

**CITY OF ALBANY
PLANNING AND ZONING AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda date: January 25, 2011
Prepared by: JB

ITEM/ 6b

SUBJECT: Planning Application 10-065. Design Review.

The applicant is requesting Design Review approval to add 344 square feet to the second floor at the rear of the home.

SITE: 1614 Sonoma

**APPLICANT/
OWNER:**

Lillian Mitchell for Dave Gilson & Lyssa Rome

ZONING: R-1 (Single-Family Residential)

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning and Zoning Commission approve the request for design review, subject to the attached findings and conditions of approval.

BACKGROUND/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The subject property is a 5,500 square foot lot with an existing 2,408 sq. ft. two-story single-family home. The applicant is requesting Design Review approval to add 344 square feet to the second floor at the rear of the home. The proposed addition will match the existing home and feature cross-gable roof, and be finished with stucco to match the existing residence.

The Commission reviewed this application at its January 11, 2010 meeting. Neighbors expressed concern about the loss of sunlight, privacy, and views. Commission direction included reducing plate height in the bathroom, modifying the bedroom closet, explore reduction in the size of the rear gable, use of obscure glass in the bathroom.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Staff has determined that the proposed project is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA per Section 15303, "New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures" of the CEQA Guidelines, which exempts small additions.

DISCUSSION OF DESIGN ISSUES

The existing home is a two-story single family home with side-gabled roof with front and rear facing dormers. The lot slopes down from front to back and has two primary living plus a lower level with non-habitable storage.

The application proposes to expand the second level to the rear to accommodate a new bedroom. The addition is designed with a matching architectural style, and cross gable roof to the rear. No changes would be made to the front of the home. Furthermore, the addition would stay within the footprint of the existing home.

The existing home is a legal non-conforming structure in that it exceeds the R-1 height limit of 28 feet, with a peak of 31 feet. Since the commission review on January 11, the applicant has modified the roof pitch and the plate height of the addition on the second level. As a result, the proposed height of the ridge of the addition is 28 feet. With this change, no special height exceptions are required.

Attached is correspondence from the applicant summarizing the changes. Also attached is the previous correspondence received from the neighboring resident expressing concern about the impacts of the proposal (Attachment 4). In terms of design, staff believes that the proposal is an attractive addition that complies with the City's residential design guidelines. The addition is well integrated into the existing home and is well designed and proportioned.

Attachments:

1. Analysis of Zoning Requirements
2. Project Application & Plans
3. P&Z Code 20.24.080
4. Correspondence

ATTACHMENT 1 - ANALYSIS OF COMPLIANCE WITH ZONING REQUIREMENTS

20.12 Zoning Districts and Permitted Uses

General Plan: Low Density Residential
Zoning: R-1 - Single-Family Residential

20.16 Land Use Classifications

Single family residential

Surrounding Property Use North - SFR East - SFR
South - SFR West - SFR

20.20.080 Secondary Residential Units.

Not applicable.

20.24.020 Table of Site Regulations by District.

	Existing (approx.)	Proposed Construction (approx.)	Requirement
Setbacks			
Front (north)	25'	No change	15'
Side (east)	5'	No change	5'
Side (west)	14'	No change	5'
Rear (south)	35'	No change	20''
Area			
Lot Size	5,500	No change	--
Lot Coverage	32%	32%	50%
Maximum Height	31'	28'	28' max.

20.24.030 Overlay District Regulations.

Not applicable.

20.24.040 Hillside Residential Regulations.

Not applicable.

20.24.050 Floor-Area-Ratio.

	Existing (approx.)	Proposed	Requirement
Lot Size	5,500	5,500	--
Floor Area			
Garage/Storage	297	297	
Lower Level	Non habitable	Non habitable	--
Main Level	1,461	1,461	
Second-floor	947	1,291	--
Total	2,705	3,049	--
Total Counted*	2,485	2,829	
Floor Area Ratio*	0.45	0.51	0.55

* garage level exempted from FAR calculations due to height less than five feet above grade.

20.24.060 Setback Areas, Encroachments.

Not applicable.

20.24.100 Distances between Structures.

Not applicable.

20.24.110 Fences, Landscaping, Screening.

Not applicable.

20.24.130 Accessory Buildings.

Not applicable.

20.28 Off-Street Parking Requirement.

Application in full compliance with City requirements.

20.40 Housing Provisions

Not applicable.

20.44 Non-conforming Uses, Structures and Lot

Not applicable.

20.48 Removal of Trees

Not applicable.

20.52 Flood Damage Prevention Regulations

Not applicable.

20.100.030 Use Permits.

Not applicable.

20.100.040 Variances.

Not applicable.

20.100.010 Common Permit Procedures.

The public notice for this application was posted on January 15, 2011 in the form of mailed notice, to property owners and occupants within a 100-foot radius, and posted in three locations.

20.100.050 Design Review.
See Summary of Key Issues.

ATTACHMENT 2 - FINDINGS

Findings for Design Review approval (Per section 20.100.050.E of the AMC)

<i>Required Finding</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
<p>1. <i>The project conforms to the General Plan, any applicable specific plan, applicable design guidelines adopted by the City of Albany, and all applicable provisions of this Chapter.</i></p>	<p>The General Plan designates this area for residential development. Additionally, the project meets City zoning standards for location, intensity and type of development.</p>
<p>2. <i>Approval of project design is consistent with the purpose and intent of this section, which states “designs of projects...will result in improvements that are visually and functionally appropriate to their site conditions and harmonious with their surroundings, including natural landforms and vegetation. Additional purposes of design review include (but are not limited to): that retention and maintenance of existing buildings and landscape features are considered; and that site access and vehicular parking are sufficient.”</i></p>	<p>The proposal is in scale and harmony with existing development in the vicinity of the site. The architectural style, design and building materials are consistent with the City’s Residential Design Guidelines. The project will not create a visual detriment at the site or the neighborhood. In addition, the plate height of the new construction has been lowered and the roof pitch has been modified to reduce the height of the new construction.</p>
<p>3. <i>Approval of the project is in the interest of public health, safety and general welfare.</i></p>	<p>The proposed project will not be detrimental to the health, safety, convenience and welfare of those in the area and would not adversely impact property, improvements or potential future development in the area.</p>
<p>4. <i>The project is in substantial compliance with applicable general and specific Standards for Review stated in Subsection 20.100.050.D.</i></p>	<p>The project as designed is in substantial compliance with the standards as stated, including harmonious materials, and well proportioned massing .</p>

ATTACHMENT 3

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

GENERAL PROJECT CONDITIONS

- Gen-1 **Project Approval.** This Design Review approval is for Dave Gilson & Lyssa Rome, as substantially shown and described on the project plans, except as may be modified by conditions herein. Plans include preliminary master site plan prepared by Lillian Mitchell (Mitchell Holladay Architects), date received January 14, 2011, architectural plans (project perspectives, building sections, and floor plans, all as presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission on January 25, 2011. For any condition herein that requires preparation of a Final Plan where the project developer has submitted a conceptual plan, the project developer shall submit final plan(s) in substantial conformance with the conceptual plan, but incorporate the modifications required by the conditions herein for approval by the City.
- GEN-2 **Project Approval Expiration.** This Design Review approval expire on February 8, 2012 (one year from the date on which this approval becomes effective) or at an alternate time specified as a condition of approval, unless [a building permit has been issued and construction diligently pursued; a certificate of occupancy has been issued; the use is established; the use permit, variance or design review approval is renewed]. The approval may be renewed by the Community Development Director for a period up to an additional two (2) years, provided that, at least ten (10) days before expiration of one (1) year from the date when the approval becomes effective, an application for renewal of the approval is filed with the Community Development Department. The Community Development Director may grant a renewal of an approval where there is no change in the original application, or there is no request to change any condition of approval.
- Gen-3 **FEES.** The applicant shall pay any and all City and other related fees applicable to the property, as may be modified by conditions herein. Fees shall be based on the current fee structure in effect at the time the relevant permits are secured, and shall be paid before issuance of said permit or before any City Council final action approval. Notice shall be taken specifically of Plan Check, Engineering, Fire and Inspection Fees. The project developer shall also reimburse the City for direct costs of planning; building and engineering plan check and inspection, as mutually agreed between the City and developer.
- GEN-4 **Appeals.** The Albany Municipal Code provides that any action of the Planning staff may be appealed to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and any action of the Planning and Zoning Commission may be appealed to the City Council as per the procedures described in Section 20.100.080. The City Clerk will then schedule the matter for the next available City Council meeting.

- GEN-5 **Requirement for Building Permit.** Approval granted by the Planning and Zoning Commission does not constitute a building permit or authorization to begin any construction or demolish an existing structure. An appropriate permit issued by the Community Development Department must be obtained before constructing, enlarging, moving, converting, or demolishing any building or structure within the City.
- GEN-6 **Fire Department Approval.** As part of a building permit application, the applicant shall submit written documentation that all requirements of the Albany Fire Department have, or will be, met to the satisfaction of the AFD.
- GEN-7 **Engineering Approval.** As part of a building permit application, the applicant shall submit written documentation that all requirements of the Public Works Department have, or will be, met to the satisfaction of the City Engineer.
- GEN-8 **Construction Hours.** Construction activity shall be restricted to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Sundays and legal holidays, unless otherwise approved in writing by the City Engineer for general construction activity. Failure to comply with construction hours may result in stop work orders or other administrative actions.
- GEN-9 **Archeological Remains.** In the event subsurface archeological remains are discovered during any construction or preconstruction activities on the site, all land alteration work within 100 feet of the find shall be halted, the Community Development Department notified, and a professional archeologist, certified by the Society of California Archeology and/or the Society of Professional Archeology, shall be notified. Site work in this area shall not occur until the archeologist has had an opportunity to evaluate the significance of the find and to outline appropriate mitigation measures, if deemed necessary. If prehistoric archeological deposits are discovered during development of the site, local Native American organizations shall be consulted and involved in making resource management decisions.
- GEN-10 **Modifications to Approved Plans.** The project shall be constructed as approved. Planning staff may approve minor modifications in the project design, but not the permitted land use (per MC 20.12). A change in an item requiring discretionary approval and any other changes deemed appropriate by the Planning staff shall require further Planning and Zoning Commission approval through the Design Review process.
- GEN-11 **Hold Harmless Agreement.** Pursuant to Government Code Section 66474.9, the applicant (including any agent thereof) shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless, the City of Albany and its agents, officers and employees, from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers or employees to attack, set aside, void, or annul the City's approval concerning this application, which action is brought within the time period provide for in Section 66499.37. The City will promptly notify the applicant of any such claim action or proceeding and cooperate fully in the defense.

- GEN-12 **Public Improvements Standards.** Public improvements shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the City's Standard Specifications and Standard Details, unless specifically waived in writing by the City Engineer.
- GEN-13 **Title 24 Standards.** All construction shall be designed and built in accordance with California Title 24 handicap accessibility standards. Appropriate details and specifications shall be incorporated into the plans and submitted at time of building permit application.
- GEN-14 **Energy Conservation Standards.** All buildings shall be designed in accordance with the State of California energy conservation standards for non-residential buildings. The necessary plans and documentation shall be submitted at time of building permit application.

ARCHITECTURE CONDITION

- ARCH-1 **Material Samples.** Samples of final exterior materials and the proposed color palette shall be submitted for review and approval by the Community Development Department as part of building permit application.
- ARCH-2 **Final Architectural Drawings.** The applicant shall submit final architectural elevations, details and revisions for the review and approval of the Community Development Department as part of building permit application.
- ARCH-3 **Window Recess.** All new windows shall be recessed two inches from face of building to provide adequate shade and shadow and to promote visual relief. Final window details shall be submitted for review and approval at the time of building permit application.
- ARCH-4 **Non-Reflective Glazing.** Any glazing material shall be non-reflective.

LIGHTING CONDITIONS

- LGHT-1 **Exterior Lighting.** All exterior lighting shall be installed in such a manner that glare is directed away from surrounding properties and rights-of-way. If required, exterior light fixtures shall be equipped with "cut off" lenses to minimize light and glare spill over onto adjacent properties.
- LGHT-2 **Shielding of Lighting.** Prior to the certificate of occupancy, all accent lighting shall be directed downward and, if necessary, fixed with cut-off lenses to ensure that no glare spills onto neighboring properties.

LANDSCAPING CONDITIONS

- LNDS-1 **Street Tree Requirement.** The applicant shall apply for one street tree before the issuance of the building permit. The City's Environmental Resource Assistance will determine the type and location of the tree and may waive this requirement if site conditions will not reasonably support establishment of a new tree.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

GENERAL ENGINEERING CONDITIONS

- ENGR-1 **Title Report.** A recent preliminary title report for the property, prepared within six months of the date of application, shall be submitted to the City Engineer for review. If any interior lot line(s) exist, the applicant must obtain approval of a minor lot line adjustment from the City to remove the interior lot line(s), and cause that lot line adjustment to be recorded before any building permits will be issued.
- ENGR-2 **Geo-Technical Report.** The applicant shall submit, as part of a building permit application, a geotechnical investigation report prepared by a California certified engineering geologist and geotechnical engineer, if determined necessary by the City Engineer. The investigation shall specifically address any hazards of surface fault rupture in accordance with the Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zones Act. Any mitigation measures or conditions requiring further review noted during the Planning process shall be fully addressed prior to plan check.
- ENGR-3 **Backflow Device.** Any required water service for fire protection purposes shall be equipped with a City approved backflow device. Services for irrigation purposes also require a separate City approved backflow prevention device.

GRADING CONDITIONS

- GRAD-1 **Grading Permit.** Any grading required in association with the project shall require a grading permit from the Community Development Department. To obtain this permit, the applicant shall submit a grading plan, indicating the extent and volumes of earth proposed to be moved. A grading permit is subject to 2001 California Building, Appendix 33.
- GRAD-2 **Demolition Permit.** Site demolition shall not occur until construction permits are issued for the development project. All demolition shall be in accordance with permits issued by the City and Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD).
- GRAD-3 **Water on Site.** The site shall be graded so as to prevent rainfall runoff originating from improved areas on the project site from crossing onto adjoining private property. Building floor elevations shall be above the FEMA-mapped 100-year flood plain as established by a licensed civil engineer. Provide the elevation and compaction certificates during and upon the completion of grading required by the Uniform Building Code and in conformance with the recommendations of the geotechnical engineer's report. Shore and dewater all excavations in accordance with the requirements of the geotechnical engineer's report.
- GRAD-4 **Flooding Damages.** The project developer shall execute an assumption of risk, indemnification and hold harmless agreement as required by the City. The

agreement, in substance, shall state that the project developer, and any successor in interest, shall assume all risk for damages to the project and to project improvements, flooding caused by surface water intrusion, stormwater runoff, or water under the ground surface pressing on or flowing or seeping through foundations, walls, floors, or paved surfaces, basements, whether paved or not, or windows, doors or other openings, and shall indemnify and hold the City harmless from any claims of such damages, including third-party claims, of such damage or of such damages or of damages arising from rainfall runoff which is not prevented from leaving the project site in violation of Condition GRAD-3.

GRAD-5 **Dust Control Program.** A dust control program shall be prepared by the project developer and approved by the Community Development Department and City Engineer before issuance of a grading permit. The dust control plan shall address such items as covering stockpiled material, frequent watering of graded areas, revegetating graded areas, speed limits for grading equipment and similar items.

GRAD-6 **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.** The project developer shall submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for review by the City before the issuance of a building or grading and/or building permit. The SWPPP shall be consistent with standards adopted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the City of Albany Clean Water Program and implemented by the project general contractor, all subcontractors and suppliers of material and equipment. Construction site cleanup and control of construction shall also be addressed in the SWPPP. The project developer shall be responsible for SWPPP compliance. A copy of the SWPPP shall be kept at the construction site at all times.

INFRASTRUCTURE CONDITIONS

INFR-1 **Sewer System Requirements.** The sewer system for the subject building shall comply with Chapter 15 of the Albany Municipal Code and to the satisfaction of the City Engineer before Final Inspection approval of the construction permit.

INFR-2 **Two-Way Cleanout.** Installation of a two-way curbside cleanout shall be required per Chapter 15 of the Albany City Code. This applies to all properties, including properties with a valid upper sewer lateral certificate of compliance. All 2-way curbside clean outs shall be fitted with a loose cap in accordance with the City's standard detail SS6.

INFR-3 **Property Run-off Requirements.** All runoff from impervious surfaces shall be intercepted at the project boundary and shall be collected and conducted via an approved drainage system through the project site to an approved storm drain facility, as determined by the City Engineer. Development that contributes additional water to the existing drainage system shall be required to complete a hydraulic study and make improvements to the system as required to accommodate the expected ultimate peak water flow and to stabilize erosive banks that could be impacted by additional storm water flow.

INFR-4 **Roof Drainage.** Roof drainage from the structure shall be collected via a closed pipe and conveyed to an approved storm drain system off the street curb. No

concentrated drainage of surface flow across sidewalks shall be permitted. Alternative natural treatment measures are subject review and approval by the City Engineer.

- INFR-5 **Hydraulic Calculations.** The applicant shall submit hydraulic calculations, prepared by a California licensed civil engineer, necessary to determine if the existing water and sewer mains that serve this lot have available capacity for the addition of the proposed development. If capacity is not available, sewer and water mains of adequate size shall be designed and secured prior to issuance of building permits and constructed in a manner acceptable to the City Engineer prior to occupancy release, unless determined otherwise by the City Engineer.
- INFR-6 **Completion of Off-Site Improvements.** Off-site improvements, as required by the City Engineer, shall be complete before issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy unless alternatives are approved in writing by the Albany City Engineer.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS CONDITIONS

- PUBIM-1 **Encroachment Permit.** The applicant shall obtain an encroachment permit from the Engineering Division before commencing any construction activities within any public right-of-way or easement.
- PUBIM-2 **Debris Removal.** All mud, dirt or construction debris carried off the construction site onto adjacent streets shall be removed each day. No materials shall be discharged onto a sidewalk, street, gutter, storm drain or creek.
- PUBIM-3 **Damage to Street Improvements.** Any damage to street improvements now existing or done during construction on or adjacent to the subject property, shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the City Engineer at the full expense of the applicant. This shall include sidewalk repair, slurry seal, street reconstruction or others, as may be required by the City Engineer.
- PUBIM-4 **Right-of-Way Construction Standards.** All improvements within the public right-of-way, including curb, gutter, sidewalks, driveways, paving and utilities, shall be reconstructed in accordance with approved standards and/or plans and shall comply with the standard plans and specification of the Community Development Department and Chapter 14 of the City Code.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDITIONS

- FIRE-1 **Construction of 1,500 Square Feet or Greater.** 1500 sq. ft. or more or any addition, remodel, rehabilitation, etc. is 50% of the existing sq. ft.:
- a) This dwelling will be required install an Automatic Fire Extinguishing System throughout the entire dwelling. Ordinance No. 94-010, Albany Municipal Code, Chapter 11, Section 11-2.3a(3)(a).
 - b) Plans, information sheets on all sprinkler components and hydraulic calculations are required.

- c) A 110-volt interconnected smoke alarm system with a 10-year lithium battery back-up is acceptable with a fire suppression system.

FIRE-2 **Fire Rated Construction.** Any portion of a building five (5) feet or less from the property line shall comply with fire-rating requirements of the CBC.

FIRE-3 **Gallons-per-Minute Requirement.** The water system for fire protection shall comply with City of Albany Fire Department standards. Fire flow test data and water system plans must be provided at time of building plan check. The plans must include all equipment, components and layout of the system. Private fire protection water systems shall be supplied through an approved backflow device per City Engineering Division standards.

FIRE-5 **Distance From Fire Hydrant.** Before building permit issuance the distance from existing fire hydrants to the building shall be verified and if necessary a new hydrant shall be shown on the plans and installed prior to combustible construction.

STRUCTURAL CONTROL MEASURES

STRUC-1 **Illegal Dumping to Storm Drain Inlets and Waterways.** On-site storm drain inlets shall be clearly marked with the words “No Dumping! Flows to Bay,” or equivalent, using methods approved by the City of Albany.

STRUC-2 **Pesticide/Fertilizer Application** Landscaping shall be designed to minimize irrigation and runoff, promote surface infiltration where appropriate, and minimize the use of fertilizers and pesticides that can contribute to stormwater pollution. If a landscaping plan is required as part of a development project application, the plan shall meet the following conditions related to reduction of pesticide use on the project site:

- a) Where feasible, landscaping shall be designed and operated to treat stormwater runoff by incorporating elements that collect, detain, and infiltrate runoff. In areas that provide detention of water, plants that are tolerant of saturated soil conditions and prolonged exposure to water shall be specified.
- b) Plant materials selected shall be appropriate to site specific characteristics such as soil type, topography, climate, amount and timing of sunlight, prevailing winds, rainfall, air movement, patterns of land use, ecological consistency and plant interactions to ensure successful establishment.
- c) Existing native trees, shrubs, and ground cover shall be retained and incorporated into the landscape plan to the maximum extent practicable.
- d) Proper maintenance of landscaping, with minimal pesticide use, shall be the responsibility of the property owner.

OPERATIONAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

BMP-GEN1 **Stormwater Pollution Prevention Control Measures.** The project plans shall include stormwater pollution prevention and control measures for the operation

and maintenance of the project during and after construction for the review and approval of the City or County Engineer. The project plan shall identify Best Management Practices (BMPs) appropriate to the uses conducted on-site in order to limit to the maximum extent practicable the entry of pollutants into stormwater runoff.

- BMP-GEN2 **Erosion Control Measures.** The project plan shall also include erosion control measures to prevent soil, dirt and debris from entering the storm drain system, in accordance with the practices outlined in the ABAG *Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook*, California Storm Water Best Management Practice Handbooks, and Regional Water Quality Control Board's *Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual*
- BMP-GEN3 **Responsibility of Contractors.** The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all contractors and subcontractors are aware of and implement all stormwater quality control measures. Failure to comply with the approved construction BMPs shall result in the issuance of correction notices, citations and/or a project stop order.
- BMP-1 **Paved Sidewalks and Parking Lots.** Sidewalks and parking lots shall be swept regularly to prevent the accumulation of litter and debris. Debris resulting from pressure washing shall be trapped and collected to prevent entry into the storm drain system. Washwater containing any soap, cleaning agent or degreaser shall be collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer and shall not be discharged to a storm drain. The applicant shall contact the City Engineer for specific connection and discharge requirements.
- BMP-2A **Private Streets, Utilities and Common Areas.** The owner of private streets and storm drains shall prepare and implement a plan for street sweeping of paved private roads and cleaning of all storm drain inlets.

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

- BMP-CNST1 **Construction Access Routes.** Construction access routes shall be limited to those approved by the City Engineer and shall be shown on the approval grading plan.
- BMP-CNST2 **Collection of Construction Debris.** Gather all construction debris on a regular basis and place them in a dumpster or other container that is emptied or removed on a weekly basis. When appropriate, use tarps on the ground to collect fallen debris or splatters that could contribute to stormwater pollution.
- BMP-CNST3 **Removal of Waste.** Remove all dirt, gravel, rubbish, refuse and green waste from the sidewalk, street pavement, and storm drain system adjoining the project site. During wet weather, avoid driving vehicles off paved areas and other outdoor work.
- BMP-CNST4 **Sweeping of Public Right-of-Way.** Broom sweep the sidewalk and public street pavement adjoining the project site on a daily basis. Caked on mud or dirt shall be scraped from these areas before sweeping.

- BMP-CNST5 **Filter Materials at Storm Drain Inlet.** Install filter materials (such as sandbags, filter fabric, etc.) at the storm drain inlet nearest the downstream side of the project site prior to:
- a) start of the rainy season (October 1);
 - b) site dewatering activities;
 - c) street washing activities;
 - d) saw cutting asphalt or concrete; and
 - e) order to retain any debris or dirt flowing into the City storm drain system.
- Filter materials shall be maintained and/or replaced as necessary to ensure effectiveness and prevent street flooding. Dispose of filter particles in the trash.
- BMP-CNST6 **Containment of Materials.** Create a contained and covered area on the site for the storage of bags of cement, paints, flammables, oils, fertilizers, pesticides, or any other materials used on the project site that have the potential for being discharged to the storm drain system by wind or in the event of a material spill.
- BMP-CNST7 **Cleaning of Equipment.** Never clean machinery, tools, brushes, etc. or rinse containers into a street, gutter, storm drain or stream. See the *Building Maintenance/ Remodeling* flyer for more information.
- BMP-CNST8 **Minimize Removal of Natural Vegetation.** Minimize removal of natural vegetation or ground cover from the site in order to minimize the potential for erosion and sedimentation problems. Replant the area as soon as possible. All cut and fill slopes shall be stabilized as soon as possible after grading is completed. No site grading shall occur between October 1 and April 15 unless approved erosion and sedimentation control measures are in place.

Appeals: The Albany Municipal Code provides that any action of the Planning and Zoning Commission may be appealed to the City Council, if such appeal is filed within 14 days of the date of the action. Appeals may be filed in the Community Development Department by completing the required form and paying the required fee. The City Clerk will then schedule the matter for the next available City Council meeting.

Jeff Bond

From: Dave Gilson [dave.gilson@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 2:06 PM
To: Jeff Bond
Cc: Lyssa; lillian
Subject: letter for DR commission re: 1614 Sonoma

Hi Jeff,

Here's our letter to the members of the Design Review Commission to accompany our revised plans. Thanks for forwarding this to them.

Dave Gilson & Lyssa Rome
1614 Sonoma Ave.

Dear members of the Design Review Commission,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to present our proposed addition to 1614 Sonoma Avenue earlier this week. We appreciate your comments and feedback.

We're submitting revised plans that address your comments and also take our neighbors' concerns into account. We particularly want to be sensitive to the issues raised by our next-door neighbors to the east, Sabrina Zirkel and Christopher Simon. (Celia Boyer, our neighbor to the rear who spoke at the meeting, has told us that she now supports our proposed project.)

As you'll see in our revised plan, the height of the roof on the proposed addition has been lowered from 31 to 28 feet. In addition to bringing the height at the rear of the house up to code, this change should help reduce the impact on our neighbor's bathroom window view and the light to the first-floor study and TV room/den. This change will also reduce some of the bulk of the rear of our house. We are also now keeping the existing lower eaves intact on the rear elevation to help visually break up the massing of the new work.

In order to lower our roof height, we have lowered our plate heights to 7'-0" throughout the addition, and lowered the roof slope 30%. These are concessions we have decided to make for our neighbors' benefit, and to address the concerns of the commission.

We explored the possibility of bringing the rear wall of the bedroom back by two feet, moving it off of the first floor footprint. Our architect, Lillian Mitchell, asked our structural engineer to go over the structural implications of doing this. He felt that moving the rear wall of the addition would result in a less efficient and effective structural design. Here are Lillian's notes from her meeting with him:

Our proposed design for this project stacks the 2nd floor exterior walls directly on the 1st floor exterior walls because this is the most straightforward approach to the structural and waterproofing issues inherent in a 2nd floor expansion like this. Moving the south exterior wall back 2 feet puts unnecessary stress on the seismic design, particularly for shear walls in the east-west direction, a direction in which the house already is weak. Without the south walls stacking directly, the structural design becomes "irregular in vertical load transfer" and calculations would have to accommodate 3 times the forces on the hold-downs under the south wall. This will necessitate the addition of beams and framing and will result in a structure which will be code compliant but which will not have as good of a seismic performance as if the walls were aligned over each other. The floor system would still be required to extend to the existing exterior south wall below and would require a roof/waterproofing; all at additional costs to our clients—for less usable structure and poorer seismic performance.

In addition, that change would mean that the only place we could put our bed would be in the corner directly beneath the windows, rather than against a wall.

We've toured our neighbors' house and found that our proposed addition would only block a very small part of their views and that they would retain expansive views from several points, including the bathroom. Though we believe that our revised plans will have, overall, a relatively small impact on their views and light, we want to be good neighbors. A mature tree currently grows in the southwest corner of our backyard. Sabrina told us that it blocks part of their views for most of the year. We would consider removing it to mitigate the impact of our project. We believe that taking it down would do a great deal more to enhance their views than moving the rear wall of our addition by two feet.

Thanks again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lyssa Rome and Dave Gilson

1614 Sonoma Ave.

Jeff Bond

From: Sabrina Zirkel [szirkel@mills.edu]
Sent: Thursday, January 06, 2011 5:00 PM
To: Jeff Bond
Cc: Sabrina Zirkel; Christopher Simon (Christopher.Simon@ucop.edu)
Subject: Concerns about design of addition to 1614 Sonoma Avenue, Albany

Dear Mr. Bond and Design Review Team:

We have now had an opportunity to look at the design of the proposed addition to 1614 Sonoma Avenue and we have several concerns that we would like to express. We are conscious of the fact that the previous owners made additions to our house and we want to be respectful, but also express our concerns so that they may be addressed before the process moves too far along.

The proposed second story addition at the back of 1614 Sonoma also extends the house several feet to the side closest to our house and raises the height of that part of the structure at 1614 Sonoma considerably. The addition means a tremendous loss of light, views and privacy to that side of our house.

First, light; the western side of our house gets light only in the afternoon, and much of this light will be blocked by the proposed addition. Even a slightly smaller addition would help alleviate the loss of light in those rooms. We have a study/den in that side of the house downstairs that is already very dark -- it will lose almost all access to light with the addition as proposed. However, the bedroom, also, will lose most of its light in the afternoon, as well as a view of the bay and the Golden Gate bridge.

Secondly, we will lose most of our views from our upstairs rooms with this addition. We will no longer be able to see Mount Tamalpais from the upstairs bathroom, a view that has made the beginning of every day wonderful in the years we have lived in this house. We will no longer see the bay, San Francisco or the Golden Gate bridge from the bedroom on that side of the house.

Third, privacy: Our upstairs bathroom, which is in the southwest corner of our house and the bedroom on that side of the house have windows that face 1614, and the proposed construction will be only a few feet away. I'm sure that the owners of 1614 Sonoma do not want us looking directly into their bathrooms either. We are concerned that the proposed bathrooms will be right next to our bathroom and bedroom.

Finally, this addition is actually quite large and will make this home, I believe, one of the very the largest in all of Albany at 2,829 square feet. Even relatively slight modifications to make the addition smaller would address some of these concerns while still enabling the owners to have a large house for their family.

We send this email in the spirit of neighborliness. We have seen other additions go up only to have the new owners find out too late that the remodeled structure led to similar problems affecting both themselves and their neighbors. We would like to alleviate these problems before they emerge and would welcome an opportunity to discuss with our new neighbors and the Planning & Zoning Commission adjustments to the design that would alleviate some of these concerns. One of the two of us plan to attend the Public Hearing at 7.30 pm on Tuesday, January 11 and look forward to dialogue at that event.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Zirkel and Christopher Simon
Owners
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