MARTY VAN DUYN PLANNING DIRECTOR

July 25, 1980
Ci.ty Council

Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:
SUBJECT: Major Project Review for a 81,698 square foot office building and a 209 space parking complex located within the Central City ( $\mathrm{P}-9040$ )

LOCATION: Southeast corner of loth and "G" Streets

## SUMMARY

This is a proposal to develop a five-story office building and a fourstory parking garage containing 209 parking spaces. The complex is located on two sites that are separated by an alley. The Planning Commission approved necessary special permits and variances subject to conditions to allow the complex. The project is being transmitted to the City Council to determine whether or not the Council wishes to consider the special permit.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Section 3-C-10 of the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, No. 2550, Fourth Series, states that a special permit is required from the planning Commission for any project in the Central City that exceeds 75,000 square feet in gross floor area. Subsequent to Planning Commission action, such project may be reviewed by the City Council.

VOTE OF COMMISSION
On July 3, 1980, the Planning Commission by a vote of six ayes, one no, and two absent, recommended approval of the special permit subject to conditions in the staff report.
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## RECOMMENDATION

If the City Council decides to review the special permit, the City Clerk has suggested a hearing date of August 19, 1980.

FOR CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION WALTER J. SLIPE CITY MANAGER

MVD: WW: bw
Attachments
P-9040

July 29, 1980 District No. 1





APPLICATION: The applicant requests the following entitlements:

1. Environmental Determination
2. Special Permit for major project in Central City over $75,000 \mathrm{sq}$. feet
3. Special Permit to develop a 81,100 square foot office building in the $\mathrm{R}-0$ zone
4. Special Permit to increase maximum building height from 35 feet to 77 feet ( 5 stories)
5. Special Permit to develop a 209 space parking garage in the $\mathrm{C}-3$ zone
6. Variance to locate the parking garage on other than the building site
7. Variance to waive the required six-foot high masonry wall
8. Lot Line Adjustment

LOCATION: Office - Southeast corner of loth and "G" Streets Garage - Northeast corner of loth and "H" Streets

## PROJECT INFORMATION:

1974 General Plan Designation:
Central City Plan:
Proposed Alkali Redevelopment Plan:
Existing Zoning of Site:
Existing Land Use:
Surrounding Land Uses:
North: Three-story office and R-0
South: Two-story public parking garage and $\mathrm{C}-3$
East: Multi-family and $\mathrm{R}-0$ and $\mathrm{C}-3$
West: Office and parking lot and $C-3$
Office Data: loth and G Streets
Zone: $R-4 A$ and $R-0$
Site Dimension: $160^{\prime} \mathrm{x} 200^{\prime}$ ( 0.73 acres)
Square Footage of Building: $81,698 \mathrm{sq}$. feet
Height of Building: Five-stories ( 77 feet)
Setback on loth street: 12 feet
Setback on "G" Street: 20 feet
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Parking Garage Data: 10th and H.Streets
zone: C-3
Site Dimension: $140^{\circ} \mathrm{x} 160^{\prime}$ ( 0.5 L acres)
Square Footage of Building: 72,025 sq. feet
Height of Building: $4 \frac{1}{2}$ stories
Number of Parking Stalls: 207
Parking Required: 204 (1:400)
Setback on loth Street: Five feet.
Setback on "H" Street: Three feet
Exterior Materials: Cement plaster and dryvit
Colors: Light Beige and earth tones
The applicant proposes to develop a five-story office building and a $4 \frac{1}{2}$ level parking garage containing 207 stalls. The parking garage entrance/exit would be located on loth Street and on the alley. A pedestrian bridge would connect the office building with the parking garage.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: At the March 27,1980 Planning Commission meeting, the Commission determined that alternate Plan "A", which locates the office on the loth and $G$ site and the garage on loth and $H$ site, was more compatible with surrounding land uses. Alternate Plan "B", locates the garage on the loth and G Street site and the office on the loth and "H" Street site.

Subsequently, the office-garage project was scheduled for the regular Comission meeting on June 12 , 1980 and for the Architectural Review Board meeting on June 18, 1980. However, the City Attorney's office determined that the Commission cannot take formal action on the project until the Commission adopts the updated Alkali Flat Redevelopment plan. The Commission, however, can take formal action on the Redevelopment Plan and the proposed office project at the same public hearing. The proposed office project was therefore continued to July 3, 1980, which is a special public hearing for the Alkali Flat Redevelopment Flan.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REVIEW: On June 18,1980 the Architectural Review Board approved the design of the office-garage project subject to the following conditions:

1. Subject to review and approval of a detailed landscape and irrigation plan by the staff prios to approval of a building perrit.
2. Subject to approval of a special permit by the Planning Commission.
3. The planting area between the curb and sidewalk shall be irrigated, landscaped and maintained by the owner.
4. All street trees, including the Heritage Oak, that require trimming shall be approved by the City Parks Division.

ALKALI FLAT REDEVELOPMENT PLAN: The proposed office site is located in the Alkali Flat Redevelopment Area. The easterly 80 feet of the office site is zoned $R-4 A$ and the westerly 120 feet is zoned $R-0$. The proposed Alkali flat. Redevelopment Plan designates the entire office site as R-0, Resjdential/Office zone. The proposed parking garage is located across the alley to the south and is not in the redevelopment area.

## Comments from Other Agencies:

1. The Redevelopment Agency has no objection to the project as proposed.
2. City Community Services: The City Arborist inspected the site and has indicated the on-site trees (fruit trees, palm and weed trees) are not significant to save; however, all of the street trees are significant, including the Magnolias on loth Street and the large oak tree on "H" Street. The architect has redesigned the parking garage in order to comply with the arborist's recommendation to save the large limb on the north side of the oak tree.
3. Alkali Flat PAC: In May, 1980 the PAC unanimously approved the subject project. The applicant modified the project by reducing the office square footage and reducing the number of parking spaces.

Prior to review of the modified project, new members were appointed to PAC to replace the old members. On June 25, 1980 the PAC, by a vote of six ayes and five noes, recommended denial of the project because the height was too excessive. The project director of PAC will present PAC's point of view at the board meeting.
4. City Engineer: The applicant would need an easement and an agreement with the City concerning the pedestrian bridge. The bridge must meet minimum vertical clearance criteria of the Engineering Department. In addition, the applicant is required to re-construct the alley between the two properties.

LOT LINE ADJUSTMENT: The office site contains seven separate parcels and the garage site contains four separate parcels that vary in size and shape. The applicant is proposing to combine the total eleven parcels into two parcels in orcier to develop the office and garage. The staff has no objection to this proposal.

STAFF EVALUATION: The staff has reviewed the overall project and has no objection to the design, land use, and height proposal. The proposed use complies with the Central City Plan and the new Alkali Flat Redevelopment plan.

The $\mathrm{R}-0$ zone requires a 35 -foot height limit; the project proposes a 77 -foot (five-story) height. The applicant, therefore, requests a special permit to increase the height limit from 35 feet to 77 feet. According to the zoning Ordinance, "the height limits within the old City shall be the same as the height limit specified outside the old City, provided, however, that a Special Permit may be granted to permit buildings of additional height."

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The staff has no major objection to the scale and height of the project in relationship to the structures in the surrounding area. The property to the north contains a three-story office building; the property to the east of the office contains a three and one-half story historical, Priority residential structure (apartment); a six-story office building is located one block to the west on 9 th and H Streets; a four-story office is located on 9 th and $G$ Streets, and a four-story motel is located to the east on llth and H Streets. Furthermore, the applicant has provided a $20-f \circ o t$ setback on "G" Street, a 12 -foot setback on 10 th Street, and a 20 -foot rear yard setback (east side of office). These setback areas are proposed to be landscaped. The applicant also proposes to provide a courtyard entrance from the alley area. This area would be landscaped with ground cover, shrubs and trees.

Fence Requirement: The staff supports the waiver of the six-foot high masonry fence in that:
a. The residential structure adjacent to the proposed office would benefit with additional open space area on the west side.
b. The garage is set back five feet from the east property line. This five-foot strip would be landscaped. The east wall of the garage would serve as a fence. An additional six-foot high wall would create a tunnel effect and could create hiding areas for undesirables. The adjacent property to the east has a four-foot high white picket fence. This fence, the walnut tree and weed trees would be removed if the six-foot fence were constructed. The arborist has indicated the two weed trees are not significant to be retained. Staff believes the walnut tree should be saved.

Landscaping: Staff suggests that an undulating mound with sod material be designed on the "G" Street setback area.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends the following:

1. The Negative Declaration be ratified;
2. Approval of the Special Permit for a major project;
3. Approval of the Special Permit to develop an office building in the R-0 zone:
4. Approval of the Special Permit to increase the building height from 35 feet to 77 feet (five-stories);
5. Approval of the Special Permit to develop a 209 space parking garage in the $\mathrm{C}-3$ zone;
6. Approval of the Variance to locate the parking garage on other than the building site;

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7. Approval of the Variance to waive the required six-foot high masonry wall; (deleted by CPC)
8. Approval of the Lot Line Adjustment.

The special permit approvals are subject to the following conditions and based on findings of fact:

## Conditions

a. Subject to review and approval of a detailed landscape and irrigation plan by the staff prior to approval of a building permit. The 20-foot setback on "G" Street shall be designed
 of suitable materials and varying elevations.)
b. The planting area between the curb and sidewalk shall be irrigated, landscaped and maintained by the owner.
c. All street trees that require trimming shall be approved by the City Parks Division.

* d. Subject to approval of the Alkali Redevelopment Plan by the Planning Commission and City Council. No building permits shall be issued until this plan is adopted by the city Council.
e. Applicant shall resolve all matters relating to public water, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, driveway permits, alley improvements, bridge easements and utility easements with the appropriate departments and agencies.
f. All existing driveways shall be replaced with standard curbs and sidewalks.

Findings of Fact

1. The proposed project is based on sound principles of land use in that:
a. the proposed parking garage would provide the required parking on a different building site;
b. the project is compatible with the surrounding office and parking uses.
2. The project is not injurious to the general public nor surrounding properties in that:
a. the design of the proposed structures are compatible with surrounding properties;
b. the height of the structures are compatible with surrounding properties.
*see page. $?$
c. the proposed project will contribute to the stability of the neighborhood.
3. The proposed project conforms to the 1974 General Plan, Central City Plan and the Alkaii Flat Redevelopment Plan in that:
a. the General Plan and Central City Plan designate these sites as Central Business District;
b. the Alkali Flat Redevelopment Plan designates the site for residential-office use.

## Findings of Fact for Variance

1. The variance request does not constitute a special privilege in that:
a. the parking garage is contiguous to the office structure and is connected with a pedestrian bridge;
b. the garage site is currently used as a parking lot;
c. locating the parking garage on the loth \& H Street site is more desirable and compatible with surrounding land uses;
d. the elimination of the masonry wall on the east property line of the office site would create additional open space and light and air for the residential structure to the east. A masonry wall on the east property line would create a tunnel effect and a hiding area and would require removal of a picket fence and trees. The east wall of the garage would serve the same purpose as a fence. (deleted by CPC)
2. The variance request is not injurious to the general public in that:
a. the applicant is required to reconstruct the alley between the office and parking garage;
b. the alley area as well as the setback areas surrounding the structures will be landscaped;
c. the vehicles in the garage will be screened from public view.
3. The variance request does not constitute a use variance in that parking garages are permitted in the $C-3$ zone with the approval of a special permit.
4. The project is in conformance with the Central City Plan and Alkali Flat Redevelopment Plan in that the plans designate the sites as Central Business District and Pesidential-Office use respectively.

## Conditions

*d. CPC amended to: Subject to approval of the Alkali Redevelopment Plan and implementing reaoning by the Planning Commission and City Cowncil. No building permits shall be issued until this plan is adopted by the city Council and the site is appropriately zoned $R-0$.
g. . CPC added condition: Brick or similar material shall be installed in the alley.



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