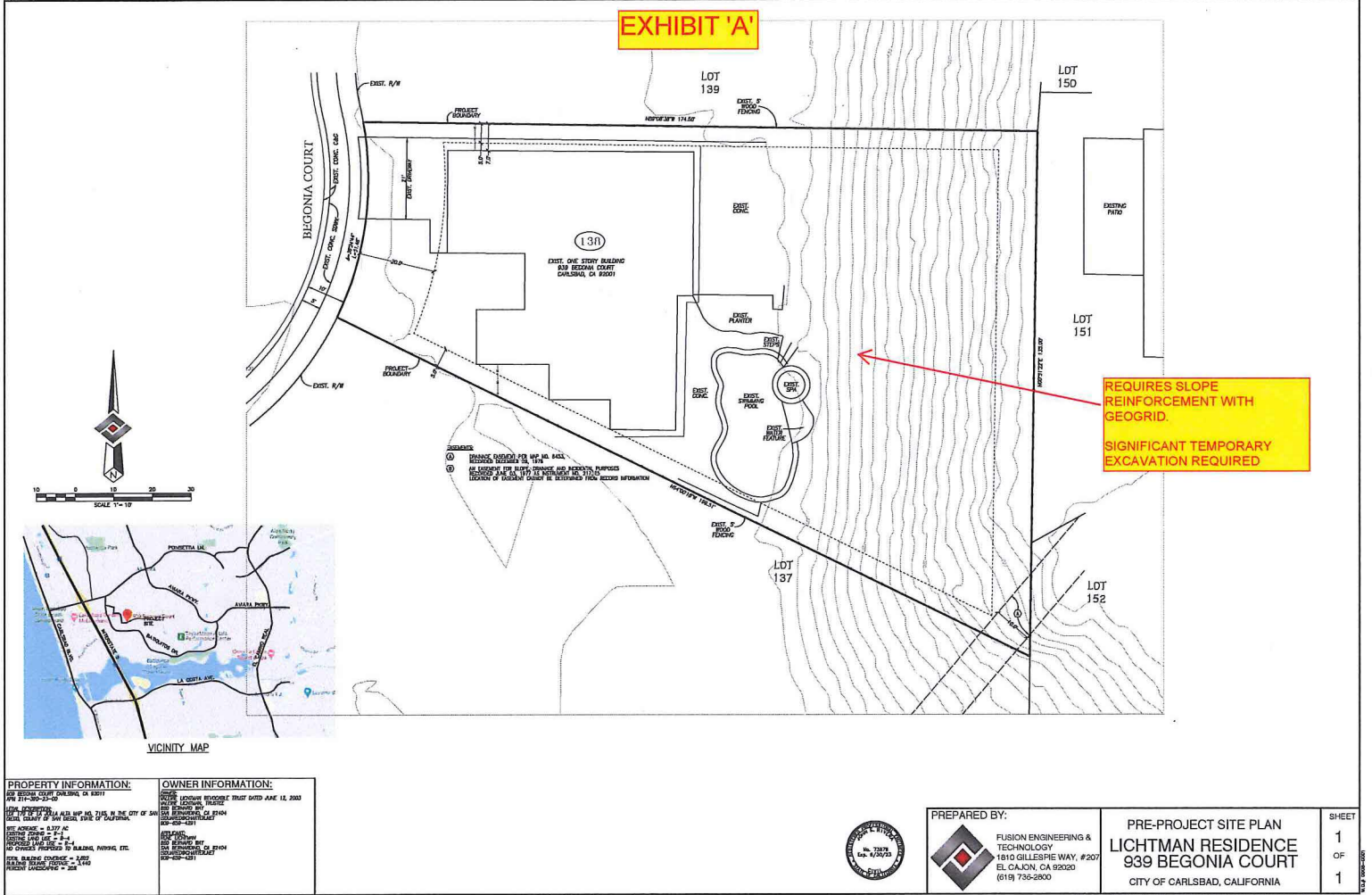
- b. Other examples of precedence throughout the City that were approved apart of larger project and/or unpermitted walls that have not been enforced.
- c. Constitutional provisions for fair application of laws.

Should you have any questions regarding the information contained in this memo please contact me.

Thank You,

Johnny Rivera, P.E. C73878
President / Principal of Civil Engineering
Mobile: (619)992-6618
Johnny@FusionEngTech.com

EXHIBIT 'A'



7.2.1. OPTION 1- MSE Wall System

MSE walls can be constructed near the toe of the slope. The wall should not be constructed atop or near the influence of the existing cantilever retaining walls. The lower MSE wall should have geogrid lengths of not less than 8 feet. The limits of the geogrid should be extended to the backcut, even if shorter geogrid lengths are shown on the wall plans. A minimum horizontal fill width of 8 feet should be maintained on the slope. The fill slope can be constructed as described in Section 7.5.6. A minimum of 1 subdrain should be installed at the toe of the slope. A second drain may also be needed behind the upper MSE retaining wall. The MSE retaining walls should be embedded as recommended by the designer, but no less than 12 inches at the toe of the slope. MSE walls installed above descending slope should be embedded so that the daylight distance from the bottom of the wall to the slope face is at least 5 feet.

7.2.2. OPTION 2- Restore Slope with Reinforced Soil Slope

A stabilization keyway should be constructed at the toe of the proposed slope. The limits of this keyway should be based on the final slope design, but should be no less than 12 feet wide. Reinforced soil slopes (RSS) should be constructed on fill slopes steeper than 2:1. The grading contractor should have experience in the construction of a RSS. There are several methods on constructing a RSS, such as using temporary wooden formwork or permanent wire mesh forms (See Figure 7.2.2, below), and the grading contractor should select the most economical method of construction. The construction method should allow for the fill to be compacted out to the slope face without damaging the reinforcement.

REQUIRES SLOPE REINFORCEMENT WITH GEOGRID

October 9, 2019
P/W 1907-03

Page 8
Report No. 1907-03-B-3

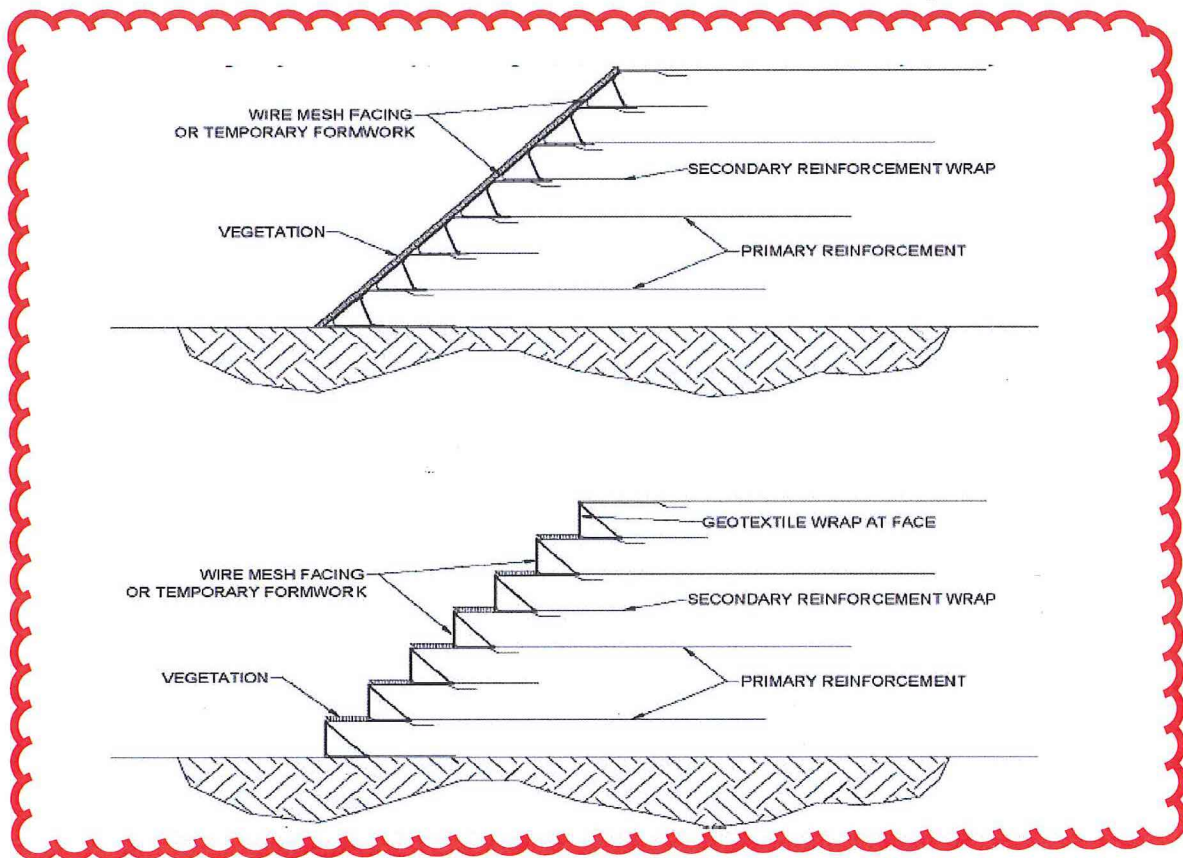


Figure 7.2.2 Alternative Methods of RSS Construction (from TenCate™ 2010a)

The primary reinforcement can include placing layers of Mirafi Miragrid 3XT (or approved equivalent) every 4 feet vertically starting from the bottom of the keyway. The primary geogrid layers should extend from the slope face to the backcut. The primary geogrid should be oriented so that the primary strength is perpendicular to the slope face. Splices in the primary direction should be avoided. A secondary layer of reinforcement consisting of Mirafi Miramesh TR (or approved equivalent) should be wrapped around the slope face and embedded a minimum of 5 feet with a maximum vertical spacing of 18 inches. The Miramesh vertical spacing can be reduced to every 2 to 4 feet if the primary geogrid layer is wrapped on the outside of the Miramesh and the primary geogrid is embedded a minimum of 8 feet as measured from the slope face. Geogrid reinforced slopes are expected to be globally and surficially stable to inclinations up to 1:1 (H:V). Splicing of the secondary layer shall not be conducted.

7.2.3. Temporary Backcut Stability

During grading operations, temporary backcuts will be required to accomplish removals and provide room to place geogrid. Care should be taken during backcut construction and backfill should be placed expeditiously in order to minimize risk of failure. Complete removal of the failed materials will be required should failure occur.

Backcuts exposing competent Very Old Paralic Deposits should be made no steeper than 1:1 to heights of up to 20 feet. Steeper backcuts may be possible for small sections but should be evaluated by AGS. Shallower backcuts are recommended below existing walls or within undocumented fill. Close geologic mapping of the stabilization and buttress key backcuts should be provided to document the exposed conditions. Revised recommendations may be necessary should areas of instability be encountered.

In consideration of the inherent instability created by temporary construction of backcuts, it is imperative that grading schedules be coordinated to minimize the unsupported exposure time of these excavations. Once started these excavations and subsequent fill operations should be maintained to completion without intervening delays imposed by avoidable circumstances. In cases where five-day workweeks comprise a normal schedule, grading should be planned to avoid exposing at-grade or near-grade excavations through a non-work weekend. Where improvements may be affected by temporary instability, either on or offsite, further restrictions such as slot cutting, extending work days, implementing weekend schedules, and/or other requirements considered critical to serving specific circumstances may be imposed.

7.3. Geologic Observation During Grading

All temporary slope excavations, including front, side and backcuts, and all cut slopes should be mapped to verify the geologic conditions that were modeled prior to grading.

7.4. Seepage

Seepage, if encountered during grading, should be evaluated by the Geotechnical Consultant. If seepage is excessive, remedial measures such as horizontal drains or under drains may need to be installed.

7.5. Earthwork Considerations

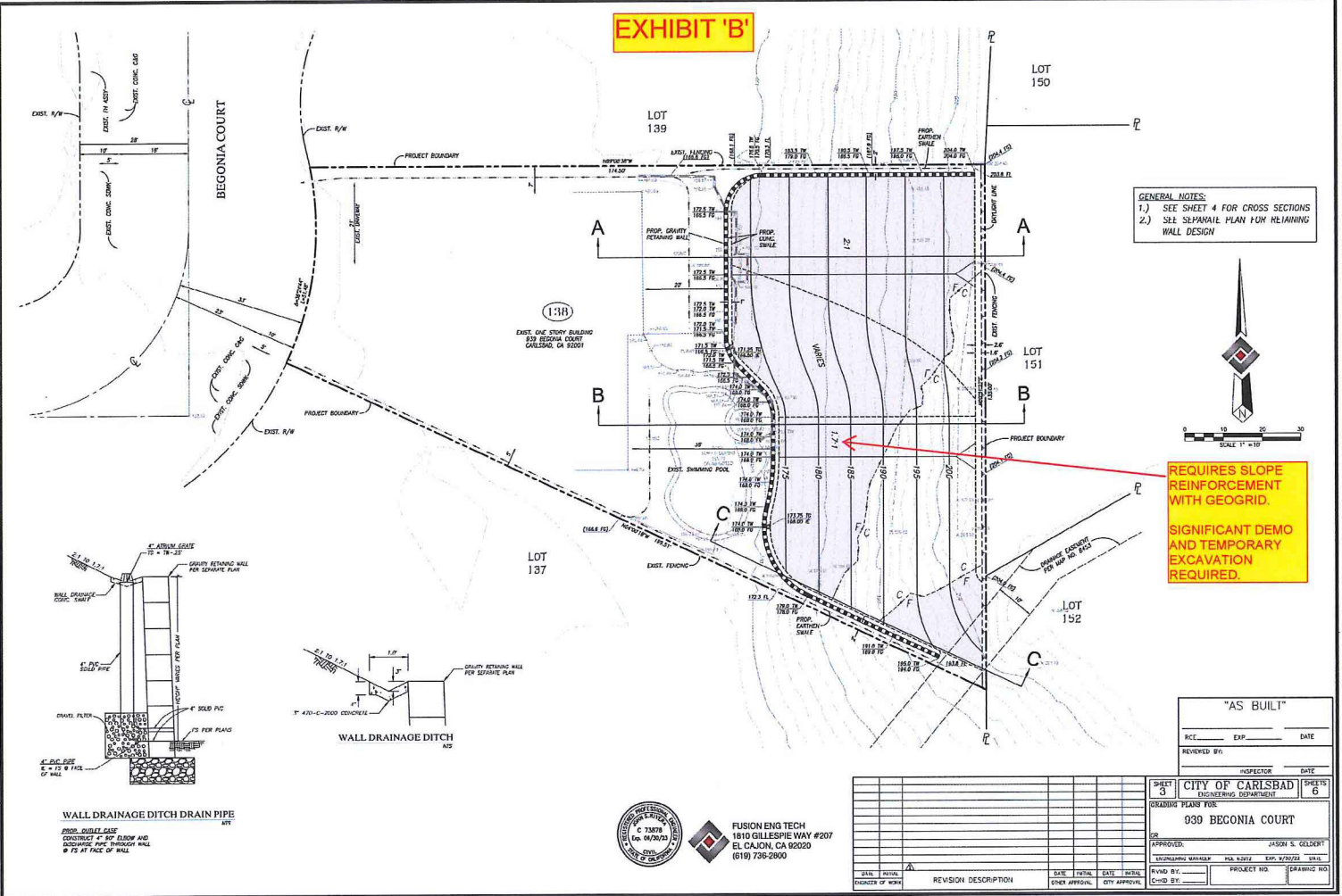
7.5.1. Compaction Standards

All fills should be compacted at least 90 percent of the maximum dry density as determined by ASTM D1557. All loose and or deleterious soils should be removed to expose firm native soils or bedrock. Prior to the placement of fill, the upper 6 to 8 inches of suitable material should be ripped, moisture conditioned to optimum moisture or slightly above optimum, and compacted to a minimum of 90 percent of the maximum dry density (ASTM D1557). Fill should be placed in thin (6 to 8-inch) lifts, moisture conditioned to optimum moisture or slightly above, and compacted to at least 90 percent of the maximum dry density (ASTM D1557) until the desired grade is achieved.

7.5.2. Benching

Where the natural slope is steeper than 5-horizontal to 1-vertical and where determined by the Geotechnical Consultant, compacted fill material shall be keyed and benched into competent materials.

EXHIBIT 'B'



GENERAL NOTES:
 1.) SEE SHEET 4 FOR CROSS SECTIONS
 2.) SEE SLP/PAVIL PLAN FOR RETAINING WALL DESIGN



REQUIRES SLOPE REINFORCEMENT WITH GEOGRID.
 SIGNIFICANT DEMO AND TEMPORARY EXCAVATION REQUIRED.

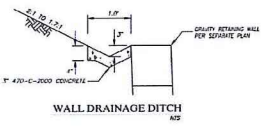
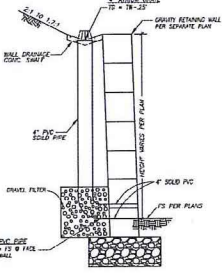
"AS BUILT"
 REC. _____ EXP. _____ DATE _____
 REVIEWED BY: _____ INSPECTOR _____ DATE _____

SHEET 3	CITY OF CARLSBAD ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT	SHEETS 6
GRADING PLANS FOR 030 BEGONIA COURT		
APPROVED:	JASON S. GELDKERT	
ENGINEERING NUMBER	REL 2012 EXP. 8/20/22	DATE
PROJECT NO.	030 BEGONIA COURT	DATE

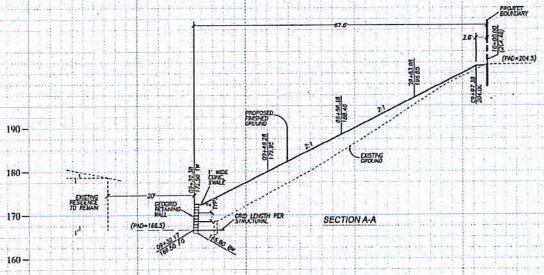


FUSION ENG TECH
 1810 GILLESPIE WAY #207
 EL CAJON, CA 92020
 (619) 738-2800

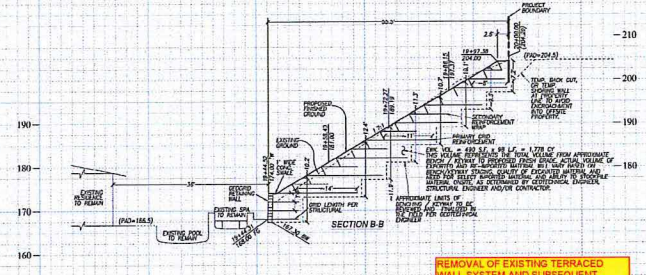
DATE	INITIAL	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DATE	INITIAL	DATE	INITIAL



WALL DRAINAGE DITCH DRAIN PIPE
 FROM GUTTER BASE
 CONTINUES 4" SPI BELOW AND
 DISCHARGES INTO DRAINAGE DITCH
 @ 10' AT FACE OF WALL

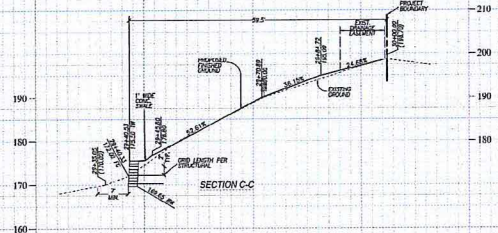


SECTION A-A



SECTION B-B

REMOVAL OF EXISTING TERRACED WALL SYSTEM AND SUBSEQUENT SLOPE REINFORCEMENT WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL REMEDIAL GRADING WHICH COULD JEOPARDIZE STABILITY OF SLOPE, REQUIRE OFFSITE GRADING, AND/OR POTENTIALLY DAMAGE OFFSITE IMPROVEMENTS



SECTION C-C

FUSION ENG TECH
1810 GILLESPIE WAY #207
ES CALAVERA, CA 95020
(619) 735-2800

PROFILE SCALES
HORIZ.: 1"=10'
VERT.: 1"=10'

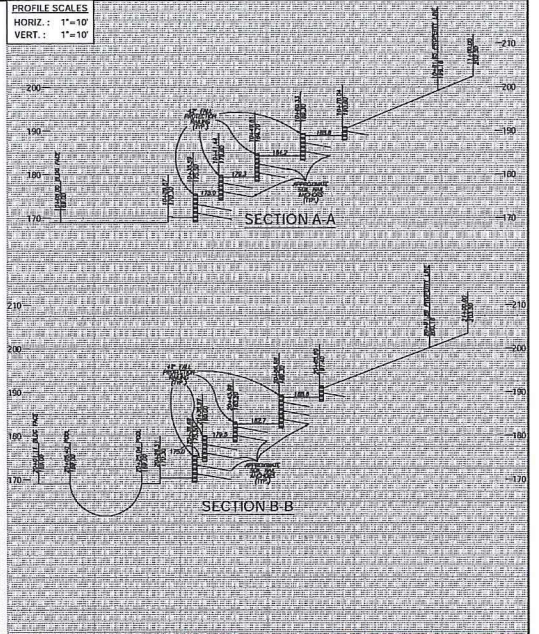
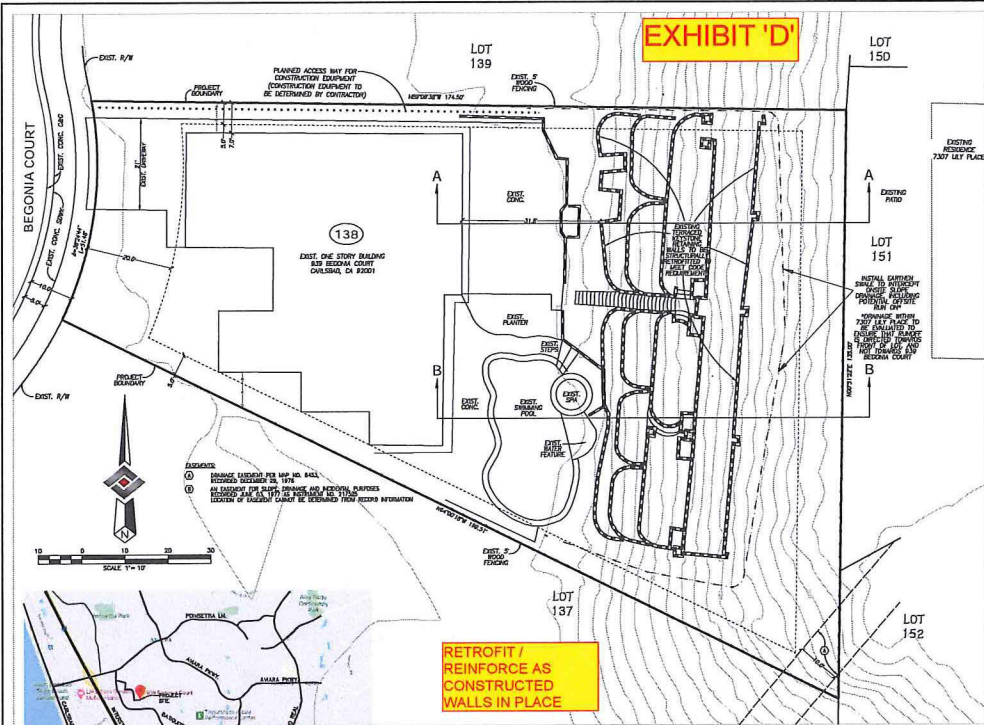
"AS BUILT"
REV. _____ EXP. _____ DATE _____
REVIEWED BY: _____ INSPECTOR _____ DATE _____

DATE	INITIAL	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DATE	INITIAL	DATE	INITIAL

CITY OF CARLSBAD
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
939 BECONIA COURT

APPROVED: JASON S. CELDERT
DATE: 8/20/23

DATE	INITIAL	REVISION DESCRIPTION	DATE	INITIAL	DATE	INITIAL



**EXHIBIT:
STRUCTURAL RETROFIT
'SOIL NAIL' IN PLACE**

PROPERTY INFORMATION:
 939 BEGONIA COURT CARLSBAD, CA 92011
 939 211-26-231-02
 (SEE MAP SHEET 18-231-01 FOR THE CITY OF CARLSBAD)
 THE PROPERTY IS A PART OF THE CITY OF CARLSBAD
 THE AREA IS ZONED R-1
 THE AREA IS ZONED R-1
 THE AREA IS ZONED R-1
 THE AREA IS ZONED R-1

OWNER INFORMATION:
 LIGHTMAN RESIDENCE
 1810 GILLESPIE WAY, #207
 EL CAJON, CA 92020
 (619) 736-2800

CONSTRUCTION QUANTITIES:
 RETROFIT / REINFORCE AS CONSTRUCTED WALLS IN PLACE
 SOIL NAIL IN PLACE

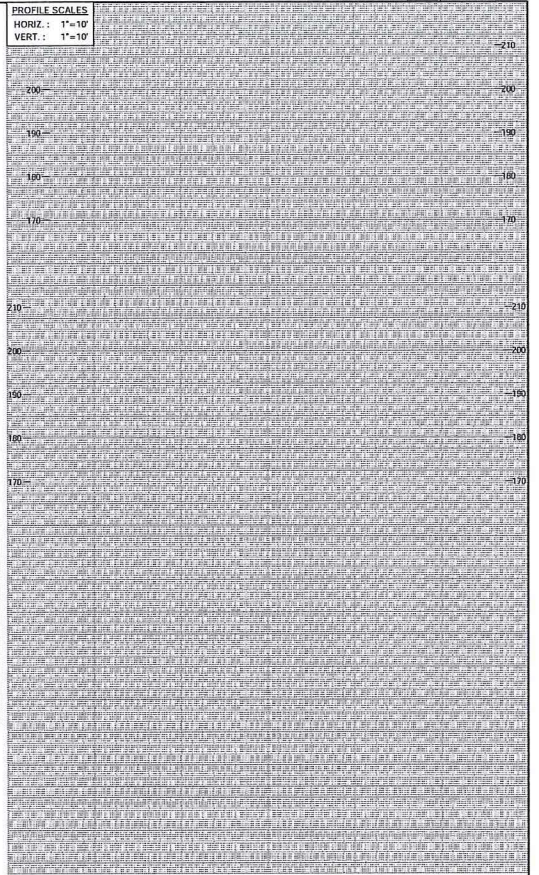
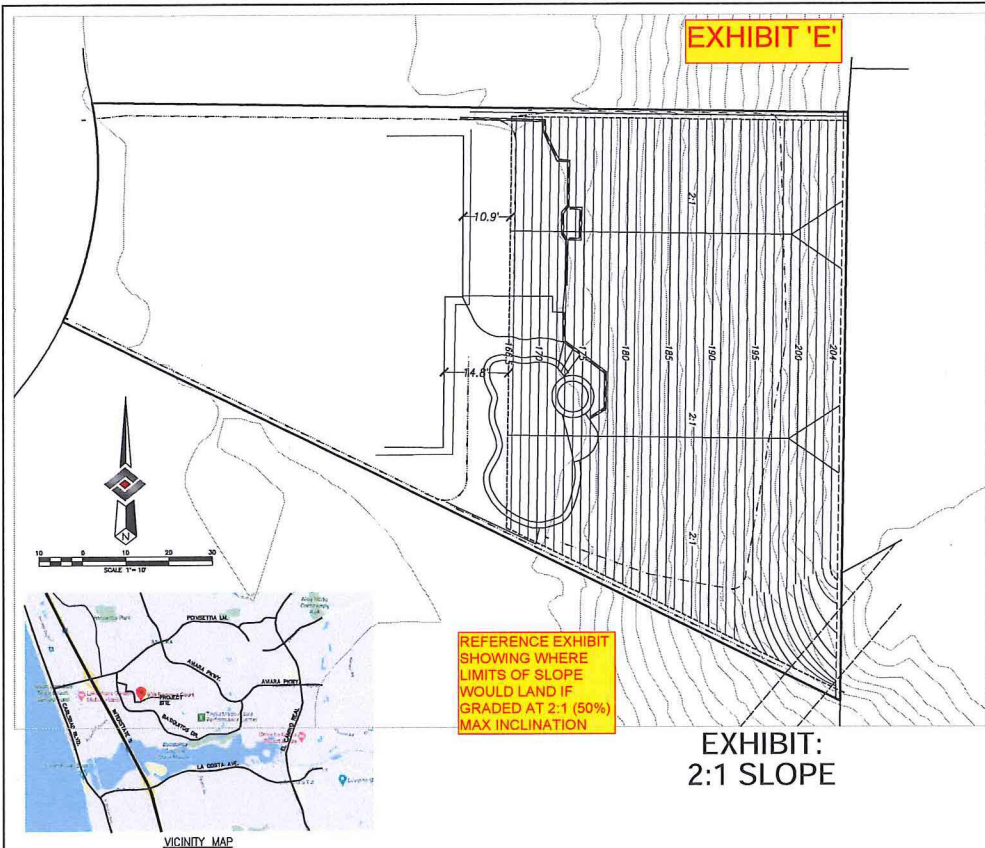
DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION NOTES:
 1. THE DESIGN IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS AND CONDITIONS LISTED HEREIN.
 2. THE DESIGN IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS AND CONDITIONS LISTED HEREIN.
 3. THE DESIGN IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS AND CONDITIONS LISTED HEREIN.
 4. THE DESIGN IS BASED ON THE ASSUMPTIONS AND CONDITIONS LISTED HEREIN.



PREPARED BY:
 FUSION ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
 1810 GILLESPIE WAY, #207
 EL CAJON, CA 92020
 (619) 736-2800

**PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN
STRUCTURAL RETROFIT OPTION
LIGHTMAN RESIDENCE
939 BEGONIA COURT
CITY OF CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA**

MAP
1
OF
1



**EXHIBIT:
2:1 SLOPE**

<p>PROPERTY INFORMATION: 939 BEGONIA COURT CARLSBAD, CA 92011 939 217-30-23-02 939 BEGONIA COURT CARLSBAD, CA 92011 939 217-30-23-02 939 BEGONIA COURT CARLSBAD, CA 92011 939 217-30-23-02 939 BEGONIA COURT CARLSBAD, CA 92011 939 217-30-23-02 939 BEGONIA COURT CARLSBAD, CA 92011 939 217-30-23-02</p>	<p>OWNER INFORMATION: FUSION ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY 1810 GILLESPIE WAY, #207 EL CAJON, CA 92020 (619) 736-2800</p>
---	---



PREPARED BY:
 FUSION ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
 1810 GILLESPIE WAY, #207
 EL CAJON, CA 92020
 (619) 736-2800

**PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN
 STRUCTURAL RETROFIT OPTION
 LICHTMAN RESIDENCE
 939 BEGONIA COURT
 CITY OF CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA**

**MAP
 1
 OF
 1**

PETITION REGARDING PERMIT RETAINING WALL CITY OF CARLSBAD

EXHIBIT 'F'

ATTACHMENT 6

We, the citizens of the City of Carlsbad, petition the City to allow the permit of the currently existing retaining wall located at the premises located at: 939 Begonia Court, Carlsbad.

We live in the neighborhood where the current retaining wall is located. It enhances the value of our property and does not pose a threat to public safety. It will be over-burdensome and disruptive to our neighborhood if it is forced to be removed by the City. We therefore petition that the wall be permitted.

Allowing the permitting of the existing wall will avoid a lengthy nuisance in our neighborhood in both noise and possible ingress and egress over our properties. In addition, it will avoid heavy machinery and vast amounts of dirt and soil to be moved in and around our streets and properties. It will also avoid the possible instability of the hill on which the retaining wall is situated, if the wall is forced to be removed.

We demand that the Planning and Zoning Commissions allow a permit of the retaining wall at 939 Begonia Court in our neighborhood. We have listed our address below to be notified of any and all Planning and Zoning Commission meetings as well as meetings with the City Counsel regarding this matter.





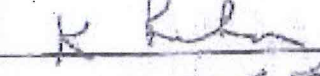
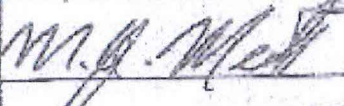

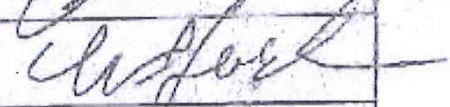
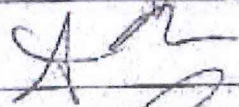

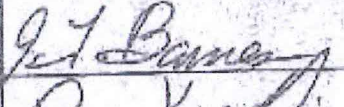
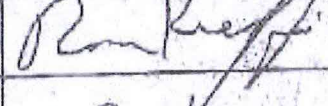
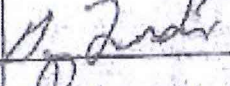
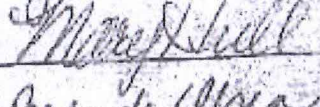
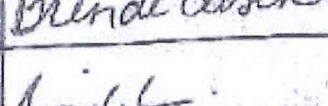
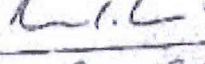


Name	Address	Signature
1 Mark Baldwin	7212 Azalea Place Carlsbad CA 92011	M.D. Baldwin
Kathryn Bachman	7212 Azalea Place Carlsbad, CA 92011	Kathryn Bachman
Reagan West	7210 Azalea Place Carlsbad, CA 92011	[Signature]
JAMES Schepp	7101 Azalea Pl Carlsbad 92011	J. Schepp
Sandy Ross	7201 Azalea Place Carlsbad 92011	Sandra P. Ross
MICHAEL ROSS	7201 Azalea Pl. Carlsbad CA 92011	Michael Ross
ED SCARPELLI	929 ORCHID WAY CARLSBAD 92011	[Signature]
8 Laura Scarcelli	929 Orchid Way Carlsbad 92011	Laura Scarcelli

9

Name	Address	Signature
Deborah K. Hed	915 Poppy Ln 92011	
WILLIAM L. THOMPSON	914 Poppy Ln 92011	
Bill Walsh	910 Poppy Ln 92011	
Tricia Walsh	910 Poppy Ln 92011	
David Wright	902 Poppy Lane	
BRIAN NORTON	909 POPPY LANE	
SCOTT CLARK	912 POPPY LN	
STEFAN ASBOK	923 BEGONIA CT	
AMY ASBOCK	923 BEGONIA CT	
Jon Eyer	7107 Primrose way	
Lisa Eyer	7107 Primrose Way	
Garrett Haney	7108 Primrose Way	
Kelly Lewis	7105 Primrose Way	
Jason Lewis	7105 Primrose Way	
Keith Bryan	7104 Primrose Way	
	7102 Primrose Way 92011	Irene Bulmer
Joan Stanley	902 Daisy Ave	
Phil Acosta	906 Daisy Ave	

26

27

Name	Address	Signature
John Stewart	930 Begonia Ct	
SAM LEONARD	919 BEGONIA CT	
MIKE KENNEDY	932 BEGONIA CT.	
STEVE J. DANSON	927 BERNIA CT.	
K. R. R.	920 BEGONIA CT	
Michael Medt	918 Begonia	
L. M. M.	907 Poppy Ln	
Clyde Surrrell	909 Begonia Ct	
Angel Ochoa	912 Begonia Ct	
Mary Teichert	914 Begonia Court	
John T. Barnes	7304 Azalea Pl	
Ron Kieffe	921 Poppy Lane	
Gregg Lund	917 Poppy Lane	
Mary Hull	913 Poppy Lane	
Brenda Olsen	944 Begonia Ct	
KEVIN HARRIS	942 BEGONIA CT	
SARAH HARRIS	942 Begonia Ct	
Michael Heck	915 Poppy Ln	

44

PETITION REGARDING CURRENT RETAINING WALL IN CITY OF CARLSBAD

We, the citizens of the City of Carlsbad, petition the City to allow the permit of the currently existing retaining wall located at the premises located at: 939 Begonia Court, Carlsbad.

We live in the neighborhood where the current retaining wall is located. It enhances the value of our property and does not pose a threat to public safety. It will be over-burdensome and disruptive to our neighborhood if it is forced to be removed by the City. We therefore petition that the wall be permitted.

Allowing the permitting of the existing wall will avoid a lengthy nuisance in our neighborhood in both noise and possible ingress and egress over our properties. In addition, it will avoid heavy machinery and vast amounts of dirt and soil to be moved in and around our streets and properties. It will also avoid the possible instability of the hill on which the retaining wall is situated, if the wall is forced to be removed.

We demand that the Planning and Zoning Commissions allow a permit of the retaining wall at 939 Begonia Court in our neighborhood. We have listed our address below to be notified of any and all Planning and Zoning Commission meetings as well as meetings with the City Counsel regarding this matter.

Name	Address	Signature
47 JAMES COTHRAN	910 BEGONIA COURT	James A. Cothran
Rick LOUGHERY	916 Begonia Ct	[Signature]
BEATRICE PITA ROSAURD SANCHEZ	943 BEGONIA CT CARSD 92011	[Signature]
John Turbeville	934 Begonia Ct 92011	[Signature]
Pearl E Holmes	928 Begonia Ct 92011	Paul E Holmes
Kevin Connors	721 Begonia Court 92011	[Signature]
James Miranda	915 Begonia Ct.	[Signature]
54 Valerie A Sorrells	909 Begonia Ct 92011	[Signature]

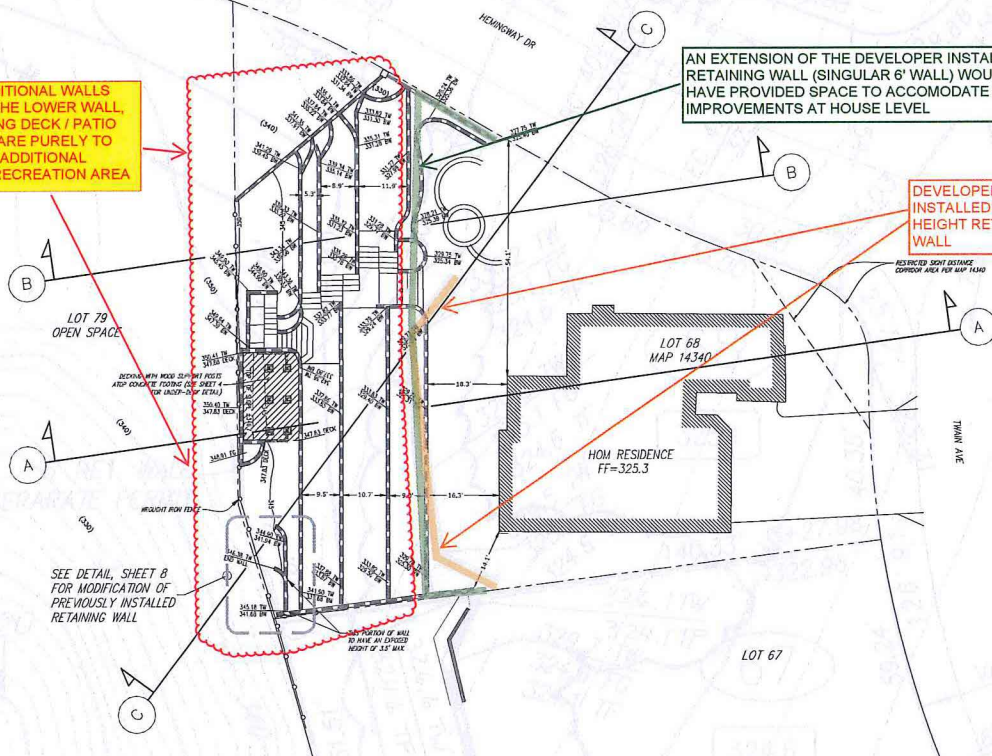
Name	Address	Signature
55 Elnora Chambers	914 Daisy Ave, Carlsbad	<i>Elnora Chambers</i>
Georgia Sutherland	918 Daisy Ave	Carlsbad Ca
Joel Hawthorne	919 Orchid Way ⁹²⁰¹¹	<i>Joel Hawthorne</i>
Poliana Miranda	919 Orchid Way ^{Carlsbad} 92011	<i>Poliana Miranda</i>
HAL LONAS	908 Orchid Way 92011	<i>Hal Lonas</i>
Patrick Reuner	915 Orchid Way	<i>Patrick Reuner</i>
RYAN UPEKA	910 Oremo Way	<i>Ryan Upeka</i>
Amelia Hiatt	909 Orchidway	<i>Amelia Hiatt</i>
Theodore Fortson	906 Orchid Way	<i>Theodore Fortson</i>
Anchal	902 ORCHID	<i>Anchal</i>
KEEL McWINE	901 Orchidway	<i>Keel McWine</i>
66 HELEN DEESE	905 ORCHID WAY	<i>Helen Deese</i>

EXHIBIT 'F'

THE ADDITIONAL WALLS ABOVE THE LOWER WALL, INCLUDING DECK / PATIO COVER, ARE PURELY TO CREATE ADDITIONAL UPHILL RECREATION AREA

AN EXTENSION OF THE DEVELOPER INSTALLED RETAINING WALL (SINGULAR 6' WALL) WOULD STILL HAVE PROVIDED SPACE TO ACCOMMODATE THE IMPROVEMENTS AT HOUSE LEVEL

DEVELOPER INSTALLED 6' MAX HEIGHT RETAINING WALL



SEE DETAIL SHEET B FOR MODIFICATION OF PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED RETAINING WALL

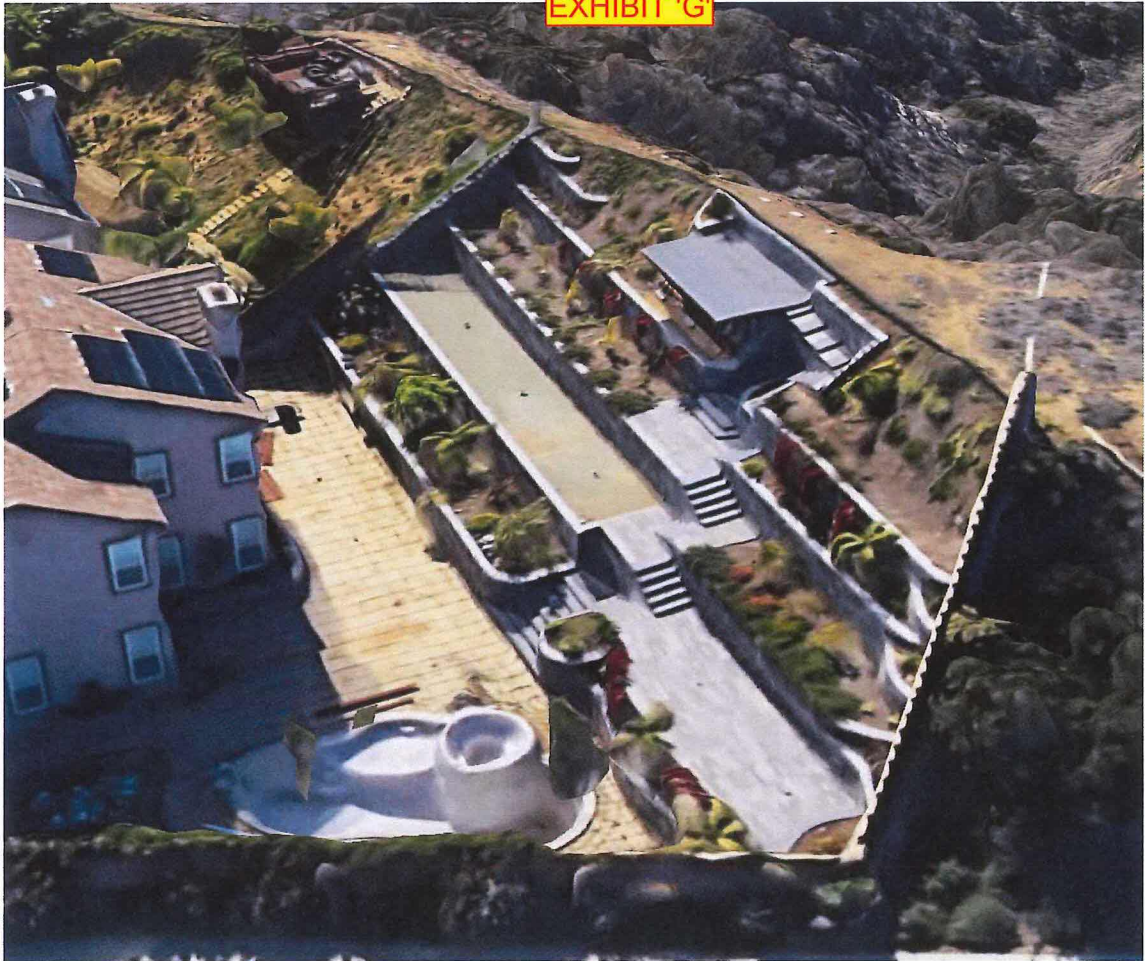
**HOM RESIDENCE
 PROPOSED CONDITION**



BENCHMARK:
 DESCRIPTION: 3" BRASS DISK STAMPED LS 4314
 LOCATION: 15' SOUTH OF 15' APPROX STA. 443+00 ON STANDARD CENTERLINE STREET WALL
 RECORD FROM: RECORD OF SURVEY 43038
 ELEVATION: 4480 FEET M.S.L. (BASED ON NGD 1983)

REVISION: OCT 13, 2022 DATE OF REVISION: MARCH 11, 2022 3700 West 9th Street Gardena, California 90247 Phone: 310-491-0888 Email: hannah@o-day.com	DESIGNED BY: J.B.R. DATE: JUNE 2022 DRAWN BY: J.S. SCALE: 1" = 10' PROJECT WORK S.D.: J.W. NO.: 221002 ENGINEER OF WORK: PATRICK H. O'DAY DATE: 06/22/22 PCL: 22214
---	--

EXHIBIT 'G'



PROJECT ANALYSIS

(GENERAL PLAN, MUNICIPAL CODE, AND OTHER REGULATIONS)

to decrease the stability of the wall, as test pits sever the geogrid reinforcement and disturb the soil compaction. A report on the findings was prepared and reviewed by the City and its third-party consultant.

The technical reports conclude that, in general, the tiered Keystone walls are spaced far enough apart to where they do not negatively place a surcharge on each other. In one location however, it is suggested that minor remedial work should be conducted to avoid potential future surcharge. A condition to this effect is included with the draft resolution. However, with this single exception, it is concluded that the Keystone walls were constructed consistent with the Keystone Construction Manual guidelines, that the walls show no sign of distress, and it is expected that they would continue performing as intended. It is also noted that the wall system has been constructed for almost three years at this point, through two and a half rainy seasons, with no visible slumping of the soil backfill or movement in the pavers. The technical reports indicate that the factors of safety against deep-seated failure are determined to be at an acceptable level, that no structural issues with the wall have been observed, that the walls will not impact improvements on any adjacent properties, and that the walls have been constructed in a manner suitable for their intended use.

Variance (CMC Chapter 21.50)

Pursuant to CMC Chapter 21.50, variances are granted to resolve practical difficulties or physical hardships that may result from the unique size, shape, topography, or dimensions of a property. The applicant is requesting a variance to sections of the Zoning Ordinance in order to allow the authorized construction of the stepped retaining wall system and wood deck. The following Hillside Development regulations apply to manufactured slopes which have a gradient of greater than forty percent and an elevation differential of greater than fifteen feet.

Section 21.95.140(C)(1)(a)(i); "[Retaining walls] on or into an uphill perimeter manufactured slope shall be limited to a maximum of six vertical feet as measured from the existing grade at the toe of the slope."

Section 21.95.140(C)(1)(a)(ii); "Decks may be constructed upon an uphill perimeter manufactured slope up to the required building setback(s) of the underlying zone."

In order to support an approval for a variance, all five required findings of fact from CMC Section 21.50.050 must be made. These five required findings and analysis are discussed below.

- 1. That because of special circumstances applicable to the subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict application of the zoning ordinance deprives such property of privileges enjoyed by other property in the vicinity and under identical zoning classification.**

The subject property possesses unusual topographic constraints which result in special circumstances which other properties in the vicinity do not possess. The subject lot was constructed with a "cut-back" slope.