# ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION CITY OF PALM DESERT MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 12:30 p.m.

Development Services Conference Room, City Hall 73-510 Fred Waring Drive Palm Desert, CA 92260

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 2449, this meeting may be conducted as a hybrid meeting allowing public access via teleconference or in person, and up to two Commissioners may attend remotely.

- To participate via Zoom, use the following link: <a href="https://palmdesert.zoom.us/j/83648797515">https://palmdesert.zoom.us/j/83648797515</a> or call (213) 338-8477, Zoom Meeting ID: 836 4879 7515
- Written public comment may also be submitted to planning@palmdesert.gov. E-mails
  received by 9:30 a.m. prior to the meeting will be distributed to the Commission. Any
  correspondence received during or after the meeting will be distributed to the Commission as
  soon as practicable and retained for the official record. Emails will not be read aloud except
  as an ADA accommodation.

**Pages** 

- 1. CALL TO ORDER
- 2. ROLL CALL
- 3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

This time has been set aside for the public to address the Architectural Review Commission on issues that are not on the agenda for up to three minutes. Speakers may utilize one of the three options listed on the first page of the agenda. Because the Brown Act does not allow the Architectural Review Commission to act on items not listed on the agenda, members may briefly respond or refer the matter to staff for a report and recommendation at a future meeting.

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and may be approved by one motion. The public may comment on any items on the Consent Calendar within the three-minute time limit. Individual items may be removed by the Architectural Review Commission for a separate discussion.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the consent calendar as presented.

#### 4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Minutes of March 25, 2025.

#### 5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

#### 6. ACTION CALENDAR

The public may comment on individual Action Items within the three-minute time limit. Speakers may utilize one of the three options listed on the first page of the agenda.

6.a CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW FOR A HEIGHT, SETBACK, AND LANDSCAPE EXCEPTION FOR A PROPOSED WALL ON A VACANT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 77620 MOUNTAIN VIEW

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the ARC determines the findings have been met and approves the design review including exceptions for wall height, setback, and landscape at 77620 Mountain View.

#### 7. REPORTS & REMARKS

- 7.a ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSIONERS
- 7.b CITY STAFF
- 7.c ATTENDANCE REPORT

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be held on April 22, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.

9

25

5

#### 9. PUBLIC NOTICES

**Agenda Related Materials:** Pursuant to Government Code §54957.5(b)(2) the designated office for inspection of records in connection with this meeting is the Office of the City Clerk, Palm Desert Civic Center, 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert. Staff reports for all agenda items considered in open session, and documents provided to a majority of the legislative bodies are available for public inspection at City Hall and on the City's website at <a href="https://www.palmdesert.gov">www.palmdesert.gov</a>.

Americans with Disabilities Act: It is the intention of the City of Palm Desert to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in all respects. If, as an attendee or a participant at this meeting, or in meetings on a regular basis, you will need special assistance beyond what is normally provided, the City will attempt to accommodate you in every reasonable manner. Please contact the Office of the City Clerk, (760) 346-0611, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to inform us of your needs and to determine if accommodation is feasible.

#### AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda for the Architectural Review Commission was posted on the City Hall bulletin board and City website not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.

/S/ Melinda Gonzalez
Executive Administrative Assistant

# ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION CITY OF PALM DESERT REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2025, 12:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioner James Blakeley, Commissioner Dean Wallace

Colvard, Commissioner Michael McAuliffe, Commissioner James McIntosh, Commissioner Francisco Sanchez, Chair John Vuksic

Absent: Commissioner Nicholas Latkovic

Staff Present: Principal Planner Carlos Flores, Principal Planner Nick Melloni,

Associate Planner Kenny Taylor, Recording Secretary Melinda

Gonzalez

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Architectural Review Commission was called to order by Chair Vuksic on March 25, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. in the Development Services Conference Room, City Hall, located at 73-510 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert, California.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

#### 3. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Vuksic opened and closed the public comment period for Non-Agenda public comment. No public comments were provided.

#### 4. CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by: Commissioner Colvard Seconded by: Commissioner McAuliffe

The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

#### 4.a APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion by:** Commissioner Colvard **Seconded by:** Commissioner McAuliffe

Approve the Minutes of March 11, 2025.

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

#### 5. CONSENT ITEMS HELD OVER

None

#### 6. ACTION CALENDAR

# 6.a CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW FOR A FAÇADE MODIFICATION TO AN EXISTING RETAIL STOREFRONT FOR WHITE HOUSE BLACK MARKET AT 73061 EL PASEO SUITES 6&7

Associate Planner, Kenny Taylor, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to Commission inquiries. David Fletcher, Property Owner Representative, was present in person. David Davis with Dale Gardon Design, Landlord Architect, and Jason Hunt with Abbot Studios, Tenant Architect, were present via Zoom.

Chair Vuksic opened the public comment period and invited the applicant to speak. David Fletcher, Property Owner Representative, David Davis with Dale Gardon Design, Landlord Architect, and Jason Hunt with Abbot Studios, Tenant Architect, introduced themselves and answered questions from the Commission.

With no other members of the public wishing to comment, Chair Vuksic closed the public comment period. Discussion on the item ensued with Commissioners providing comments on the project.

Motion by: Chair Vuksic

Seconded by: Commissioner McIntosh

Motion carried to approve Case No. MISC25-0004, with the following conditions:

- The trim detail above soffit shall be removed.
- 2. The material board shall be updated to reflect "Flamed Absolute Black" for the granite tile material (Number 4).

Motion Carried (6 to 0)

#### 6.b CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW TO MODIFY A FOUR-STORY STAYBRIDGE SUITES HOTEL LOCATED AT 74755 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE

Chair Vuksic advised the Commission of his need to recuse from this item as his firm is the Architect on this project and left the conference room.

Principal Planner, Carlos Flores, narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the item and responded to Commission inquiries. Nicole Williams with Prest Vuksic Greenwood Architects, Applicant, was present via Zoom.

Vice Chair McIntosh opened the public comment period and invited the applicant to speak. Nicole Williams with Prest Vuksic Greenwood Architects, Applicant, introduced herself and answered questions from the Commission.

With no other members of the public wishing to comment, Vice Chair McIntosh closed the public comment period. Discussion on the item ensued with Commissioners providing comments on the project.

**Motion by:** Commissioner McAuliffe **Seconded by:** Commissioner Blakeley

Motion carried to approve Case No. MISC25-0008 as presented, subject to the following conditions:

- 1. Design is subject to review and approval of precise grading plan.
- 2. Final construction documents shall be reviewed by ARC subcommittee for conformance with the design review.
- 3. Applicant shall provide a paint sample for P5 Metallic Rust Iron Custom Mix finish during ARC subcommittee review of final construction documents.

RECUSED (1): Chair Vuksic

**Motion Carried (5 to 0)** 

Chair Vuksic rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the item.

#### 7. REPORTS & REMARKS

#### 7.a ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Colvard reported the following updates for the Cultural Arts Committee:

- "Rising Inversion" will be installed at Ironwood Park at a cost of \$100,000.
- Due to the rising costs of iron, steel, and general materials the budget for the "Dueling Palms" sculpture will increase \$106,000 with a total cost of over \$200,000.

Upon inquiry, Principal Planner Flores provided the following updates:

- The department has received grading submittals for the Vesta Apartment project.
- Palms Community has submitted for construction permits which are currently under review. They have also submitted their final subdivision map which will need to be approved.
- Millennium Apartments is currently under construction.
- Agate Apartments have been fully constructed.
- The Phase 2 map for the Explore project was recently approved through City Council. They have completed mass grading and submitted their application for precise grading. All entitlements have been approved for this project.

#### 7.b CITY STAFF

Principal Planner, Nick Melloni, provided the following updates:

- The General Plan and Housing Element Annual Progress Report went before the Planning Commission at their last meeting and the Commission approved a recommendation to the City Council to submit the annual report to the State. This report will go before the City Council at their next regular meeting.
- On Thursday, March 27, 2025, a study session will be held with City Council regarding the Hillside Objective Design Standards which will include the consultants, John Kaliski Architects, who will be preparing the design standards.
- On April 10, 2025, a study session will be held with the City Council regarding the Unified Development Code.

In response to inquiries regarding the anticipated completion date for the "Millennium Park" and if staff will be revisiting the Short-Term Rental ordinance, Principal Planner Melloni stated he would reach out to the appropriate staff to provide an update on these topics at a later ARC meeting.

#### 7.c ATTENDANCE REPORT

The attendance report was provided with the agenda materials. The Commission took no action on this item.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

The Architectural Review Commission adjourned at 1:43 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Gonzalez, Executive Administrative Assistant Recording Secretary
ATTEST:
Carlos Flores, Principal Planner Secretary
APPROVED BY ARC://2025

# ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW COMMISSION CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2025

PREPARED BY: Niko Romaidis, Planning Technician

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A DESIGN REVIEW FOR A HEIGHT,

SETBACK, AND LANDSCAPE EXCEPTION FOR A PROPOSED WALL

ON A VACANT PROPERTY LOCATED AT 77620 MOUNTAIN VIEW

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the ARC determines the findings have been met and approves the design review including exceptions for wall height, setback, and landscape at 77620 Mountain View.

#### **BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:**

In 2011, the City of Palm Desert's Capital Projects Department (Capital Projects) installed underground retention chambers on Mountain View to help retain water during storm events. Following heavy storm events in 2023-2024, the City Engineer determined that the existing infrastructure does not have the capacity to contain larger storms. In April 2024, the City purchased a 1.01-acre, vacant property at 77620 Mountain View (APN: 637-300-023) to construct an above ground retention basin.

Palm Desert Municipal Code ("PDMC") Section 25.40.080 "Fences and Walls" requires a minimum setback of twenty (20) feet from the face of curb for fences and walls taller than five (5) feet. The Applicant is proposing a fence that does not comply with the height and setback requirements of the PDMC. The PDMC allows the Architectural Review Commission (ARC) to grant exceptions based on existing lot conditions and fence design.

#### **Project Summary:**

Capital Projects (Applicant) is requesting an exception to the fence height and setback requirements of the Palm Desert Fences and Walls Ordinance, PDMC Section 25.40.080. The Applicant is proposing to construct a 5' – 6" tall, block and steel wall (Wall) setback 11' - 0" from the face of curb at 77620 Mountain View to help screen the new basin from Mountain View.

PDMC Section 25.40.080 "Fences and Walls" requires a minimum setback of twenty (20) feet from the face of curb for fences and walls taller than 5 feet. The proposed Wall does not comply with the height and setback requirements of the PDMC, but the ARC may grant exceptions based on existing lot conditions and fence design if certain findings are met, per PDMC 25.40.080(E). This proposal is requesting an exception to the minimum setback of 20' - 0" from face of curb for walls taller than 5 feet.

#### A. Property Description

The project site is an existing vacant lot located at 77620 Mountain View, comprising of one parcel totaling 1.01-acres (45,003.5 square feet). The subject property is zoned R-E (Residential Estate).

#### B. Zoning, General Plan and Adjacent Uses

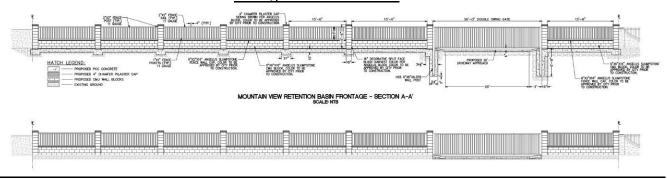
Table 1 – General Plan and Zoning

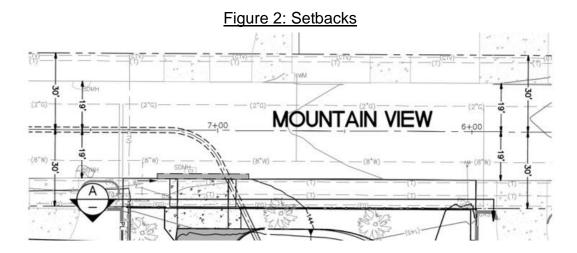
	Existing Uses	General Plan	Zoning
Project Site	Vacant	Rural Neighborhood	Residential Estate (R-E)
North	Single Family Residential	Rural Neighborhood	Residential Estate (R-E)
South	Single Family Residential	Rural Neighborhood	Residential Estate (R-E)
East	Single Family Residential	Rural Neighborhood	Residential Estate (R-E)
West	Single Family Residential	Rural Neighborhood	Residential Estate (R-E)

#### C. Project Description

The Wall will have a maximum height of 5'- 6" and will be composed of slump stone blocks and 11-gauge steel fence pickets, as shown in Figure 1 below. The wall will run a total length of 146' - 6" which includes a 26-foot-long double swinging gate. As proposed, the base of the wall will be comprised of a 2' - 2" high block wall made of 6" x 6"x 16" Angelus slump stone blocks with a 2" cap at the top and a 3-foot-high tube steel fence of 1x1 inch, 11-gauge fence pickets on top of the slump stone cap. The project proposes a 5' - 6" tall wall with decorative split face block pilasters with a width of 16", placed at intervals of every 15' - 6". The Applicant is proposing to place the wall 11 feet from curb face, which would be in line with the walls of the adjoining and surrounding properties. Figure 2 shows the proposed 11-foot setback from curb face.

Figure 1: Wall Plans





#### Site Plan

The project is a vacant lot located adjacent to a public street (Mountain View), surrounded by existing single family residential homes. Figure 3 below shows a rendering of the proposed site upon completion, including the basin and native vegetation.

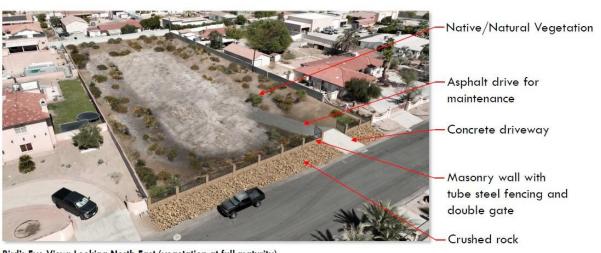


Figure 3: Project Rendering

#### Bird's Eye View: Looking North-East (vegetation at full maturity)

#### Landscape

As a result of feedback from the community outreach meetings, landscaping within the fenced area is proposed to remain in its existing natural condition with no additional landscaping proposed. Landscaping within the setback area is proposed to be all cobblestone ground cover with no additional landscaping installed.

#### Public Input

Community outreach meetings were held on November 21, 2024, and March 20, 2025, by the Capital Projects department to gather feedback from residents on the project. At the meeting held on November 21, 2024, residents communicated their preference for the fence materials and design to be as currently proposed for the project and that landscaping remains in its existing natural state. At the meeting held on March 20, 2025, residents expressed their approval of the proposed fence and requested that landscaping within the setback be completely ground cover.

Per PDMC 25.40.080(E)(iii), property owners adjacent to the proposed exception shall be informed of the application at least 10 days prior to the ARC meeting. Notices were sent to seven (7) adjacent property owners on March 28, 2025, informing them of the application. An updated notice was sent to property owners on April 3, 2025, to make a correction on the first notice due to an error on the meeting date. Both notices are provided as Attachment 2. No comments have been received as of the date of this report.

#### **Zoning Ordinance Summary:**

Section 25.40.080(E) of the PDMC requires ARC approval for all fence and wall exceptions. The subject fence is 5' – 6" tall, setback at 11 feet and constructed out of blocks and steel. At a setback of 11 feet, the PDMC permits a maximum fence height of 3' – 6", made from either block, stucco, or wrought iron material. Furthermore, all fences adjacent to a public street must provide undulation or a pilaster at least every 30 linear feet. The proposed wall requires approval of an exception by ARC as it does not meet the required setbacks for a wall of this height and requests alternate landscaping within the setback area. ARC may approve a wall exception subject to the following findings:

#### **Findings**

1. That unusual circumstances exist which make the literal interpretation of the standards impractical or contrary to the purpose of the ordinance codified in this section.

The property is currently zoned R-E; however, the proposed use for the property is a retention basin rather than for residential uses. The wall design and materials comply with the PDMC, and it is located to match the setbacks of the surrounding neighbors. Increasing the setback would not only reduce the retention capacity, but it would also create an unusual and non-harmonious look.

2. The exception shall not result in damage to adjacent properties.

The exception would not result in damage to adjacent properties. As constructed, the height and setback of the fence do not impair visibility to adjacent driveways. Additionally, the fence does not adversely affect scenic vistas for surrounding properties as surrounding mountain views will still be visible from all surrounding properties. The proposed landscaping within the setback is in

response to feedback from community outreach with the remaining area to stay in its currently natural condition which aligns with characteristics of this zone.

3. Property owners adjacent to the proposed exception shall be informed of the application at least 10 days prior to the ARC meeting.

A notice was sent out to all property owners adjacent to the project site on March 28, 2025, at least 10 days prior to the meeting. As of the date of publishing this report, no public comments have been received.

4. Exceptions for nonconforming materials, including wood and vinyl fences, shall be based on architectural merit and compatibility with the home's architectural style.

The project is not proposing any non-conforming material.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

- 1. Project Plans
- 2. ARC Notice

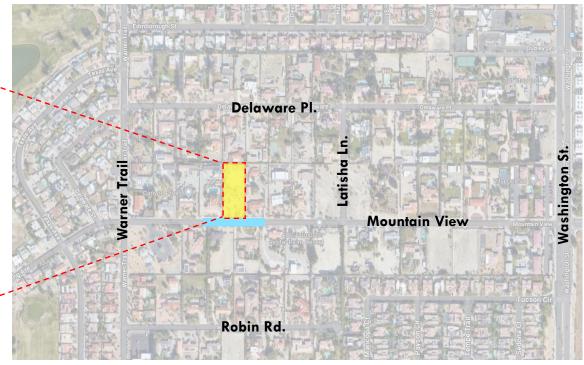


# PROJECT PURPOSE

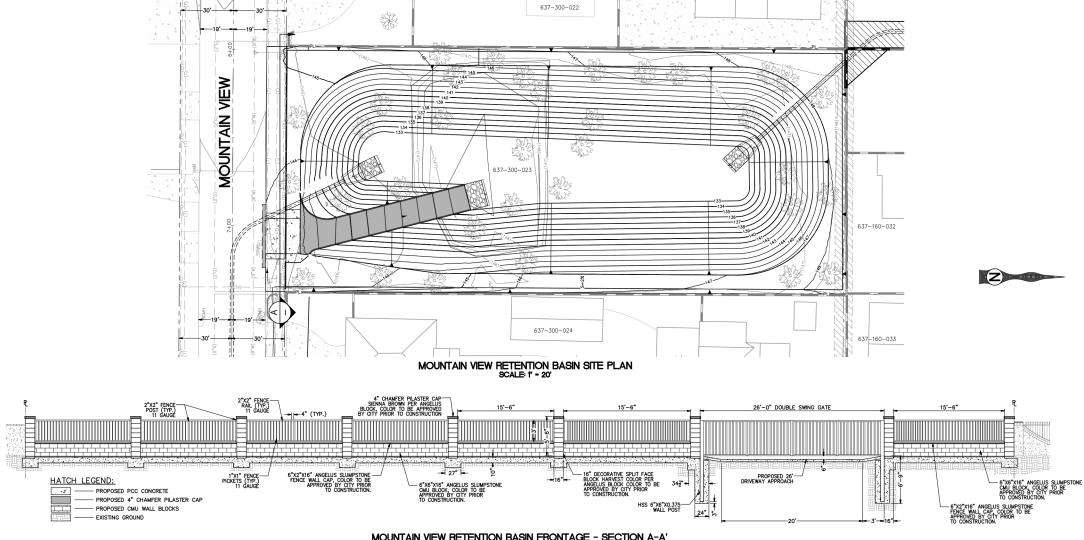
- 2011: City installed underground retention chambers on Mountain View
- Aug. 2023 Jan. 2024: Year's worth of rain received in just 6 months
- Flooding during large storms
- City Engineer determined existing infrastructure does not have capacity to contain larger storms

Land purchased April 2024





## SITE PLAN & WALL DETAIL



# EXISTING VACANT LOT





Bird's Eye View: Looking North-East

# NEW RETENTION BASIN





Bird's Eye View: Looking North-East (vegetation at full maturity)

19

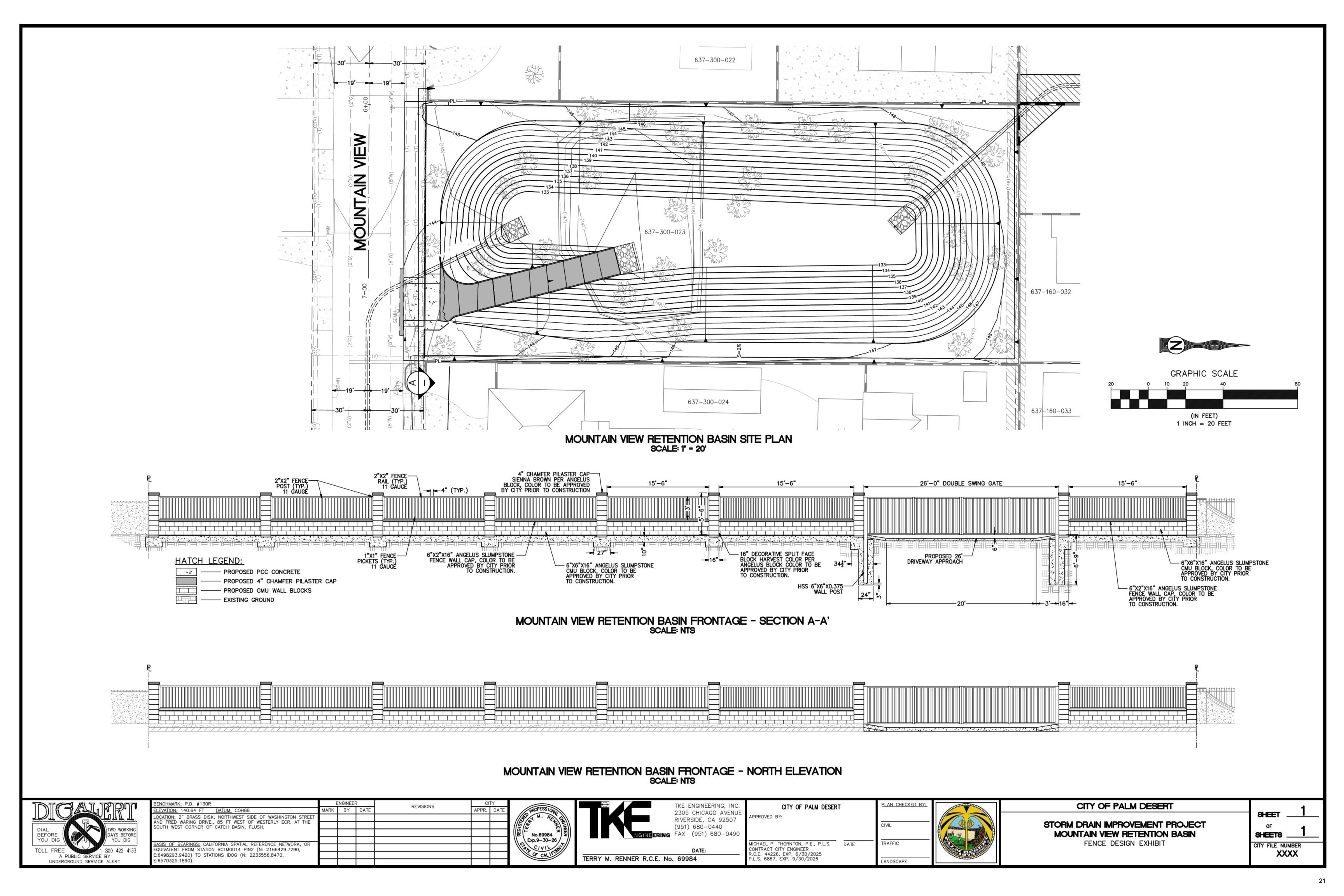
# NEW RETENTION BASIN





Other Right of Way Landscape on Mountain View







## CITY OF PALM DESERT

73-510 FRED WARING DRIVE
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260-2578
TEL: 760 346-0611
info@cityofpalmdesert.org

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION CITY OF PALM DESERT CASE NO. MISC 25-0009

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Development Services Department has received a request for a height and setback exception to the City of Palm Desert Municipal Code Fence and Walls standards to allow a 5 foot – 6 inch block and steel wall at a setback of 11 feet from the face of curb in the front yard of a vacant lot located at 77620 Mountain View. The City's Fences and Wall standards are provided under Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 25.40.080. At a setback of 11 feet, the Code limits all fences and walls to a maximum height of 3 feet – 6 inches. Exceptions to these standards may be approved by the City's Architectural Review Commission.

This notice is being sent to you based on your property's proximity to the proposed exception. The proposed fence exception is scheduled for consideration before the Palm Desert Architectural Review Commission on Tuesday, April 11, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom meeting. The meeting is open to the public. The agenda for this meeting is available on the City of Palm Desert website at: <a href="https://www.cityofpalmdesert.org/our-city/committees-and-commissions/architectural-review-commission-information-center">https://www.cityofpalmdesert.org/our-city/committees-and-commissions/architectural-review-commission-information-center</a>

Should you have any questions or comments please contact Mr. Niko Romaidis, Planning Technician, by Aprill 11, 2023, at (760) 776-6309, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

March 28, 2025

Richard D. Cannone, AICP
Director of Development Services



## CITY OF PALM DESERT

73-510 FRED WARING DRIVE
PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA 92260-2578
TEL: 760 346-0611
info@cityofpalmdesert.org

#### NOTICE OF APPLICATION CITY OF PALM DESERT CASE NO. MISC 25-0009

**UPDATE:** A previous version of this notice was mailed on March 28, 2025 that had the incorrect date for the Architectural Review Commission meeting. This updated notice serves to correct the date. Contact City staff for any questions.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Development Services Department has received a request for a height and setback exception to the City of Palm Desert Municipal Code Fence and Walls standards to allow a 5 foot – 6 inch block and steel wall at a setback of 11 feet from the face of curb in the front yard of a vacant lot located at 77620 Mountain View. The City's Fences and Wall standards are provided under Palm Desert Municipal Code Section 25.40.080. At a setback of 11 feet, the Code limits all fences and walls to a maximum height of 3 feet – 6 inches. Exceptions to these standards may be approved by the City's Architectural Review Commission.

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**PUBLIC REVIEW:** The plans and related documents are available for public review Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by contacting the project planner, Niko Romaidis. Please submit written comments to the Planning Division. Should you have any questions or comments please contact Mr. Niko Romaidis, Planning Technician, by **April 7, 2025**, at (760) 776-6309, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

### CITY OF PALM DESERT ATTENDANCE REPORT

Advisory Body: Architectural Review Commission

Prepared By: M. Gonzalez

	Year	20	025	25 2025 2025		2	024	2	2024		2024		2024		2024		2024		2024		124	2024			Total		
	Month Jan		Feb		Mar		Apr		May				Jul		Aug		Sep		Oct		Nov		Dec		Total	Unexcused	
	Date	14-Jan	28-Jan	11-Feb	25-Feb	11-Mar	25-Mar	9-Apr	23-Apr	14-May	28-May	11-Jun	25-Jun	9-Jul	23-Jul	13-Aug	27-Aug	10-Sep	24-Sep	8-Oct	22-Oct	12-Nov	26-Nov	10-Dec	24-Dec	Absences	Absences
Blakeley, James Edv	vard	-	Р	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	E	Р	Р	Р	-	E	-	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	2	0
Colvard, Dean Wall	ace	-	Р	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	E	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	Р	-	Е	Α	Р	Р	-	Р	-	3	1
Latkovic, Nichola	ıs	-	Р	Р	-	Р	Е	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	E	-	2	0
McAuliffe, Micha	el	-	Р	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Е	-	Р	-	Р	-	Р	Р	E	Р	-	Р	-	2	0
McIntosh, James	s	-	Е	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	E	Р	E	Р	Р	-	Р	-	Α	-	Р	Р	E	E	-	Р	-	6	1
Sanchez, Francisc	ю	-	Р	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	Р	-	E	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	1	0
Vuksic, John		-	Р	Р	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	E	-	Р	Р	Р	Р	-	Р	-	1	0

Palm Desert Municipal Code 2.34.010:

Twice Monthly: Six unexcused absences from regular meetings in any twelve-month period shall constitute an automatic resignation of members holding office on boards that meet twice monthly.

- P Present
- A Absent
- E Excused
- No meeting