



## PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** June 1, 2022

**TO:** Hearing Officer

**SUBJECT:** Neighborhood Development Permit #6929

**LOCATION:** 3840 Fairmeade Road

**APPLICANT:** Heather Berry Grant

**ZONING DESIGNATION:** RS-6-ND (Single-Family Residential, 0-6 units per acre, Neighborhood Overlay District)

**GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:** Low Density Residential

**CASE PLANNER:** Alison Walker

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the Environmental Determination and Specific Findings in Attachment A to **approve** Neighborhood Development Permit #6929 with the conditions in Attachment B.

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**PROJECT PROPOSAL:** Neighborhood Development Permit: To allow a 38 square-foot one-story addition to the primary frontage of an existing 2,153 square-foot, single-family residence with a 484 square-foot detached garage.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** This project has been determined to be exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(9); Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 3, §15301, Class 1, (Existing Facilities), and there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class; therefore, there are no unusual circumstances. Section 15301 exempts additions to existing structures that will not result in an increase of more than 10,000 square feet provided the project is located in an area where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the

General Plan, and the area in which the project is located is not environmentally sensitive. The proposed 38 square-foot addition to an existing single-family residence would occur in areas that are not environmental sensitive, where public services and facilities are available, and would be consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code.

**BACKGROUND:**

**Site characteristics:** The subject property is located on the south side of Fairmeade Road, between Pembroke Drive on the east and Hastings Ranch Drive on the west. The 14,752 square-foot rectangular property is improved with a one-story single-family dwelling with a detached two-car garage. The site topography is relatively flat. Surrounding properties are developed with single-family uses.

**Adjacent Uses:** North – Single-Family Residential  
South – Single-Family Residential  
East – Single Family Residential  
West – Single-Family Residential

**Adjacent Zoning:** North – RS-6-ND (Single-Family Residential, 0-6 units per acre, Neighborhood Overlay District)  
South – RS-6-ND (Single-Family Residential, 0-6 lots per acre, Neighborhood Overlay District)  
East – RS-6-ND (Single-Family Residential, 0-6 lots per acre, Neighborhood Overlay District)  
West – RS-6-ND (Single-Family Residential, 0-6 lots per acre, Neighborhood Overlay District)

**Previous Zoning Cases on this Property:** None

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The applicant and property owner, Heather Berry Grant, has submitted a Neighborhood Development Permit application to allow a one-story addition totaling 38 square feet to an existing 2,127 square-foot single-family dwelling with a detached 484 square-foot two-car garage. The addition is proposed at the front (north) of the dwelling. Other improvements proposed include new windows, replacement of existing stucco, and one new entry door. A Neighborhood Development Permit is required for any building addition that is visible from the public right-of-way. The existing two-car garage, driveway, and vehicular access from Fairmeade Road would remain unchanged. No protected trees are planned for removal.

**ANALYSIS:**

Neighborhood Development Permit

The subject property is located in the RS-6-ND (Single-Family Residential, 0-6 units per acre, Neighborhood Overlay District) zoning district. Properties located in the Neighborhood

Development Overlay are required to comply with additional standards beyond those applicable to the base single-family residential zoning district (RS). These additional standards are intended promote development that is orderly and compatible with the traditional scale and character of the Lower Hastings Ranch neighborhood, which is predominantly defined by one-story, single-family dwellings exhibiting California Ranch and/or Modern Ranch style architecture. A Neighborhood Development Permit is required for proposals that includes any building addition visible from a public right-of-way.

The Hearing Officer may approve a Neighborhood Development Permit only after making four findings pursuant to Zoning Code Section 17.28.090.L (Neighborhood Development Permit). Findings are necessary for the purposes of evaluating consistency with development standards, building and design standards, compatibility with neighborhood character, scale and proportion.

As noted above, Lower Hastings Ranch is predominantly defined by one-story, single-family dwellings exhibiting California Ranch and/or Modern Ranch style architecture. These types of architecture are defined as a series of set elements that address both the building form and the spaces in and around the house. The prevailing neighborhood character surrounding the subject property includes one-story dwellings that have moderate-to-wide roof overhangs, entries sheltered under the main roof of the house, and picture windows on the front facade. Gable and hipped roofs, stucco facades, asphalt shingles are common in the area, as are large front and rear setbacks.

The applicant's proposal is consistent with the scale and proportion of existing houses in the neighborhood. The proposed addition and improvements retain the one-story height, recessed entry, and front setback. The size and scale of the proposed project will also remain consistent. The proposal maintains Modern Ranch style architecture and incorporates a well-defined covered entry, consistent with the character in the neighborhood. Materials used include stucco, wood, and asphalt shingles, consistent with the neighborhood. The analysis that follows summarizes the project's compliance with applicable development standards of the Neighborhood Overlay District.

#### *Development Standards*

Development within the Neighborhood Overlay District shall comply with applicable development standards of the RS-6 district, Zoning Code 17.22.040 (RS and RM-12 Residential Districts General Development Standards) and 17.22.050 (RS and RM-12 District Additional Development Standards), except as specified in Zoning Code Sections 17.28.090.E, F, and G (ND Neighborhood Overlay District). The applicable ND development standards address heights, roofs, and building design. Table 1 (RS and ND Development Standards) below identifies the project's compliance with the applicable development standards.

**Table 1: RS and ND Development Standards**

<b>Development Standard</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Compliance</b>
<b>RS-6</b>			
<b>Setbacks</b>			
<i>Front</i>	31 feet	34 feet	Complies
<i>Side</i>	9 feet	8'-2" (east), 16 feet (west) (No change)	Nonconforming, Complies
<i>Rear</i>	25 feet	72 feet (No change)	Complies
<b>Max Site Coverage</b>	5,163 square feet (35% of lot size)	3,159 square feet (21.6%) (No change)	Complies
<b>Max Floor Area</b>	4,650 square feet (20% of lot size + 1,700 sf)	2,675 square feet	Complies
<b>Parking</b>	2 covered spaces	2 spaces in a garage (No change)	Complies
<b>ND Overlay</b>			
<b>Height Limit</b>	26 feet	14'-10.5"	Complies
<b>Top Plate Height</b>	10 feet	9'-8"	Complies
<b>Roof Pitch</b>	Same as existing, but not to exceed 4:12	Same as existing (4:12)	Complies
<b>Roof Design</b>	Hipped, Dutch-gabled, side- gabled, or cross-gabled	Hipped (No change)	Complies
<b>Roof Material</b>	Asphalt shingles, wood shingles, flat concrete tile	Asphalt shingles (No change)	Complies
<b>Roof Overhang</b>	Minimum 12 inches deep	Min. 12" (No change)	Complies
<b>Exterior Wall Surface (at least one)</b>	Wood, brick, stone, wood shingles, stucco, and/or board-and-batten	Wood, Stucco	Complies
<b>Window Types</b>	Casement, double-hung, large picture windows, short windows grouped on an upper facade	Casement, large picture windows	Complies

*ND Building Design Standards*

Additions and façade improvements within the ND Overlay are required to comply with specific building design standards. Building design standards, as outlined in Table 1, are those associated with architectural style, roof design and materials, exterior wall surfaces, window design and styles. These requirements address both the building form and the spaces in and around the house.

Construction of the existing dwelling occurred in 1952 and reflects modern ranch-style architecture. Other than the proposed addition, the applicant proposes to replace existing stucco and existing windows, while retaining the modern ranch-style architecture. Design elements incorporated into the project include façade materials, windows, and doors. No change is proposed to the existing 4:12 roof pitch, as the addition is proposed within the existing roof line. The façade would consist of stucco and wood siding, consistent with the existing condition. Windows proposed would consist of casement and large picture window styles. The recessed porch would be integrated into the front façade under the roof of the dwelling. Roof overhangs

would be continuous around the perimeter of the dwelling and exceed the minimum 12-inch depth. The proposed improvements are consistent with the recommended architectural styles and design standards required of the Neighborhood Overlay District.

### Tree Protection Ordinance

According to the tree inventory provided by the applicant, there are no trees on-site within the vicinity of the proposed improvements. Any existing protected trees will be retained during construction.

### **GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:**

The subject property is designated Low Density Residential in the Land Use Element of the General Plan. The existing use of the site is a single-family residence. The proposed single-story additions would not change the existing use of the property. The proposal would maintain consistency with General Plan Land Use Policy 21.5 (Housing Character and Design) which encourages the renovation of existing housing that provides unique neighborhood character and qualities. The proposed one-story addition to an existing single-family residence is compatible with the traditional scale and character of the neighborhood. Lower Hastings Ranch is defined by one-story residences exhibiting California and Modern Ranch style architecture. The proposed improvements are consistent with the recommended architectural styles and design standards outlined in the Neighborhood Overlay District and comply with all of the required development standards of the underlying zoning district. Therefore, the project is consistent with the General Plan.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

This project has been determined to be exempt from environmental review pursuant to the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §21080(b)(9); Administrative Code, Title 14, Chapter 3, §15301, Class 1, (Existing Facilities), and there are no features that distinguish this project from others in the exempt class; therefore, there are no unusual circumstances. Section 15301 exempts additions to existing structures that will not result in an increase of more than 10,000 square feet provided the project is located in an area where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the General Plan, and the area in which the project is located is not environmentally sensitive. The proposed 38 square-foot addition to an existing single-family residence would occur in area that is not environmental sensitive, where public services and facilities are available, and would be consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code.

### **REVIEW BY OTHER CITY DEPARTMENTS:**

The Fire Department, Public Works Department, Building and Safety Division, and Design and Historic Preservation Section reviewed the proposed project. The Building and Safety Division provided comments that are included as recommended conditions of approval in Attachment B. In addition to recommend conditions of approval, all departments would review the project for compliance during the building permit plan review process.

### **CONCLUSION:**

It is staff's assessment that the findings necessary for approving the Neighborhood Development Permit to allow the proposed one-story additions can be made (Attachment A). The proposed

project would comply with applicable development standards of the Zoning Code. The architecture maintains Modern Ranch style architecture, one-story, and consists of architectural elements, materials, and features that are present in the neighborhood. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the Neighborhood Development Permit, subject to the recommended findings in Attachment A and recommended conditions of approval in Attachment B.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Recommended Findings for a Neighborhood Development Permit

Attachment B: Recommended Conditions of Approval

**ATTACHMENT A**  
**SPECIFIC FINDINGS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT #6929**

Neighborhood Development Permit

1. *The design, location, and character of the proposed house or other structure are consistent with the Development Standards in Section F and Building Design Standards in Section G.* The proposed additions and exterior improvements are consistent with applicable development standards in Section F and Building Design Standards in Section G. The one-story addition is not located within a side-yard encroachment plane and the hipped roof design consists of asphalt shingles, incorporates continuous roof overhangs that exceed the minimum depth of 12 inches, and maintains the same 4:12 pitch as the existing roof. Exterior wall surfaces consist of stucco, wood siding, casement, and picture windows, which comply with the applicable development standards. In addition, the proposed improvements comply with setback requirements, building heights, parking and maximums for floor area, and lot coverage. As such, the proposed modern ranch-style architecture and associated design features comply with applicable development standards.
  
2. *Consistency is determined following a review of existing site conditions, visibility of the site, and the size, scale, materials, and character of existing development within 500 feet of the site. The Hearing Officer must find that the house or other structures are compatible with existing houses and consistent with the prevailing neighborhood character.* Lower Hastings Ranch is predominantly defined by one-story, single-family dwellings exhibiting California Ranch and/or Modern Ranch style architecture. These types of architecture are defined as a series of set elements that address both the building form and the spaces in and around the house. The prevailing neighborhood character includes one-story dwellings that have moderate-to-wide roof overhangs, entries sheltered under the main roof of the house, and picture windows on the front facade. Gable and hipped roofs, stucco facades, asphalt shingles are common in the area.

The size and scale of the proposed project complies with the applicable standards for floor area, lot coverage, and height. The addition visible from the public right-of-way complies with the front setback requirement, which is calculated based on the existing setbacks at the adjacent properties on the blockface. The proposal maintains modern ranch style architecture and incorporates a well-defined covered entry, consistent with the character in the neighborhood. Materials used include stucco, wood, asphalt shingles, and are also consistent.

3. *The massing, scale, and building articulation of the proposed house or other structure is reasonably consistent in scale and proportion to existing houses in the neighborhood.* The massing, scale, and building articulation are reasonable consistent with the scale and proportion of existing houses in the neighborhood. Existing houses in the neighborhood are generally one-story in height, extend the width of the property, provide recessed entries or elements, as well as large front and rear setbacks. The proposed additions and improvements retain the one-story height, recessed entry, and meet setback requirements. The proposal is also designed consistent with building design requirements of Zoning Code Section 17.28.090.G, consistent with building articulation in the neighborhood.
  
4. *The house or other structure is designed to reasonably incorporate and avoid natural topographic features.* The subject property is generally flat. The proposed addition under an existing roof is not expected to have any effect on existing topographic conditions.

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL FOR NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT #6929**

The applicant or successor in interest shall meet the following conditions:

General

1. The site plan, floor plan, elevations, and building sections submitted for building permits shall substantially conform to plans stamped "Approved at Hearing, June 1, 2022," except as modified herein.
2. The right granted under this application must be enacted within 24 months from the effective date of approval. It shall expire and become void, unless an extension of time is approved in compliance with Zoning Code Section 17.64.040.C (Time Limits and Extensions – Extensions of Time).
3. This approval allows a one-story addition of up to 38 square feet to the front of the existing single-story dwelling.
4. The applicant or successor in interest shall meet the applicable code requirements of all City Departments.
5. The final decision letter and conditions of approval shall be incorporated in the submitted building plans as part of the building plan check process.
6. The proposed project, Activity Number **ZENT2021-00119** is subject to the Inspection Program by the City. A Final Zoning Inspection is required for your project prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or approval of the Final Building Inspection. Contact Alison Walker, Current Planning Section, at (626) 744-6742 or [awalker@cityofpasadena.net](mailto:awalker@cityofpasadena.net) to schedule an inspection appointment time.

Planning Division

7. The applicant shall comply with requirements of Zoning Code Chapters 17.22 (Residential Zoning Districts) and 17.28.090 (Neighborhood Overlay District) that relate to residential development in the Neighborhood Overlay District.
8. The applicant or successor in interest shall comply with all requirements of Municipal Code Chapter 9.36 (Noise Restrictions). Specifically, all construction activities shall adhere to Municipal Code Section 9.36.070 (Construction Projects) and Section 9.36.080 (Construction Equipment).
9. No demolition of grading permit shall be issued until the building permit for the residential project is ready to be issued.
10. The project shall comply with the Municipal Code Chapter 8.52 (City Trees and Tree Protection Ordinance). Where protected trees exist on-site, a tree protection and retention plan shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator for approval prior to the issuance of any building or grading permits. Any proposal to remove a protected tree requires approval of a Tree Removal Application prior to the issuance of building permits.



11. Any above-ground mechanical equipment shall be located at least five feet from all property lines and shall comply with the screening requirements of Section 17.40.150 (Screening) of the Zoning Code.

Building and Safety Division

12. Comply with the Current Edition of California Building Code, California Electrical Code, California Plumbing Code, California Mechanical Code, California Energy Code, California Green Building Standard Code and the City of Pasadena Municipal Code. The governing edition is based on the date in which the project is submitted to the City of Pasadena for review.
13. Provide a Building Code Analysis on the title sheet. Include the code(s) information for each building: Descriptive scope of work, occupancy, assessor's parcel number, number of stories, type of construction, fire sprinklers, floor area, height, and allowable floor area.
14. Photocopy to plans and complete the BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE page 1(form must be signed). Photocopy any other applicable pages and cross reference the location at the site plan, i.e. the material storage, the concrete waste management, etc. These forms can be found at <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/building-and-safety/bs-applications-forms/#informational-handouts>.
15. Photocopy to plans and complete the 2019 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE WITH CITY OF PASADENA AMENDMENTS FORMS. These forms are being provided attach and can be found at <https://www.cityofpasadena.net/planning/building-and-safety/bs-applications-forms/#informational-handouts>.
16. In addition to architectural plans, provide Structural, Shoring, Plumbing, Mechanical, Electrical plans, PV systems and grading plans as required. No deferred submittal.
17. Separate permits are required for the following: Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing, Fire Sprinkler, Demolition, Block walls, others.