



Architectural Review Board

Staff Report (ID # 14623)

Report Type: Subcommittee Items **Meeting Date:** 8/18/2022

Summary Title: 2585 E Bayshore: Ad Hoc for Colors

Title: 2585 E Bayshore Road [21PLN-00121]: Ad Hoc Committee to Provide an Alternative Color that is of a Warmer Color Scheme and to Review the Photos of Weathering on the Proposed Wood. Environmental Assessment: Exempt From CEQA in Accordance With Guideline Section 15303 (New Construction). Zoning District: ROLM (E)(D)(AD)(Research Office and Limited Manufacturing with a Site and Design and Automobile Dealership Combining District). For More Information Contact the Project Planner Claire Raybould at claire.raybould@Cityofpaloalto.org

From: Jonathan Lait

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Architectural Review Board (ARB) Ad Hoc Committee take the following action(s):

1. Discuss and provide direction, or
2. Confirm the revised project meets the full ARB's direction and recommend the Director approve the project.

Background

At the ARB's October 7, 2021 hearing, they recommended a condition be imposed on this project that required certain project elements return to the ARB Ad Hoc Committee, including clarification regarding the trees along the frontage to confirm they would not conflict with the PG&E utility easement and to provide materials/colors that are of a warmer color scheme.

On July 7, 2022, the ARB Ad hoc committee reviewed and recommended approval of modifications related to the trees. The changes included retention of two existing Southern Live Oaks and a Crepe Myrtle within the PG&E easement, and new California Lilac plantings; which is an approved species within PG&E easements. The ARB Ad Hoc Committee also reviewed a

City of Palo Alto
Planning & Development Services
250 Hamilton Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301
(650) 329-2442

revised color for the building and were provided information on the weathering for the proposed wood. The ARB Ad Hoc recommended that the applicant return to the Ad Hoc Committee with a warmer color and a sample of the weathered wood color. The Committee also requested that the applicant show the screening for the mechanical equipment on the plans. Those revised plans are included in Attachment A.

Architecture Review Condition #6b states:

- Provide alternative materials/colors that are of a warmer color scheme.

Applicant's Response:

- The applicant has revised the colors to add a lighter, warmer color to most of the pilasters and the concrete wall facing the baylands (shown now as C2 on the plan set and materials board). The C1 color will continue to be applied to the existing concrete banding top and portions of the body of the building to provide relief along the façade.
- Although the applicant could not obtain a physical sample of the weathered Shou Sugi Ban Wood siding, the applicant has provided a photo of the material when it was first installed on another site in 2021 and a recent photo of the material on that building after one year of natural weathering. These photos as part of the materials board. The photos, similar to the previously provided renderings, show that the wood will lighten over time to have highlights and variation in tone and color.

Staff Analysis:

- The weathering of the material will help to achieve a variegated tonal and textured look while having enough dark grey to remain a background building in the Baylands. While the This will help the building achieve conformance with the General Design Principals of the Baylands Site Assessment and Design Guidelines, as shown below.

GENERAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The following design principles are suggested to reflect and preserve the Baylands' unique landscape character.

Use only muted, natural colors. Choose materials and finishes that will weather without degrading.

Avoid bright, reflective colors, including white. Allow wood to weather to gray, allow metals to rust to dark brown. Confine bright colors to small areas where necessary for safety. For example, it is preferred to use a small, low-mounted "No Parking" sign rather than paint extensive red curbs.

The landscape is exposed to constant salt-laden winds. Select materials that will weather well, last a long time, and require little to no maintenance. Cor-ten or mild steel which weathers to dark brown is preferable to galvanized steel which does not weather to a dark color.

Colors and Finishes

Paint all metal: Benjamin Moore Sandy Hook Gray
HC-108

All wood elements should be allowed to weather to gray
or stained with Olympic 911 natural gray color.

If wood is to be painted (e.g. for graffiti abatement, or
over previously painted wood), use Benjamin Moore
Sandy Hook Gray HC-108

The applicant's revised plans in Attachment A also show screening for the rooftop equipment per the ARB Ad Hoc Committee's comments on July 7, 2022. A video recording of the Board's hearing for the formal application on this project is available online: <https://midpenmedia.org/architectural-review-board-1072021/>. The Board is encouraged to provide direction to staff and the applicant as to whether the proposed changes are sufficient or require further refinement.

Report Author & Contact Information

Claire Raybould, AICP, Senior Planner
(650) 329-2116
Claire.Raybould@cityofpaloalto.org

ARB¹ Liaison & Contact Information

Jodie Gerhardt, AICP, Planning Manager
(650) 329-2575
jodie.gerhardt@cityofpaloalto.org

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Project Plans (DOCX)

¹ Emails may be sent directly to the ARB using the following address: arb@cityofpaloalto.org

Attachment A

Project Plans

During Shelter-in-Place, project plans are only available online.

Directions to review Project plans online:

1. Go to: bit.ly/PApendingprojects
2. Scroll down to find “2858 E Bayshore” and click the address link
3. On this project specific webpage you will find a link to the project plans and other important information

Direct Link to Project Webpage:

<https://www.cityofpaloalto.org/News-Articles/Planning-and-Development-Services/2585-E.-Bayshore>

Materials Boards:

During Shelter-in-Place, color and material boards will be available to view in the display case outside of City Hall, on the exterior elevator near the corner of Hamilton Ave. and Bryant St.