



City of Santa Barbara

MEASURE E ORDINANCE (Development Plan Review and Approval)

28.87.300 Development Plan Review and Approval.

A. DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

1. Requirement for Development Plan.

a. Planning Commission Review Required. No application for a land use permit for a nonresidential construction project as defined in Subsection B of this Section will be accepted or approved on or after December 6, 1989 unless the project falls within one or more of the categories outlined in Paragraph 2 of this Subsection and defined in Subsection B of this Section. Before any nonresidential construction project is hereafter constructed in any zone including zones at the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport, a complete development plan for the proposed development shall be submitted to the Planning Commission for review and approval. In addition, before residential floor area in any building or structure located in any zone including zones at the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport is converted to nonresidential use, a complete development plan for the proposed conversion shall be submitted to the Planning Commission for review and approval. Before any transfer of existing development rights may be approved pursuant to Chapter 28.95, development plans for both the sending site(s) and receiving site(s) as defined therein shall be approved by Planning Commission or City Council on appeal pursuant to this section.

Any nonresidential project except for Transfer of Existing Development Rights projects, which involves an addition of greater than three thousand (3,000) and less than ten thousand (10,000) square feet of floor area and which does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, shall be placed on the Planning Commission Consent Calendar for review and action. The only findings in Paragraph D.1 applicable to these projects are Findings d, e, f, and g. These findings shall be made at the time of Planning Commission approval.

b. Exceptions.

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph a. of this Subsection, any nonresidential project which involves an addition of one thousand (1,000) square feet or less, and which does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, shall not be required to receive development plan approval.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Subparagraph a. of this Subsection, any nonresidential construction project which involves the following shall not be required to receive development plan approval from the Planning Commission:

- a. an addition of greater than one thousand (1,000) and less than or equal to three thousand (3,000) square feet of floor area, and;
- b. does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report, and;
- c. does not require some other form of discretionary approval from the Planning Commission under other applicable provisions of this Code.

(3) Development plan approval for projects not requiring Planning Commission approval under subparagraph (2) above shall be required from the Staff Hearing Officer if the application requires discretionary review by the Staff Hearing Officer under another provision of this Code. Otherwise, development plan approval for projects not requiring Planning Commission approval under subparagraph (2) above shall be required at the time of Preliminary Approval from the Architectural Board of Review, or the Historic Landmarks Commission if the property is located within El Pueblo Viejo Landmark

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District or another landmark district, or if the structure is a designated City Landmark. Such projects are subject to the findings in Subsection E of this Section and the provisions of Section 28.87.350.

2. Development Potential.

a. Nonresidential Construction Project. Nonresidential construction projects, as defined in Subsection B of this Section, shall be restricted to no more than three million (3,000,000) square feet until the year 2013. This allowable square footage shall be allocated in the following categories, as defined in Subsection B of this Section.

Category	Square Footage
Approved Projects	900,000 s.f.
Pending Projects	700,000 s.f.
Vacant Property	500,000 s.f.
Minor Additions	Exempt
Small Additions	600,000 s.f.
Community Priorities	300,000 s.f.

Small Additions shall be limited to no more than thirty thousand (30,000) square feet annually. Procedures for allocating square footage under these categories shall be established by resolution of City Council.

Notwithstanding the development restrictions established above, the Planning Commission or City Council on appeal may approve nonresidential development projects determined by the City Council to promote Economic Development. However, the total development square footage of all Economic Development Projects approved prior to January 1, 2013, shall not exceed the total square footage of "Approved" or "Pending" projects which have expired or been abandoned and any unused development square footage remaining from the annual allotment in the "Small Additions" category as of the date the Planning Commission or City Council on appeal approves a particular Economic Development Project. Nothing herein shall be deemed to authorize the approval of nonresidential development totalling in excess of three (3) million square feet above the October 1988 baseline condition until January 1, 2013.

b. Other Nonresidential Development. Other nonresidential development may occur so long as it falls within the following categories, as defined in Subsection B of this Section.

- (1) Government Displacement Project.
- (2) Hotel Room for Room Replacement Project.

B. DEFINITIONS.

1. Approved Projects or Revisions thereto. A project which satisfies any of the following criteria:

a. An application for a land use permit for the project (other than an application for Specific Plan approval) which was approved on or before October 26, 1989 and the approval is still valid.

b. The project pertains to implementation of a Specific Plan which was approved prior to April 16, 1986, and the Plan required the construction of substantial circulation system improvements, and all of those improvements were either:

- (1) Installed prior to the effective date of this ordinance; or
- (2) Subsequently constructed pursuant to an Owner Participation Agreement (OPA) and installed prior to the approval of any development plan(s).

c. The project consists of a revision to a project which qualifies under either Subparagraph a. or b. of this Paragraph B.2, provided the revision will result in no increase in floor area over the approved

amount. Once a revision to a project has been approved that reduces the floor area from the originally approved amount, the unused floor area shall not be reallocated to the project as part of a future revision. The unused floor area shall be available for Economic Development Projects.

2. Community Priority. A project which has been designated by the City Council as a community priority necessary to meet a present or projected need directly related to public health, safety or general welfare.

3. Economic Development Project. A project which has been designated by the City Council as a project that is consistent with the City Charter, General Plan and this Title, will enhance the standard of living for City and South Coast residents and will strengthen the local or regional economy by either creating new permanent employment opportunities or enhancing the City's revenue base. An Economic Development Project should also accomplish one or more of the following:

a. Support diversity and balance in the local or regional economy by establishing or expanding businesses or industries in sectors which currently do not exist on the South Coast or are present only in a limited manner; or

b. Provide new recreational, educational, or cultural opportunities for City residents and visitors; or

c. Provide products or services which are currently not available or are in limited supply either locally or regionally.

For purposes of this Section, "standard of living" is defined as wages, employment, environment, resources, public safety, housing, schools, parks and recreation, social and human services, and cultural arts.

4. Floor Area. Floor Area is the area included within the surrounding exterior walls of a building or portion thereof, exclusive of the area occupied by the surrounding walls, vent shafts and courts, or areas or structures used exclusively for parking. Nonhabitable areas used exclusively for regional public utility facilities shall not count toward the calculation of floor area. Any floor area which was constructed, approved, demolished or converted in violation of any provision of this Municipal Code, shall not give rise to any right to rebuild or transfer floor area.

5. Floor Area Ratio. The area expressed as the ratio of floor area to total square footage of a parcel.

6. General Welfare. A community priority project which has a broad public benefit (for example: museums, child care facilities, or community centers) and which is not principally operated for private profit.

7. Government Displacement Project. A project which involves the relocation, replacement, or repair of a structure or use acquired, removed or damaged by direct condemnation or negotiated acquisition by the government (federal, state or local), provided the square footage of a project constructed to replace a building acquired or removed by the government does not exceed the square footage of the building so acquired or removed.

8. Hotel Room for Room Replacement Project. A project which consists of replacement or remodeling of existing hotel rooms at the same location on a room for room basis.

9. Land Use Permit. A governmental decision concerning a permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use of land, including a conditional use permit, variance, modification, development plan, specific plan, general plan amendment, coastal development permit, conversion permit, subdivision map (except those creating new single family lots), building permit, grading permit, demolition permit, water service connection or any similar approval or use.

10. Minor Addition. A project which consists of a minor addition defined as:

a. A nonresidential addition of one thousand (1,000) square feet or less of floor area to an existing structure; or

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- b. Construction of a free standing nonresidential structure of one thousand (1,000) square feet or less of floor area on a parcel containing another structure; or
- c. Conversion of residential floor area to no more than one thousand (1,000) square feet of nonresidential floor area; or
- d. Concurrent construction of nonresidential floor area of one thousand (1,000) square feet or less associated with a new structure constructed under the Approved, Pending, Community Priority or Vacant Property categories.
- e. The one thousand square foot limitation defined in subparagraphs a. through d. above is a cumulative total available per parcel. Once a cumulative total of 1,000 square feet of Minor Additions has been reached, any further additions up to a total of 3,000 square feet (including the Minor Additions) shall be allocated from the Small Addition category.

(1) EXCEPTION: If an existing or proposed building occupies two or more parcels created prior to October 1988, the maximum square footage available for a Minor Addition shall equal the sum of the Minor Additions which could be approved on the individual parcels pursuant to the findings in Subsection E of this Section. For parcels created after October 1988, any remaining Minor Addition allocation shall be divided evenly between all of the parcels created from each parcel eligible for a Minor Addition. The remaining allocation may be divided in a different manner between the parcels created if this division is executed in a legal instrument that is recorded with the County recorder and approved as to form by the City Attorney for each parcel involved at the time of recordation of the Final or Parcel map for the subdivision.

11. Nonresidential Construction Project. A project, or portion thereof, which consists of the construction of or addition of new floor area for other than residential use or the conversion of existing residential floor area to nonresidential use. Repair or replacement of existing floor area is not included in the calculation of new floor area for the purpose of this Section.

12. Pending Project or Revisions thereto. A project which satisfies any of the following criteria:

a. An application for a land use permit for the project was accepted on or before October 26, 1989 and the application: (1) has not been denied by the City; (2) has not been withdrawn by the applicant; (3) has not yet received City approval or (4) has received City approval after October 26, 1989 and that approval is still valid.

b. The project pertains to implementation of a Specific Plan which was approved prior to April 16, 1986 and the project does not qualify under Subparagraph 1.b. of this Subsection.

c. The project consists of a revision to a project which qualifies under either Subparagraph a. or b. of this Paragraph 12, provided the revision will result in no increase in floor area over the amount shown on the pending application. Once a revision to a project has been approved that reduces the floor area from the originally approved amount, the unused floor area shall not be reallocated to the project as part of a future revision. The unused floor area shall be available for Economic Development Projects.

13. Residential Unit. A dwelling unit as defined in Chapter 28.04, but not including any of the following:

a. A hotel or boarding house as defined in Chapter 28.04 which includes a motel, bed and breakfast inn, or similar facility in which the average duration of stay of the residents, during the six month period prior to February 1, 1990, was less than thirty (30) days.

b. A mobile-home or recreation vehicle as defined in Chapter 28.04.

14. Small Addition. A project which consists of a small addition defined as:

a. A nonresidential addition of more than one thousand (1,000) and less than or equal to three thousand (3,000) square feet of floor area to an existing structure; or

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b. Construction of a free standing nonresidential structure of more than one thousand (1,000) and less than or equal to three thousand (3,000) square feet of floor area on a parcel containing another structure; or

c. Conversion of residential floor area to more than one thousand (1,000) and less than three thousand (3,000) square feet of nonresidential floor area; or

d. Concurrent construction of nonresidential floor area of more than one thousand (1,000) and less than or equal to three thousand (3,000) square feet associated with a new structure constructed under the Approved, Pending, Community Priority or Vacant Property categories.

e. The limitations on floor area defined in subparagraphs a. through d. above establish the cumulative total available per parcel. In any case, the combined total of Minor and Small Additions shall not exceed a cumulative total of three thousand (3,000) square feet.

(1) EXCEPTION: In the case where an existing or proposed building occupies two or more parcels created prior to October 1988, the maximum square footage available for a Small Addition shall equal the sum of the Small Additions which could be approved on the individual parcels pursuant to the findings in Subsection E of this Section. For parcels created after October 1988, any remaining Small Addition allocation shall be divided evenly between all of the parcels created from each parcel eligible for a Small Addition. The remaining allocation may be divided in a different manner between the parcels created if this division is executed in a legal instrument that is recorded with the County recorder and approved as to form by the City Attorney for each parcel involved at the time of recordation of the Final or Parcel map for the subdivision.

f. Procedures for allocating square footage in the Small Addition category shall be established by resolution of the City Council.

15. Vacant Property. A project on a parcel of land which was vacant in October 1988, which consists of construction of a nonresidential structure with a floor area ratio of no more than 0.25.

C. REVIEW BY PRE-APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM. All nonresidential construction projects requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report or involving greater than 3,000 square feet of floor area and subject to this Section shall be reviewed by the Pre-Application Review Team as provided in Chapter 27.07 of this Code.

D. STANDARDS FOR REVIEW. Unless specifically exempt, the following findings shall be made in order to approve a development plan submitted pursuant to this Section.

1. Findings:

a. The proposed development complies with all provisions of this Title; and

b. The proposed development is consistent with the principles of sound community planning;

and

c. The proposed development will not have a significant adverse impact upon the neighborhood's aesthetics/character in that the size, bulk or scale of the development will be compatible with the neighborhood; and

d. The proposed development will not have a significant unmitigated adverse impact upon City and South Coast affordable housing stock; and

e. The proposed development will not have a significant unmitigated adverse impact on the City's water resources; and

f. The proposed development will not have a significant unmitigated adverse impact on the City's traffic; and

g. Resources will be available and traffic improvements will be in place at the time of project occupancy.

2. Potential for Overriding Considerations:

a. A finding of significant adverse impact under Subparagraph 1.c above can be overridden if it is determined that the economic, social or public benefits of the proposed development outweigh its significant adverse impacts.

b. A finding of significant adverse impact under Subparagraphs 1.a or 1.b above cannot be overridden.

c. A finding of unmitigated significant adverse impact under Subparagraphs 1.d, 1.e, 1.f, or 1.g above for a Minor Addition Project, Government Displacement Project or that portion of a project which qualifies as a Government Displacement Project, a Community Priority Project, and an Approved Project or Revision thereto can be overridden if it is determined that the benefits of the proposed development outweigh its significant adverse impacts.

3. Exception. Notwithstanding any provision of this Section to the contrary, a development plan shall not be denied based on a finding pursuant to Subparagraph 1.d of this Subsection E if (i) the plan incorporates revisions to a development plan approved by the Planning Commission under this Section prior to February 25, 1988, and (ii) the project shown on the plan will not generate a demand for new housing in excess of the demand generated by the previously approved project.

E. DEVELOPMENT PLAN NOTICE AND HEARING. The Staff Hearing Officer, Planning Commission, or City Council on appeal, shall hold a public hearing prior to taking action on any development plan. Notice of the public hearing shall be given in accordance with Section 28.87.380.

F. SUSPENSIONS AND APPEALS.

1. A decision by the Staff Hearing Officer under this Section may be suspended or appealed according to the provisions of Section 28.05.020.

2. A decision by the Planning Commission under this Section may be appealed according to the provisions of Chapter 1.30. In addition to the procedures specified in Chapter 1.30, notice of the public hearing before the City Council on an appeal from a decision of the Planning Commission regarding a decision of the Staff Hearing Officer shall be provided in the same manner as notice was provided for the hearing before the Planning Commission.

G. FEES. Fees for filing applications and appeals shall be established by resolution of the City Council.

H. EXPIRATION OF DEVELOPMENT PLANS. A development plan approved pursuant to this Section shall expire pursuant to the provisions of Section 28.87.350. For projects with floor area allocated from the Approved, Pending, Economic Development and Small Addition categories, the unused floor area shall be made available for allocation to Economic Development Projects upon expiration of the development plan. For projects with floor area allocated from the Community Priority and Vacant Property categories, the unused floor area shall revert to the category from which the floor area was allocated upon expiration of the development plan.

I. MULTIPLE DEVELOPMENT PLANS. When more than one valid approved development plan exists for a lot, upon issuance of a building or grading permit for any work authorized by one of the approved development plans, all other development plans approved for that lot are deemed abandoned by the property owner. No building or grading permit shall be issued for any work authorized by a development plan following abandonment of that plan. For projects with floor area allocated from the Approved, Pending, Economic Development and Small Addition categories, any unused floor area shall be made available for allocation to Economic Development Projects upon abandonment of a development plan. For projects with floor area allocated from the Community Priority and Vacant Property categories, any unused floor area shall revert to the category from which the floor area was allocated upon abandonment of a development plan. (Ord. 5493, 2009; Ord. 5380, 2005; Ord. 5378, 2005; Ord. 4995, 1996; Ord. 4945, 1996; Ord. 4918, 1995; Ord. 4858, 1994; Ord. 4851, 1994; Ord. 4790, 1992; Ord. 4761,

1992; Ord. 4696, 1991; Ord. 4670, 1991; Ord. 4557, 1988; Ord. 4535, 19858; Ord. 4530, 1988; Ord. 4529, 1988; Ord. 4492, 1988; Ord. 4361, 1986; Ord. 4140, 1982.)

28.87.350 Development Plan Time Limits.

A. **TIME LIMIT.** A development plan approved pursuant to any provision of this Title shall expire four (4) years from the date of its approval, except as otherwise provided herein. No building or grading permit for any work authorized by a development plan shall be issued following expiration of that plan.

B. **CONDITIONS.** Any condition imposed on a development plan may, in the discretion of the body approving the development plan, also constitute (i) a condition to the issuance of and continued validity of any building or grading permit issued to implement that development plan, (ii) a condition to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy with respect to any improvements authorized by the development plan and (iii) if recorded with the County Recorder, to the continued validity of the certificate of occupancy. Violation of any such condition shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of any building or grading permit or certificate of occupancy issued with respect to the development plan.

C. **EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD.** Upon application of the developer filed prior to the expiration of the development plan, the time at which the development plan expires may be extended by the Community Development Director for one (1) year.

An extension of the expiration date of a development plan shall be granted if it is found that there has been due diligence to implement and complete the proposed project as substantiated by competent evidence in the record.

D. **SUSPENSION OF TIME DURING MORATORIUM.** The period of time specified in Subsection A, including any extension thereof granted pursuant to Subsection C, shall not include any period of time during which a moratorium, imposed after approval of the development plan, is in existence, provided however, that the length of the moratorium does not exceed five (5) years. For purposes of this Subsection, a development moratorium shall include (i) a water or sewer moratorium, (ii) a water and sewer moratorium, and (iii) a building or grading permit moratorium, as well as other actions of public agencies which regulate land use, development, or the provision of services to the land other than the City, which thereafter prevents, prohibits, or delays the completion of the development.

Once a moratorium is terminated, the development plan shall be valid for the same period of time as was left to run on the development plan at the time that the moratorium was imposed. However, if the remaining time is less than 120 days, the development plan shall be valid for 120 days following the termination of the moratorium.

E. **SUSPENSION OF TIME DURING LITIGATION.** The period of time specified in Subsection A, including any extension thereof granted pursuant to Subsection C, shall not include the period of time during which a lawsuit involving the approval of the development plan or related approvals is or was pending in a court of competent jurisdiction, if the stay of time period is approved by the Planning Commission or City Council pursuant to this Section. After service of the initial petition or complaint in the lawsuit upon the City, the developer may apply to the City for a stay pursuant to the City's adopted procedures. Within forty (40) days after receiving the application, the City shall either stay the time period for up to five years or deny the requested stay. The City Council may, by resolution, establish procedures for reviewing a request for a stay, including, but not limited to, notice and hearing requirements, appeal procedures and other administrative requirements.

F. **DEVELOPMENT PLANS ALREADY APPROVED.**

1. **Beginning Date – Development Plan Approvals.** For the purpose of calculating the expiration date of development plans approved prior to the adoption of the ordinance approving this Section, the date of approval of such development plans shall be deemed to be the date said ordinance is adopted by the City Council.

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2. Specific Plan Development Plan Approvals. For the purposes of calculating the expiration date of a Specific Plan project Development Plan approved in accordance with Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 29.30, Development Plan approvals shall be deemed to expire eight (8) years after the date of the final City action approving the project Development Plan and shall include any related project approvals or modifications granted by the City in connection therewith. (Ord. 5380, 2005; Ord. 5308, 2004; Ord. 4361, 1986.)