

# Sweetwater Design Guidelines

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Sweetwater Community Planning Area  
County of San Diego

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## Department of Planning & Land Use

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# Sweetwater Design Guidelines

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# I. THE DESIGN REVIEW PROCESS

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This booklet presents Design Guidelines for development in the Sweetwater Community Planning Area. It is intended to be used in two ways:

1. As standards for Community Design Review in areas covered by the "B" Designator Special Area Regulations, and
2. As desirable standards for other types of discretionary project reviews which are not subject to the Community Design Review program. Some of these standards are contained in other County regulations. Where that is not the case, the standards must be authorized through appropriate devices before they can be used in project reviews.

## **Community Design Review**

Section III of this manual provides guidelines for Community Design Review in areas covered by the "B" Designator Special Area Regulations.

Community Design Review in Sweetwater is administered by the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use as part of the development review process. Projects are evaluated by the Sweetwater Design Review Board, a panel of citizens appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Actions of the Design Review Board are advisory to the various County authorities (Director of the Department of Planning and Land Use, Planning and Environmental Review Board, Zoning Administrator, Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors) who issue decisions on development proposals.

## **Development Subject to Community Design Review**

Community Design Review is a required step in the development approval process for the following types of projects located within the

boundaries of the Sweetwater Community Planning Area:

- All commercial development
- All multi-family and duplex residential development. A "multi-family residential development" is defined as a project containing three or more attached dwelling units. A "duplex" is a building containing two attached dwelling units.
- The following Major Use Permits where they also require the issuance of building permits for construction or alteration of buildings: planned developments; mobile home parks; churches; administrative services; clinics; community recreation facilities; cultural exhibit and library buildings; group residential and group care facilities; child care centers; lodge, fraternal and civic assembly buildings; emergency or utility service facilities.

It is intended that the Community Planning Group will work with the Design Review Board and the applicant to encourage consistency of Major Use Permits with applicable Design Guidelines.

Pursuant to the County Zoning Ordinance, Major Use Permits for existing County parks are exempt from the design review process. However, the Department of Parks and Recreation will give due consideration to the appropriate guidelines in the future development of County park facilities.

## **The Purpose of Community Design Review**

Community Design Review is one of several review procedures used by the County to protect the public welfare and environment. The process is a comprehensive evaluation of those characteristics of a development which have a visual impact on neighboring proper-

ties and the community as a whole. Community Design Review makes a careful examination of a project's quality of site planning, architecture, landscape design and important details such as signage and lighting. The purpose is to insure that every new development will carefully consider the community context in which it takes place and make a conscientious effort to develop a compatible relationship to the natural setting, neighboring properties and community design goals.

Sweetwater citizens have strong feelings about the quality of the community's natural setting and rural residential character. The Community Design Review process is intended to protect and retain Sweetwater's semi-rural character.

Community Design Review is a process based on fair and reasonable standards. The Board will work with the community and developers to weigh all considerations, be flexible when necessary, and do its best to reach fair decisions when there is a difference of opinion.

### **How the Community Design Review Process Works**

The Sweetwater Design Review Board evaluates development proposals using the Design Guidelines described in this manual as criteria.

The Board may recommend to:

- Approve or disapprove proposals.
- Approve proposals subject to conditions.
- Request the applicant to re-submit the proposal with specific changes.

Decisions of the Design Review Board are advisory to the various authorities that will issue final decisions on development approval. Appeals of those decisions are handled through normal County planning appeals procedures.

Design Review Board members will be instructed by Department of Planning and Land Use staff on the application of the Guide-

lines, the limits of the Board's review, and the necessity for substantiating the Board's recommendation by identifying those applicable Guidelines that are satisfied or not satisfied by the development proposal.

### **Steps in the Community Design Review Process**

#### **1. Staff Conference**

Before planning and design begins, the developer or designer is urged to meet with the County planning staff relative to Sweetwater Design Review. The nature of the project and site should be described. The planning staff member will clarify review procedures and submittal requirements. Critical design issues and Design Guidelines important to the project may be discussed.

#### **2. Preliminary Review (Optional)**

This step is optional but highly recommended for large or complex projects and projects requiring extensive grading or alteration of natural features.

Preliminary Review allows the developer to meet with the Design Review Board to discuss basic intentions and plans before investing time in detailed design. At this stage, site design, location of buildings, grading, basic form of buildings and landscape concepts are important. Building elevations and other information may be discussed but should be kept in preliminary form.

Preliminary Review is an informal process enabling the applicant to receive input from the Design Review Board and get its opinion on the basic concept of the development proposal. The Board will not take official action or vote on a project until Final Application and Review.

#### **3. Waiver Considerations**

Occasionally, on minor projects, the Design Review Board may recommend a waiver of the final application and review requirements.

Projects which may be considered for this waiver include:

- a. Projects which are minor in nature and preliminary review satisfies the Design Review Board's concern.
- b. Projects which, if subjected to final application and review requirements, would not materially contribute to the attainment of the community design objectives.

#### 4. Final Application and Review

The one required step in the Community Design Review process, unless a waiver has been granted, is submittal of a Final Application and appearance before the Design Review Board. Submittal requirements for Final Application and Review are given in this booklet.

Applications are filed with the Department of Planning and Land Use. Within 5 days of receipt of a complete application, copies of the application are transmitted to each member of the Sweetwater Design Review Board. The chairperson of the Design Review Board then schedules the item for review at the next available Design Review Board meeting and informs the applicant of the time, date and place for the hearing.

Evaluation of the project by the Design Review Board is limited to the topics contained in this manual. The Review Board makes a recommendation to the applicable County approval authority, citing specific guidelines to which the project conforms or does not conform.

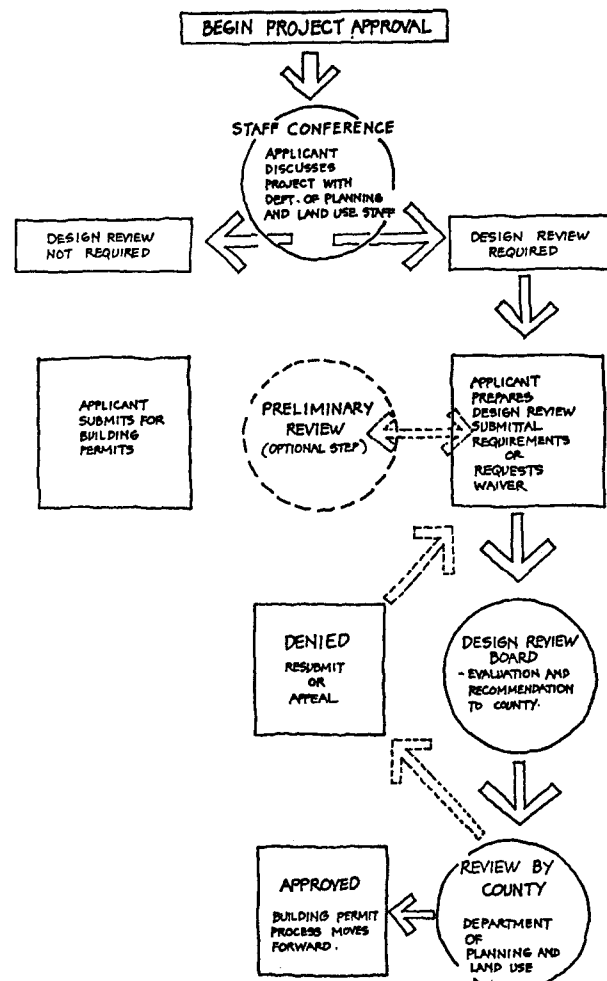
The applicable approval authority also evaluates the project for conformance to this manual, considers the Design Review Board's recommendation, and renders a decision. The decision may be appealed in accordance with the County's appeal procedures. In the event the Review Board's recommendation is not received within 20 days after transmittal of the application, a decision may be made without a recommendation of the Review Board. Upon making a decision, the County

transmits a copy of the decision to the Review Board.

#### Guidelines For Other Discretionary Project Reviews

Section IV of this manual presents desirable standards for other discretionary project reviews which, where not already incorporated into other County regulations, need to be authorized through appropriate devices before they can be used in project review.

In addition, the guidelines presented in Section III are not necessarily unique to the Community Design Review (B Designator) program. Any of these guidelines might also be applicable to other discretionary project reviews, provided they are authorized through existing County regulations or through future adoption into the Sweetwater Community Plan.



The Community Design Review Process

## **II. SWEETWATER COMMUNITY DESIGN OBJECTIVES**

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### **1 Sweetwater River Floodplain**

- Improve and strengthen the Sweetwater River Floodplain as the visual focus of the community.

### **2 Preservation of Natural Features and Open Space**

- Preserve and integrate existing natural features into new site development.
- Insure strict revegetation standards in new development.

### **3 Scenic Roads**

- Minimize road realignments and widenings, consistent with public safety considerations, to Sweetwater Road, undeveloped portions of Bonita Road, San Miguel Road, Quarry Road and Proctor Valley Road.
- Encourage the careful design and maintenance of scenic road edges. Emphasize Sweetwater's rural residential character and preservation of natural features.

### **4 Architectural Character**

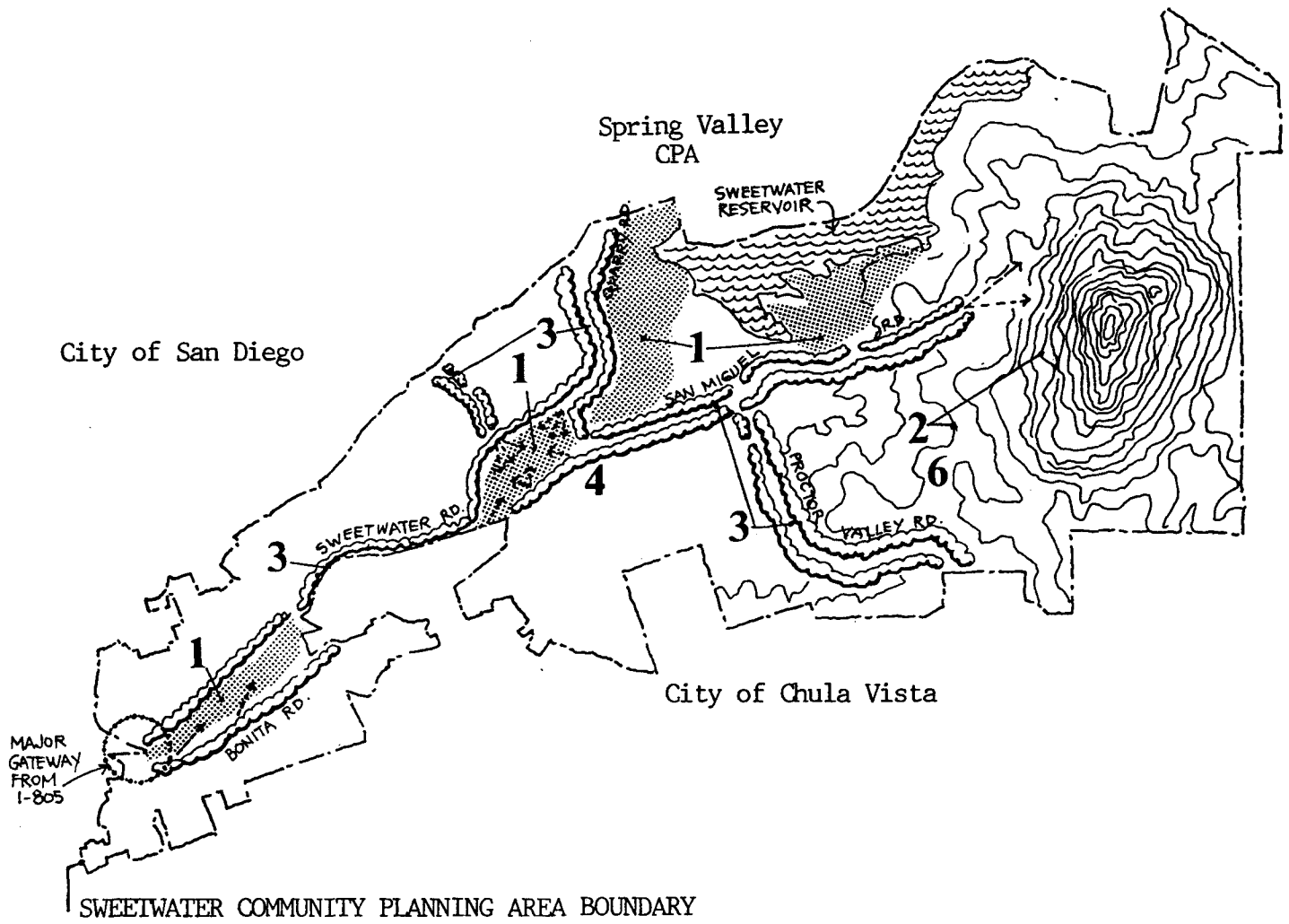
- Encourage a rural-rustic character in Sweetwater's new commercial, public and multi-family buildings.
- Encourage the use of exterior spaces such as courtyards, verandas, arcades and balconies.

### **5 Site Planning Principles**

- Integrate new development with the valley landscape.
- Create wide landscaped building setbacks along public streets.
- Minimize the visual impact of parking lots by dense edge plantings and internal tree canopies.

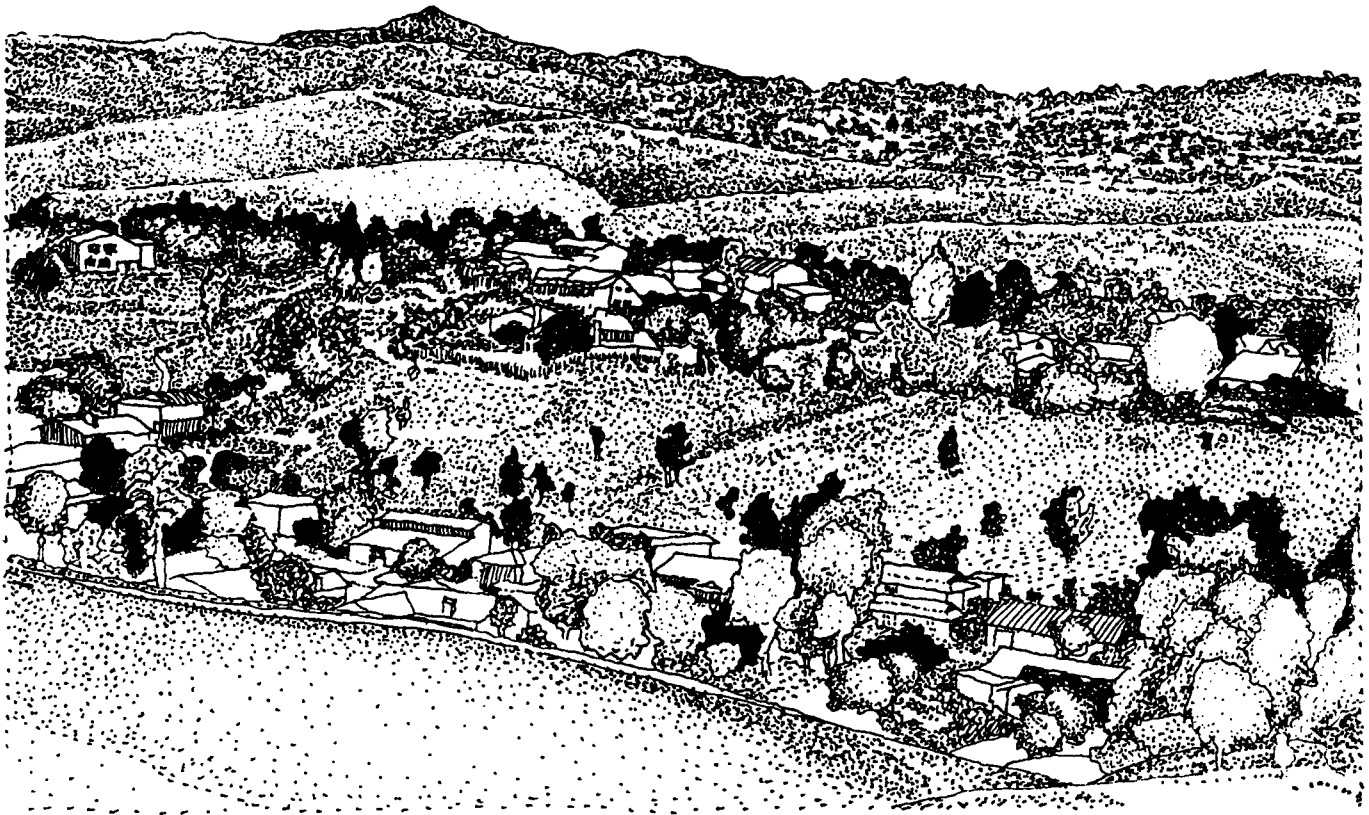
### **6 Subdivision Design**

- Encourage subdivision design that is consistent with Sweetwater's rural residential character.



## Sweetwater Community Design Objectives





## Sweetwater Design Objectives

Sweetwater's natural setting and rural character are a strong source of identity and value to the community. The purpose of the Sweetwater Design Guidelines is to provide clear direction for the Valley's future development, architecture and landscape design, so that new development and public improvements retain and strengthen the existing rural-residential setting.

**1. Improve and strengthen the Sweetwater River floodplain as the visual focus of the community.**

- Strengthen the natural open space character of the floodplain by minimizing built improvements that are visible from major roads. Recreational facilities built in the floodplain by the public or private sectors should be carefully sited to maintain a low profile and accompanied by sufficient planting to retain the visual dominance of the natural setting.
- Improve the highly-visible edges of open spaces in the floodplain.
- Complete the walking/biking path system around the road edge, separating the path from roads with a landscaped buffer.
- Where opportunities exist, open views into the floodplain from surrounding roads.
- Protect the existing riparian areas of Sweetwater River and Central Creek by limiting buildings to essential public facilities.

**2. Preserve Sweetwater's unique natural setting and landscape character through strong design guidelines to protect natural features.**

- New development should incorporate existing mature vegetation, drainage courses and topographical features into site designs. Whenever possible, existing features such as groves and open hillsides which reflect the history of the valley and community should be preserved to form special elements or incorporated into the open spaces of new developments.
- Require replacement of existing vegetation that is removed for new development.
- Site designs should be sensitive to the existing landscape, minimizing grading.
- New development should establish linkages to the existing and planned trail system.
- Preserve prominent ridges by siting buildings below ridgelines or setback with sufficient distance to minimize visual impacts.

**3. Maintain and improve the quality of scenic roads throughout the Community Planning Area.**

Sweetwater's scenic roads are an important element of the community's character and image. The most important are Sweetwater Road, undeveloped portions of Bonita Road, San Miguel Road, Quarry Road and Proctor Valley Road. Existing natural features such as landforms, rock outcroppings and mature trees should be protected along these routes, with new grading and other interventions minimized. Views from the road to the hillsides and the floodplain areas should also be preserved when siting new buildings and trees. New planting that continues the dominant existing species on a road is encouraged, as are other elements such as rustic fences, stone walls or agricultural artifacts that preserve historic character.



Sweetwater Road

**4. Encourage a consistent architecture of rural-rustic character.**

The character of architecture in Sweetwater's new development should emphasize the community's rural atmosphere. Buildings should be informal and inviting. Architectural elements characteristic of rural buildings, such as porches, verandas, courtyards, pitched roofs, wood and stone walls, and exposed timber beams and columns are encouraged.

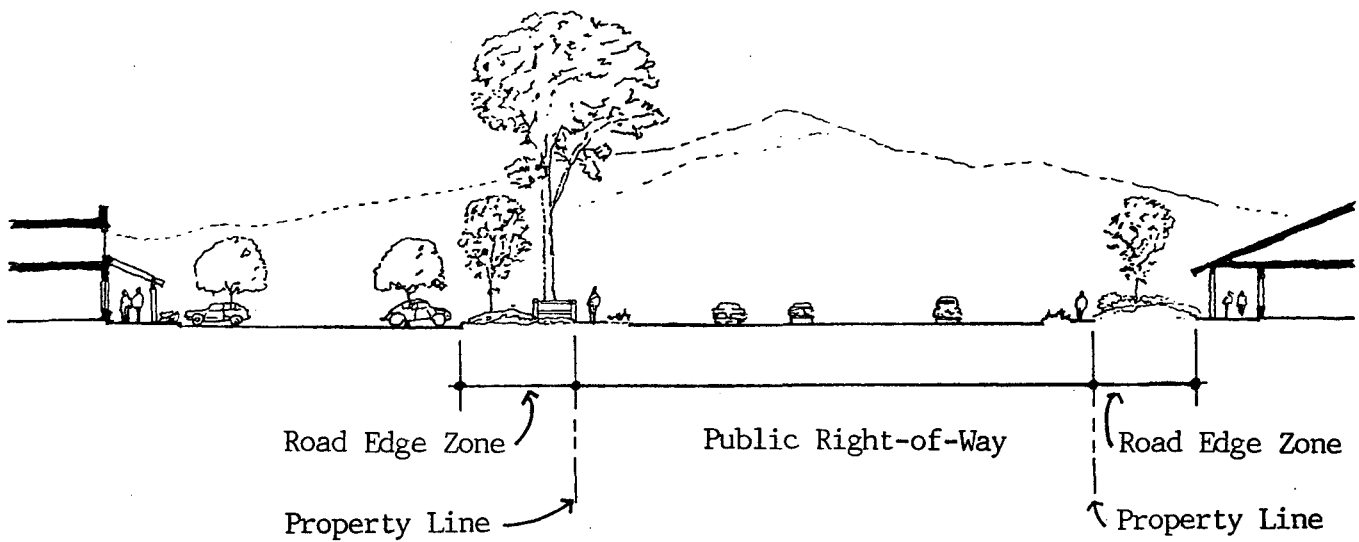
**5. Establish strong site planning principles that integrate commercial, public and multi-family development with the valley landscape and rural residential character of the community.**

- An important characteristic of the Sweetwater Valley setting is the feeling of spaciousness that wide landscaped setbacks promote, allowing views through the valley and into the foothills. Landscaped setbacks from public road property lines should be established.
- Minimize the visual impact of parking areas with dense edge plantings and internal tree canopies.

**6. Adopt design guidelines to encourage subdivision design consistent with Sweetwater’s rural residential character.**

Follow design principles that promote a strong relationship to the natural landscape:

- Preservation of existing natural features.
- Street layout and design that retains the natural landforms.
- Minimal hillside grading.
- Lot configuration influenced by existing topography and natural features. Variety in lot shapes.
- Special landscape design for hillside sites.



Landscaped Setbacks

# III. GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN REVIEW

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## Introduction

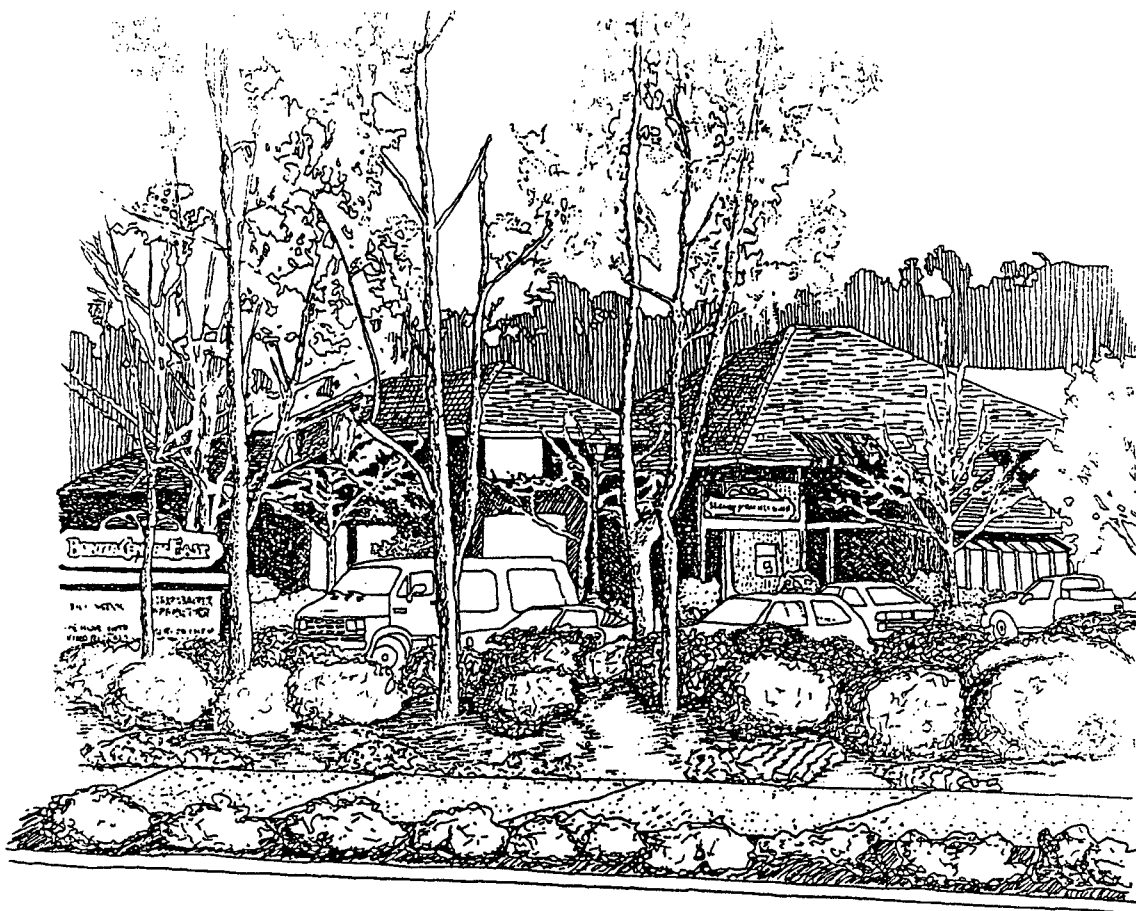
This section provides standards for Community Design Review in areas covered by the "B" Designator Special Area Regulations. It is divided into two parts:

**A. General Guidelines Applicable to All Development Projects.**

This part applies to all projects subject to Community Design Review.

**B. Guidelines by Development Type and Area.**

This part applies to specific development types. In most cases only one set of these Guidelines will apply to a development project. In the case of mixed use developments, more than one may apply.





## A. GENERAL DESIGN GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO ALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

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### A1. SITE DESIGN PROCESS

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**The quality of site design will be given first priority in the review of development proposals. A project should display sensitivity to the natural setting and compatibility with its neighborhood context.**

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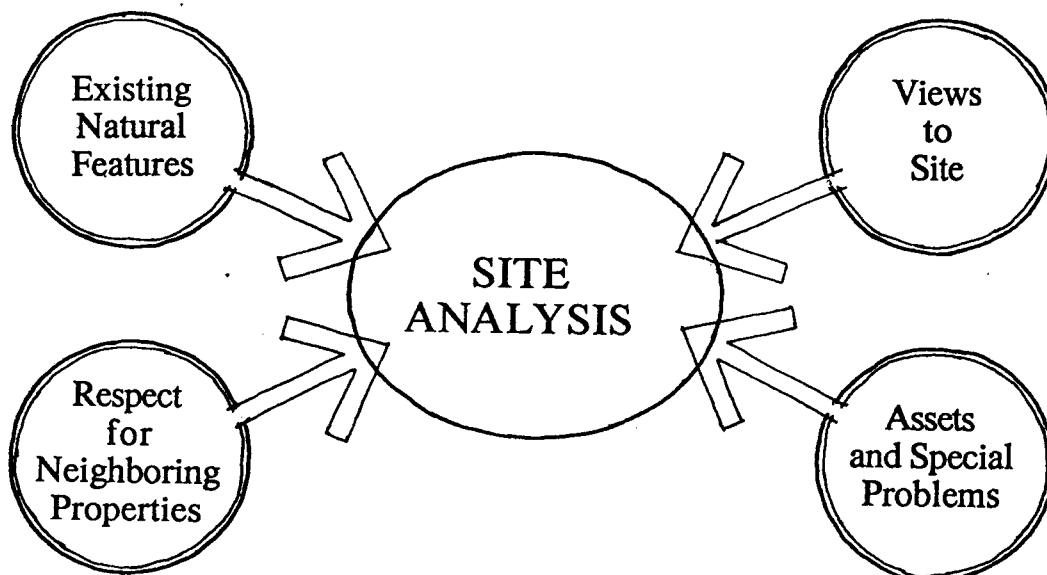
#### 1. Site Analysis

- Each development proposal should include a thorough analysis of existing conditions on and adjacent to the site. An analysis shall include a careful examination of a site's physical properties, natural features, special problems, visual character and an examination of the neighboring environment. The analysis will assist the Design Review Board in evaluating a development's relationship to existing conditions, neighboring properties and the Sweetwater Community.
- Appendix A of this booklet lists specific Design Review Application Requirements that include a Site Analysis.

#### 2. General Site Design Criteria

A new development should:

- Contribute to the rural character of the Sweetwater community.
- Reflect the Community Design Objectives.
- Be compatible with the natural features, building location and existing open spaces of neighboring properties.
- Respect the existing views, privacy, and safety of neighboring properties.



Site Analysis Considerations

### **3. Preservation of Existing Natural Features**

- Significant existing natural features should be integrated into new development to retain the characteristics of the Sweetwater Valley landscape. Existing topography, land forms, drainage courses, rock outcroppings, significant vegetation, and important views should be recorded in the Site Analysis and incorporated into the design of development projects.

#### **a. Mature trees**

- Mature trees should be retained and integrated into new developments. This will require careful judgment to determine the value, size and species of the trees relative to the other natural features of the site and the developer's program. This guideline is not meant to stop removal of undesirable trees.
- Existing trees over 12 inches in trunk diameter are considered significant resources to be preserved. In the case of oak trees, existing trees over 6 inches in trunk diameter are to be preserved. See Guideline A2. "Preservation of Significant Trees" for definitions and descriptions.

#### **b. Topography**

- Minimize grading and alteration of natural landforms.
- Minimize building in areas of flood plain, excessive slope, soil with poor bearing capacity, slide potential and other hazards.
- Building pads should disturb natural contours as little as possible. Balance cut and fill areas.

#### **c. Drainage**

- Minimize surface drainage problems on neighboring properties and provide adequate drainage on-site.
- Natural drainage courses are to be preserved as close as possible to their natural location and appearance. "Dry Stream" effects which move water over the property are preferred over channelling or underground methods.

### **4. Circulation and Parking**

- Provide a clearly organized circulation plan for automobiles, pedestrians and service vehicles.
- Minimize the number of driveway curb cuts onto public roads. Access to parking areas from secondary or side streets is encouraged.
- Parking and service areas should be located and landscaped to minimize views from roads and neighboring properties.
- On hillside sites, roads and streets should be located to preserve the landform of the hill.

### **5. Internal Site Design**

- Buildings should be sited to form defined outdoor spaces for activities. Courtyards, plazas and outdoor terraces are encouraged.
- Buildings should cluster to form compact groupings around common site spaces and economize in the use of the land.

## A2. PRESERVATION OF SIGNIFICANT TREES

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**Preserve significant trees as important aesthetic and ecological resources of Sweetwater's community landscape.**

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### 1. Definitions

- "Significant Tree" shall mean any tree which is in good health and form and is more than 12 inches in diameter as measured 4 feet-6 inches above the root crown.

### 2. Guidelines

- Site development plans should demonstrate that a diligent effort has been made to retain as many significant trees as possible.

#### a. Criteria For Removal

- In assessing the number of trees and specific trees that may be removed, the applicant and Design Review Board should consider the following criteria:
  - 1) The condition of the tree with respect to disease, danger of falling, and the proximity to existing or proposed structures. Should debate over the health of the tree arise, a licensed nurseryman should be consulted at the expense of the applicant.
  - 2) The necessity to remove a significant tree in order to construct proposed improvements to prevent extreme economic hardship to the owner of the property.
  - 3) The topography of the land and the effect of the significant tree removal on erosion, soil retention, and the diversion or increased flow of surface waters.

- 4) Accepted professional forestry practices, such as the number of healthy trees which a given parcel of land or area can support.

#### b. When Significant Trees Must Be Removed

- When significant trees must be removed, replanting with species listed in Appendix B is recommended. Designers of each site should take responsibility for the correct site conditions required for each type of tree.





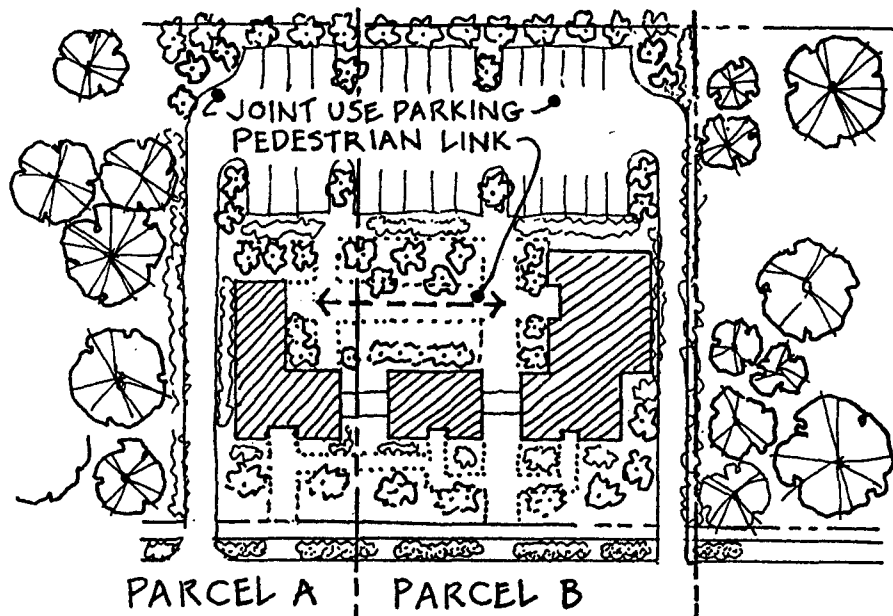
### A3. RELATIONSHIP TO NEIGHBORING DEVELOPMENT

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All development proposals should be designed in harmony with the site plan, open spaces and landscape design of neighboring properties.

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- Every new development proposal should demonstrate that it has orchestrated careful relationships to existing neighboring development. The value, architectural quality and estimated life span of existing improvements on neighboring properties shall be considered in the design of new projects.
  - Drawings, models and/or other communications techniques presented to the Design Review Board must show neighboring buildings and important features of adjacent sites. Perspective views of proposed projects and their immediate neighbors, as viewed from the road, sidewalk or other public areas, are encouraged.
1. Site Planning
    - The site arrangement should respect the placement of buildings and open spaces of adjacent sites. Open spaces defined by buildings on neighboring properties are an effective way of creating visual and functional linkages between two or more developments.
    - When possible, new commercial projects should have circulation linkages to adjacent commercial projects. This will reduce traffic on main roads by reducing ingress and egress traffic. Connections such as shared driveways, pedestrian walkways and joint-use parking areas are encouraged.

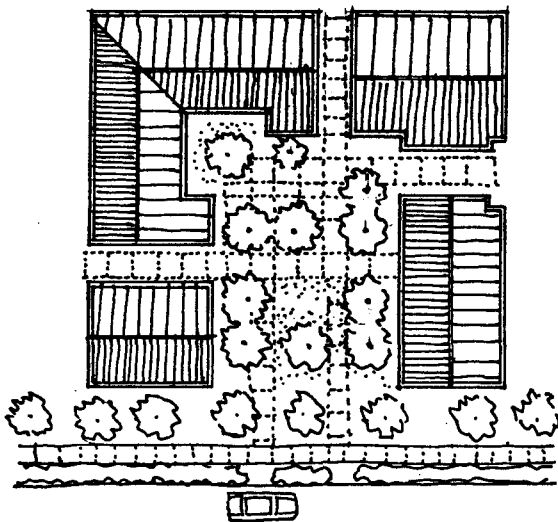


Circulation Linkages

## 2. Visually Linking Neighboring Developments

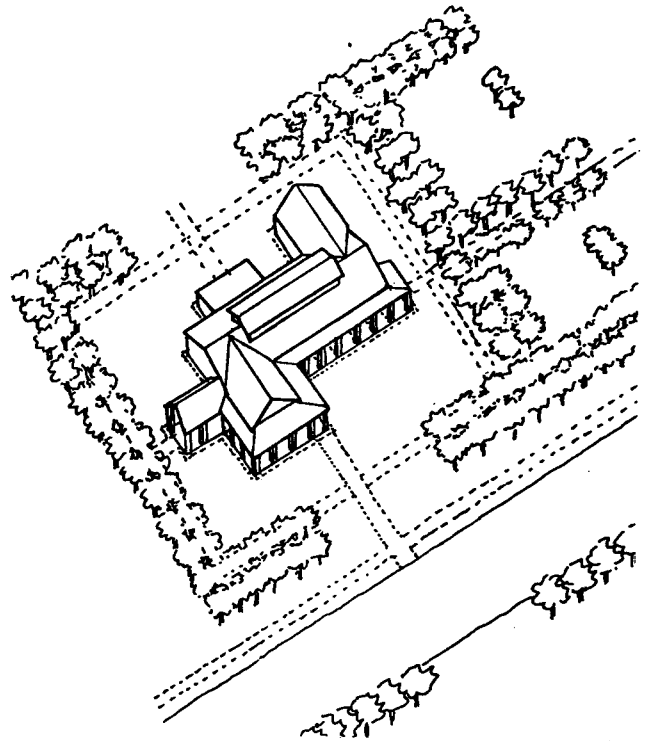
Site design, building design and planting may be used to define and give continuity to the site spaces of neighboring developments.

- Protected courtyards, porches, arcades, loggias, verandas and overhangs are traditional elements of Southern California architecture and give a common theme to many different buildings, old and new.



Protected Courtyard

- Trees planted in rows along road edges, site boundaries and in open spaces are a common pattern in the Sweetwater landscape and are encouraged where appropriate site conditions exist.



Tree masses as edge plantings

- Tree canopies are a valuable means of defining outdoor spaces and visually linking a development to the larger Sweetwater landscape.

## A4. ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

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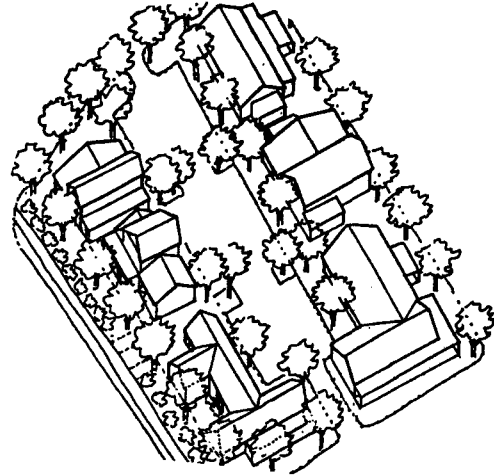
Sweetwater's rustic buildings develop a rural vernacular with a strong relationship to the valley setting. The following architectural elements are encouraged:

- Simple one and two story buildings in earth tones with low-pitched roofs, accented with exposed timber beams, columns and details.
- Extensive use of courtyards, terraces and other defined outdoor spaces.
- Strong shade and shadow patterns created by generous roof overhangs and careful variation of planes in building elevations.

- 
- Architecture in Sweetwater should reflect the character of the community's landscape and climate. While no one architectural "style" is desired, architectural elements that are rustic and characteristic of rural buildings are preferred.
  - Standard commercial building prototypes, often repeated by commercial "chains" without regard to community context are not desired. Projects of this type should adapt their designs to the special character of the community.

### 1. Building Form

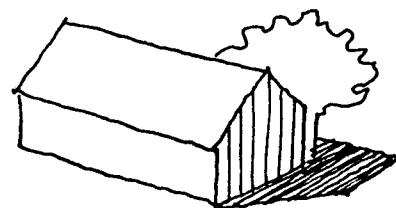
- New buildings in Sweetwater should continue the dominant pattern of simple one and two story buildings alternating with tree-canopied spaces between them.



- The visual contrast between areas of light and shadow gives buildings depth and substance. All buildings should have relief created by overhangs, projections, recesses and plan offsets. Large unbroken expanses of wall should be avoided.



Encouraged



Discouraged

- Rear facades, if visible from public streets or neighboring properties, should be finished in a color and material similar to the principal sides of the building(s)

## 2. Roof Forms and Plan Offsets

- Give careful attention to views of rooftops from adjacent roads and uphill properties.
- Gabled, hip and shed roof forms at a low to moderate pitch are encouraged. Generous overhangs to create strong shadow lines are desirable. For sloped roofs, long unbroken roof lines should be avoided. Changes in roof pitch orientation should be accompanied by plan offsets on primary elevations.
- A large building's bulk may be reduced by breaking the roof form into an arrangement of smaller parts. There should be a consistency of roof pitch and design among separate roof components. Abrupt changes in eave heights require plan offsets to make transitions between building components.



Encouraged

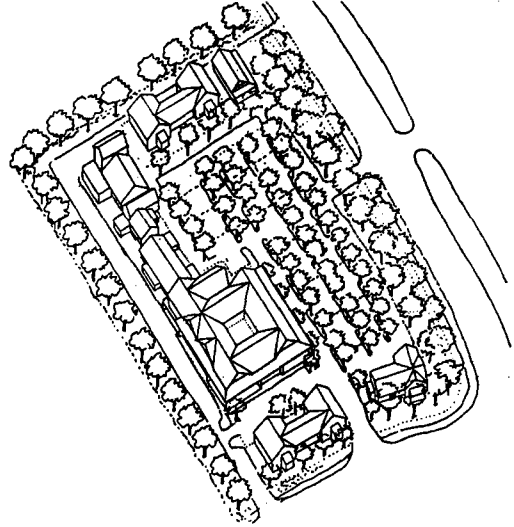


Discouraged

- Flat roofs are discouraged except in small and non-visible areas. Flat roof areas visible from adjacent streets and properties should be screened with a parapet.

## 3. Multi-Building Projects

- Multi-building developments should strive for consistency of design among separate structures.
- Facades and rooflines should be compatible throughout the development in design, color and materials.



- Rear facades, if visible from public streets or neighboring properties, should be finished in a color and material similar to the principal sides of the building(s).

## 4. Building Materials, Texture and Color

- Color selection should show evidence of coordination with the predominant use of color on adjacent properties.

### a) The following building materials are encouraged:

- Exterior Walls
  - Wood siding
  - Exposed wood structural members
  - Brick and stone masonry
  - Light colored cement plaster (stucco).
  - Split-face concrete masonry with integral color and texture.

- **Roofs**

- Wood shakes with thick butts, if treated for fire resistance.
- Concrete shingles of earth tone color.
- Clay tile of earth tone color.
- Metal ribbed roofing (weathered metals and earth tone colors preferred).
- Composition shingles (with thick butts) in earth tone colors.

- **Building Base**

Brick and native stone are encouraged to provide a base for wood building walls, or as low walls used to define exterior spaces around the building.

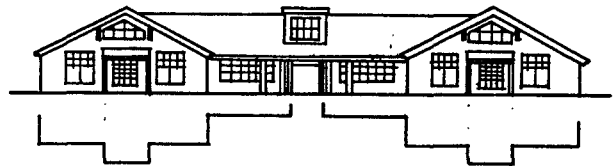
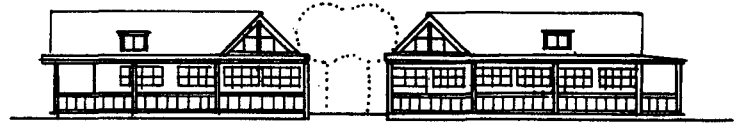
**b) The following materials are discouraged:**

- **Exterior Walls**

- Large areas of glass, unless located at pedestrian level for store fronts.
- High contrast color glazed masonry.
- Glass curtain walls.
- Plastic materials made to resemble masonry.

- **Roofs**

- High contrast or bright colors
- Galvanized sheet metal
- Built up roofing, except in small areas
- Highly-reflective or shiny materials



Porches, Entrance Focus & Window Groupings

## 5. Entrances and Window Openings

- **Entrances**

- Primary building entrances should be emphasized so that their locations are clear. Porches, loggias and arbors are helpful to emphasize a building's entrance.

- **Window Openings**

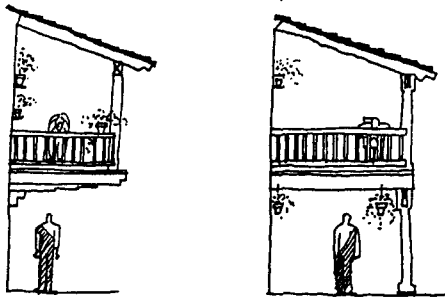
- Except at shopfront locations, the area of solid building wall should be greater than the area of window openings. Grouped windows are preferred over single large openings.

- Windows should be deeply-recessed to produce shadow lines.

- Two story buildings should avoid vertical windows over a single story in height. Window openings less than seven feet in vertical dimension are preferred.

## 6. Exterior Spaces

Defined exterior spaces are encouraged. Outdoor living spaces such as balconies, verandas, courtyards and loggias connect buildings to their surroundings and invite the movement of people between inside and outside.



PORCHES AND VERANDAS

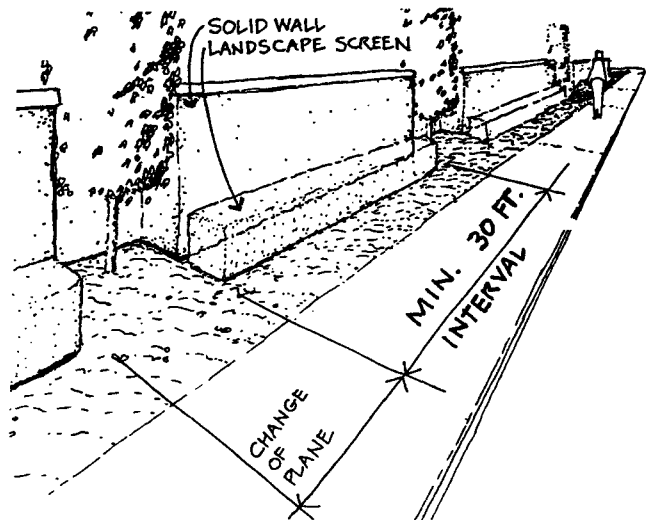
## 7. Walls, Fences and Accessory Structures

- The following wall and fence materials are encouraged:
  - Wood and wood rail fences.
  - Stone and brick masonry walls.
  - Detailed wrought iron fences (for use in gates and other small areas).
  - Walls with cement plaster finish.
  - Wood



- The following wall and fence materials are discouraged:
  - Chain link or open wire, except when heavily screened by landscaping.
  - Corrugated metal.
  - Bright colored plastic or plastic coated materials.
  - Reed materials.

- Fences, walls and accessory structures should be designed to be compatible with adjacent buildings. Patio covers, greenhouses, storage spaces and other ancillary structures should be located and designed to respect views and other special conditions of adjacent properties.
- Solid fences and walls along public streets can have a negative impact on the streetscape and surrounding neighborhood. These walls should be minimized. When solid walls are used to buffer traffic noise along major streets, the walls should provide a change of plane at a minimum of 30 foot intervals.
- Fences and walls over 3 feet high which face public streets should provide a fully landscaped buffer at least 5 feet deep (outside the public right-of-way) on the street-facing side of the fence or wall.



## 8. Site Details and Furnishings

The design, selection and placement of all site furnishings such as tables, benches, bollards and trash receptacles should be compatible with the overall concept for the site and architectural character of the buildings.

## A5. HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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**Preserve existing significant natural and built elements of Sweetwater's history.**

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The Historic Resources Inventory Sweetwater Valley (September, 1990) is recommended as a reference on historic buildings and sites of the community. A copy is available at the local County Library branch. The Inventory lists potential historically or architecturally significant local sites, but is not considered a final determination of historic designation.

An historic site or building can substantially contribute to the character of a neighborhood and the community. An historic site will normally fall into one of three categories:

### 1. Designated Historic Site

- In some cases an existing site or structure may be a Designated Historic Site. In this case there are procedures and laws for pursuing renovation and new construction. The Planning staff of the San Diego County Historic Site Board should be contacted immediately for assistance. The office is located in the San Diego County Department of Planning and Land Use.
- The Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings" published by the U.S. Department of the Interior,

National Park Service, should be reviewed and used.

### 2. Potential Designated Historic Site

- If a site is not yet designated but is suspected of being historically significant, the following steps should be taken:
  - Contact County Planning staff or the San Diego County Historical Site Board staff for assistance.
  - Establish the validity of the site's historic significance.
  - Nominate the site for Historic Designation if it so merits.
  - Incorporate the historic site and its qualities into new improvements and development as per San Diego County Zoning Ordinance provisions.

### 3. Other Historic Sites

- If a site exhibits a character significant to Sweetwater's history but does not necessarily qualify as an historic site for purposes of designation, the following guidelines should be followed:
  - All older buildings which possess much of their original design character should be retained, if appropriate, and should have additions and alterations completed with "compatible uses" and "compatible designs" as described in the San Diego County Zoning Ordinance Division 5718.
  - New buildings which are built on the same site as, or adjacent to, older buildings of historic character should be designed to be respectful of the older buildings. New structures should consider the compatibility of details, materials, textures, colors and landscape features.



## A6. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

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**Planting design should reflect the rural character of the Sweetwater River Valley landscape.**

**Protect floodplain and open hillside areas.**

**Plant selection should recognize the importance of water conservation and emphasize drought tolerant plant species.**

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### 1. Design Concepts

- a. Reinforce the dominant planting patterns that define the major open spaces of the Sweetwater Valley:
  - The floodplain is the open center of the valley with major tree-lined roads at the edges. Riparian plantings within the floodplain areas should be native California vegetation indigenous to the area. Plantings in the floodplain fringe areas may be introduced species which can acclimate to the site conditions. The goal is to strengthen the natural, open character of the floodplain.
  - Densely planted road edges wind along the perimeter of the valley and up into the foothills. Sweetwater's scenic roads should be treated as opportunities to restore the road edge

condition of the rural valley landscape.

- The open hillsides that are seen from the valley floor extend the rural valley feeling up into the higher elevation residential neighborhoods. The hillsides are naturally grassy, with trees primarily in washes and gullies. Undeveloped hillsides that provide open spaces between developments should be protected.
- b. New plantings in Sweetwater should be drought tolerant.
    - All new plantings should be able to withstand a summer with restricted irrigation after an establishment period of two years.
    - Turf grasses, shallow rooted groundcovers and high water-using trees and shrubs are discouraged.

### 2. Plant Selection

Appendix B. "Plant Selection Guide" at the end of this booklet lists suggested plant species and their recommended uses.

Plants have been chosen based upon the following criteria:

- Appropriateness for climate zones.
- Drought resistance.
- Form considerations: height, branching patterns, density.
- Maintenance.
- Aesthetic considerations: flowering, fruiting, leaf color.



### **3. General Planting Guidelines**

- All planting plans shall conform to the County of San Diego's "Landscape Water Conservation Ordinance and Design Manual".
- All landscaped areas should have underground irrigation systems capable of sustaining good plant growth. Automatic systems are encouraged.
- All planting beds should be mulched with an organic mulch of at least 1.5 inches in depth.
- Shrubs are preferred over ornamental ground covers and lawns due to their low water use characteristics. Shrubs are more deeply rooted than ground covers and turf grasses and will withstand drought conditions better.
- Expanses of turf grasses are discouraged, except in parks or other active recreation areas.
- When existing trees are to be retained, they may be counted toward tree planting requirements. New planting requirements may be further adjusted to reflect the size and density of existing trees and shrubs.

### **4. Public Rights-Of-Way**

All areas of the public right-of-way between the property line and sidewalk (or street edge) should be fully landscaped with shrubs or ground covers. Trees should not be planted in the right-of-way.

### **5. Planting for High Fire Hazard Areas**

- High fire hazard areas include undeveloped canyons, hillsides, and grasslands where native vegetation has become overgrown. Development within or on the fringes of these areas is subject to brush fires.
- A transition between ornamental landscaping and native vegetation may be created by selective pruning and thinning

native plants and revegetation with low fuel volume plants. Such a transition reduces the readily flammable fuel which spreads fire into developed areas.

- Transitional areas can be divided into three distinct zones. The following dimensions are recommended, but subject to Fire District approval:

Zone #1: Minimum 20' wide. Native vegetation which should be selectively pruned and thinned.

Zone #2: Minimum 30' wide. Native vegetation which should be selectively pruned and thinned, and introduced fire retardant plantings.

Zone #3: Minimum 30' wide. Ornamental non-native species which are fire retardant.

See Appendix "B" for a list of fire retardant plantings suitable for high fire hazard areas.

## A7. SIGNAGE

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**Signs in Sweetwater should reflect the rural-rustic character of the valley's architecture.**

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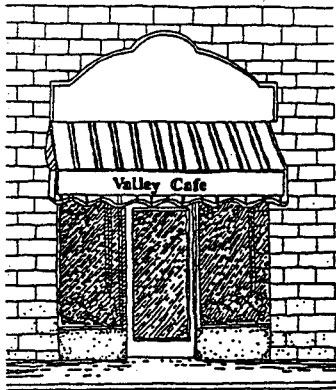
### 1. General Design Criteria

- Signage design should be carefully integrated with the site and building design concepts to create a unified appearance for the total development. Within a development, signage should be consistent in location and design.
- If a proposed sign does not meet the literal provisions of these Guidelines but does meet their intent, the applicant's sign proposal will be considered by the Design Review Board on a case by case basis. However, it is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate the proposal meets the intent of the Design Guidelines.
- All signs should be a minimum size and height to adequately identify a business and the products or services it sells.
- Signage should be carefully located for safety so as not to block driveway views of oncoming traffic.
- Illumination should be projected onto the sign face. The light source should be fully shielded from view. Internally illuminated plastic signs and neon signs should not be used.
- The total number of colors used for individual signs and their sign components should be limited to 3 in addition to black and white.
- Typefaces should be chosen for their simplicity and clarity. Signs on older buildings are encouraged to use a typeface which was used during the period in which the building was built.
- Sign posts and other structural elements should be made of wood or metal with a white, earth tone, black or natural stain finish. Reflective or bright colors should be avoided.
- No sign, other than a sign installed by a public agency, should be placed in the public right-of-way.
- Rooftop and roof-mounted signs are not permitted. No signs should be located above the eave height or parapet top of a building.

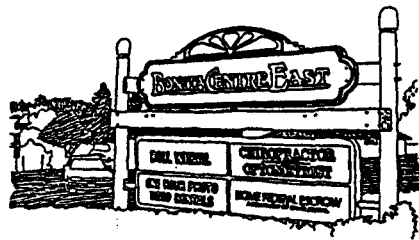
## 2. Recommended Sign Types

The following types of signs are recommended:

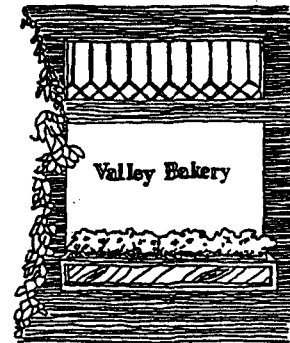
- **Awning Valance:** A sign or graphic attached to or printed on an awning's valance.
- **Monument:** A sign supported by one or more uprights or braces on the ground.
- **Projecting:** Any sign which projects from and is supported by a wall of a building with the display surface of the sign perpendicular to the building wall.
- **Single Pole Hanging Sign:** A sign which is suspended from a horizontal arm which is attached to a pole.
- **Wall:** A sign affixed directly to an exterior wall or fence.
- **Window:** A sign affixed to or behind a window.



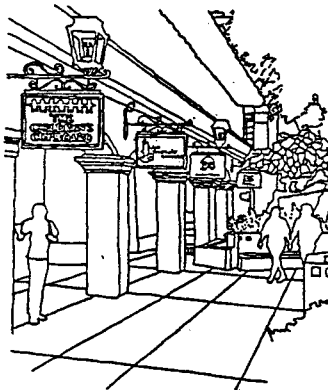
Awning Valance



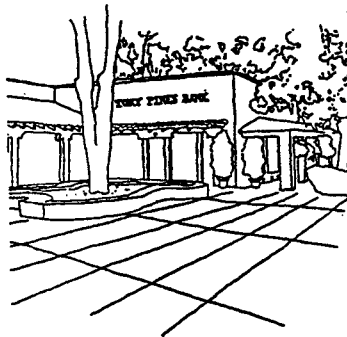
Monument



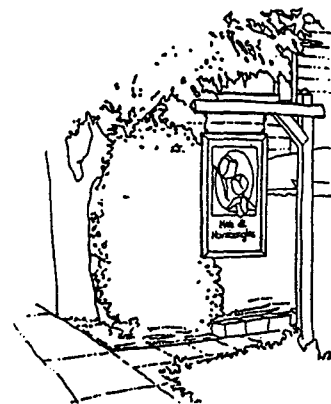
Window



Projecting



Wall



Single Pole Hanging

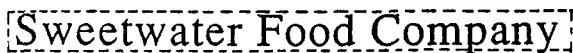
### 3. Sign Guidelines By Use

#### a. Sign Measurement

- To calculate the area of a sign, measure:
  - 1) The area of the box or outline which contains the sign.
  - 2) In the case of unboxed letters or symbols, the area of the smallest rectangle which would enclose all of the letters or symbols.
  - 3) Only one face of a double-faced sign with parallel opposing faces, and bearing identical copy, shall be used in calculating sign area. Signing and illumination shall be on no more than two opposing faces.



Measure The Sign Box



Measure The Imaginary Box

#### Sign Measurement

#### b. Sign Size Limits

##### • Commercial Development

Where frontage is defined as the length of the property facing the principal street of the development (each project can only have one frontage):

- 1) For frontages up to 100 lineal feet, the total sign area should be limited to 65 square feet.
- 2) For frontages over 100 lineal feet, the total signage should be limited to 3/4 square foot of sign area per lineal foot of property frontage.

- Letter and symbol height of all signs should be limited to a maximum of 10 inches.

##### • Multi-Family Residential Development

- There should be no more than one sign per multi-family residential development entry from a public street or road.
- Sign area should be limited to 10 square feet for projects of less than 25 dwelling units, and 15 square feet for projects with 25 or more dwelling units.
- Sign types recommended: Wall, Monument and Single Pole Hanging Signs.
- Letter and symbol height should be limited to a maximum of 6 inches.

#### c. Guidelines by Sign Type

- Monument signs should be limited to 4 feet in height.
- Single Pole Hanging signs should be limited to 6 feet in height.
- A Window sign should not exceed 25% of the area of the window on, or behind which, it is displayed.

#### **4. Prohibited Signs**

The following signs should not be used in Sweetwater. Public safety signs are excepted.

- Pole signs.
- Roof signs and signs extended above roof parapets.
- Internally illuminated plastic signs. Other plastic signs are discouraged, except where plastic is used only as raised letters.
- Back lit signs which appear to be internally illuminated.
- Portable or mobile signs.
- Signs with changing or moving copy.
- Neon signs. Small neon window signs under two square feet may be used, but are limited to one per business establishment.

## A8. SITE LIGHTING

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Site lighting should be used efficiently to aid safety, security and compliment architectural character. It should minimize intrusion into adjacent properties, roadways and the night sky.

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### 1. General Requirements

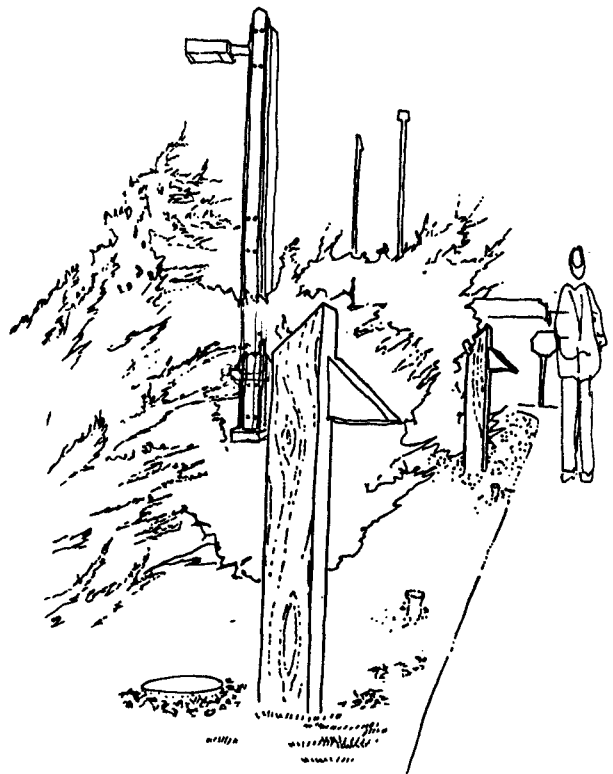
- All lighting shall comply with San Diego County Zoning Ordinance provisions.
- Lighting which interferes with the surrounding character of the neighborhood is not acceptable.
- Lighting which is visible from adjacent properties or roads must be indirect or incorporate full shield cut-offs.

### 2. Parking Area Lighting

- For commercial areas, overhead lighting should be mounted at a maximum height of 15 feet above the paved surface.
- For residential parking areas, overhead lighting should be mounted at a maximum height of 12 feet. The placement of lighting in residential parking areas should avoid interference with bedroom windows.

### 3. Walkway, Garden and Pedestrian Area Lighting

- Overhead fixtures used for pedestrian areas should be limited to heights below 8 feet. Lower mounting heights are encouraged.
- Along walkways, low-level lighting in the form of bollards or fixtures mounted on short posts is encouraged. Shatter-proof coverings are recommended. Posts should be located to avoid hazards for pedestrians or vehicles.



## A9. BUILDING EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

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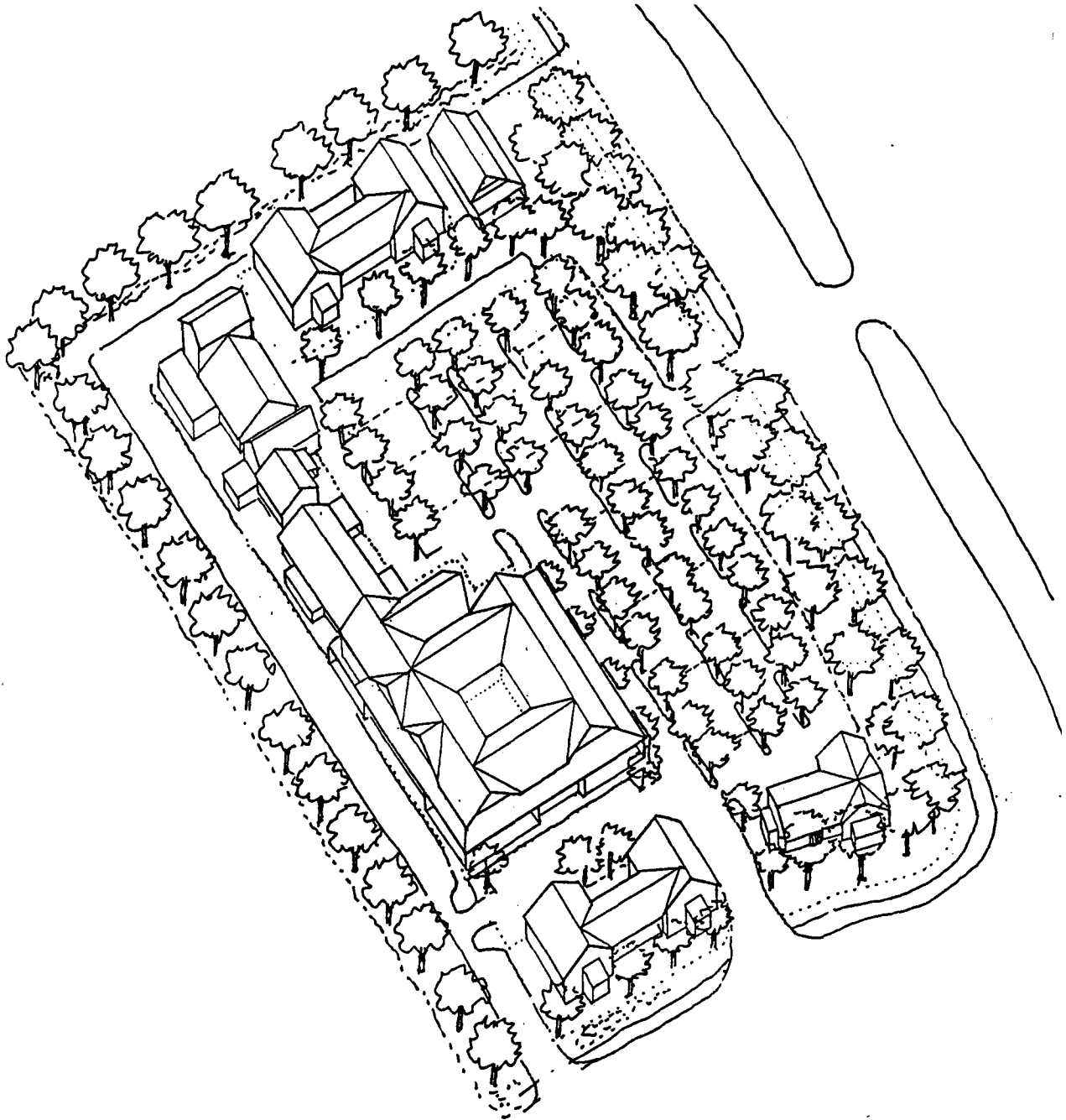
**Locate and design building equipment to minimize visual impact on public streets and neighboring properties.**

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- Trash containers and outdoor storage areas should be screened from view from public streets, pedestrian areas and neighboring properties. The screen for the trash containers should be designed to be compatible with the architectural character of the development and be of durable materials.
- In larger commercial developments, service and loading areas should be separated from main circulation and parking areas. The development of separate buildings in larger commercial projects does not exclude them from the requirements of screening trash, loading or service areas.
- Locate utility meters in screened areas.
- Exterior surface-mounted conduit and electrical boxes are discouraged. Where they are necessary, they should be designed, painted or screened to blend in with the design of the building to which they are attached.
- Mechanical equipment, solar collectors, satellite dishes, communication devices and other equipment should be concealed from view of public streets, adjacent properties and pedestrian areas. Dark colored mesh satellite dishes are encouraged over light colored solid dish types.
- Roof mounted equipment should be screened from view from adjacent roads, properties and pedestrian areas. Special attention should be given to buildings whose roofs are viewed from higher elevations. The design of these buildings should integrate the rooftop equipment into the design of the roof. It is often possible to create a “well” within the structure so that the equipment is surrounded by pitched roof forms.
- Where solar panels are attached to buildings, they should be integrated into the architectural design of the building. Solar panels which are not attached to buildings should be integrated into the landscape design by using berms, natural slopes or similar devices. Where solar panels cannot be integrated into the landscape design they should be screened from view with fences and/or planting. All plumbing and storage tanks associated with solar panels should be concealed from view.
- Screening devices (rooftop and ground level) should consider the following elements:
  - Architectural screens should be an extension of the development’s architectural character.
  - Screen walls should be constructed for low maintenance and durable materials which are consistent with the building’s materials.
  - Landscaping should be used to compliment ground level screening devices.

## B. DESIGN GUIDELINES BY DEVELOPMENT TYPE

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Illustrative commercial development with landscaped edge, tree canopies over parking lots, linked pedestrian walkways and architecture compatible with Sweetwater's rural residential character.



## B1. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Unify commercial development and integrate it with the landscape, minimizing the visual impact of signs, parking lots and traffic congestion.**

This Guideline applies to all commercial and institutional development in the Sweetwater Planning Area.

### 1. Site Planning

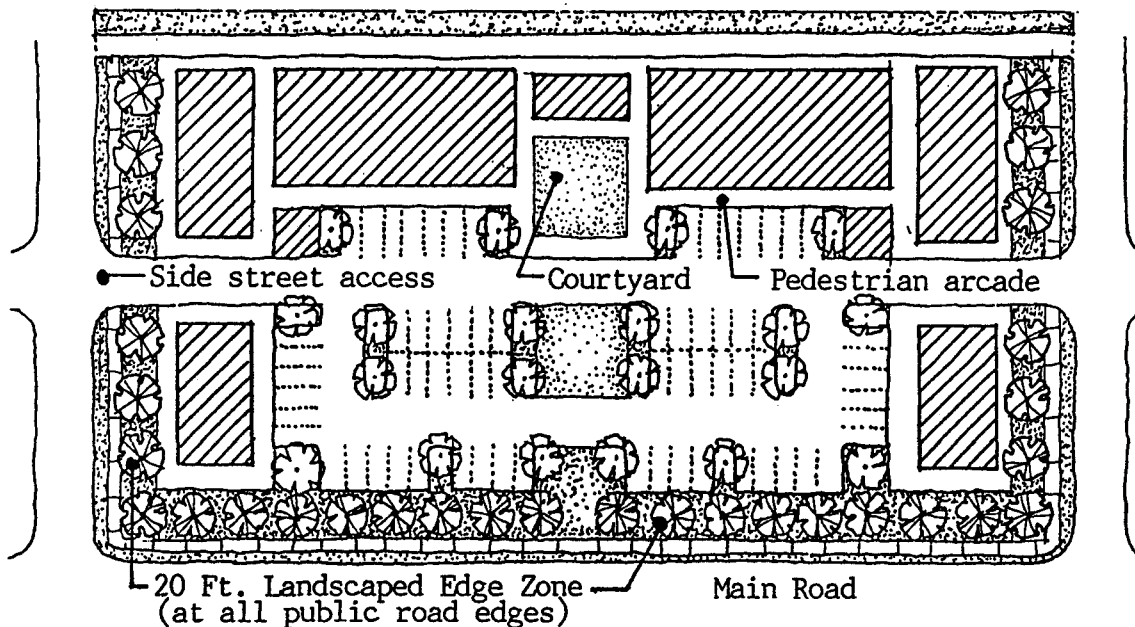
- Provide a minimum 20 foot deep Landscaped Edge Zone along all public road frontages. The purpose of this guideline is to develop visual continuity between adjacent developments and create a consistent road edge design that reflects Sweetwater's rural residential character. The Landscaped Edge Zone should be interrupted only by driveways, sidewalks or pedestrian areas and trails (See Section C2). Parking is not permitted in this location.
- Give buildings and groups of buildings pedestrian focus by encouraging the use of defined outdoor spaces such as porches, loggias, colonnades and courtyards. These elements provide shade, a transition

between indoor and outdoor spaces, and visual interest through shade and shadow patterns.

### 2. Parking and Driveway Access

Refer to San Diego County Zoning Ordinance Division 6750 and County of San Diego Offstreet Parking Manual for requirements regarding driveway location.

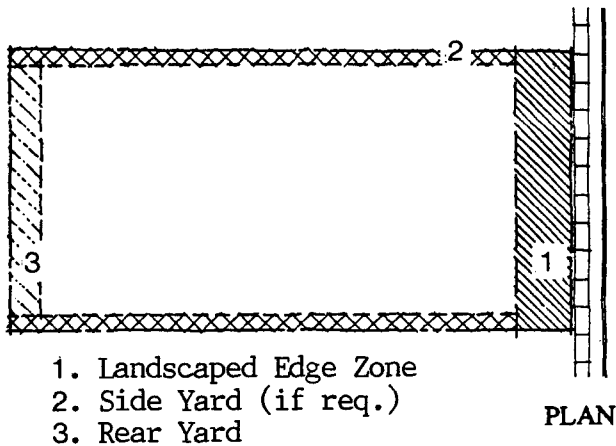
- Minimize the number of curb cuts and driveway openings on public streets.
- When access to a side street is available, the side street should be used for parking lot entrances.
- Adjacent commercial developments should coordinate parking plans to allow internal vehicular circulation to lessen traffic flow onto major streets.
- Shared or joint-use driveways between separate properties are encouraged to reduce the number of curb cuts on public streets.
- Locate driveways as far from intersections as possible.



### 3. Parking Lot Size

- Individual parking areas shall be limited to a maximum of 24 spaces; where more than 24 spaces are required for a development, separate areas not exceeding 24 spaces shall be designed and buffered by ten foot planted breaks between adjacent areas.

### 4. Planting Guidelines



- See Appendix B. "Plant Selection Guide" for recommended plant species.

#### a. Landscaped Edge Zone

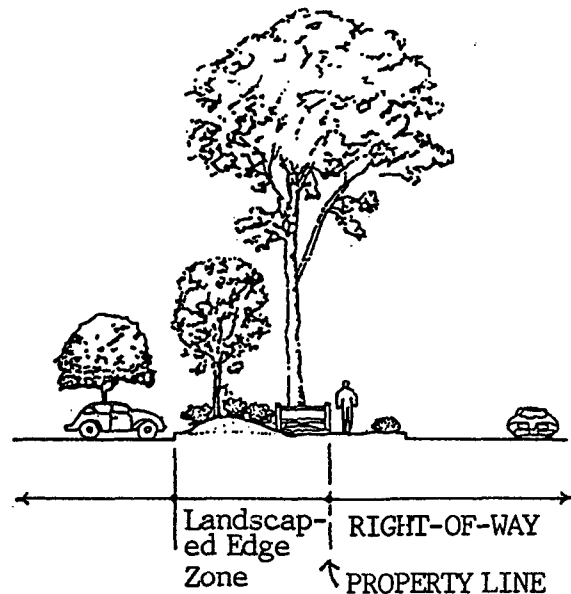
- General planting requirements for the Landscaped Edge Zone:

**Trees:** Provide at least 1 tree per 300 square feet of total area of the Landscaped Edge Zone. Trees should be a minimum of 15 gallons.

**Shrubs, Groundcovers and Ornamental Grasses:** Ornamental grasses and shrub plantings are encouraged to create spatial definition within planting areas. Grasses and low, creeping shrubs may be used in the foreground; larger, coarser shrubs in the background. Blooming shrubs are encouraged. Shrubs should be spaced with "on center" spacing so that branches intertwine after 2 years growth.

**Parking Area Edges:** Along the street-facing side of parking areas, shrubs and/or low walls should provide a visual screen a minimum of 30 inches in height. At driveway entrances, shrubs and/or low walls should not obstruct views of on-coming traffic.

**Trails:** Trails should be provided in the Landscaped Edge Zone if the location is so designated in the Sweetwater Riding and Hiking Trails Plan.



#### b. Interior Property Line

- Side and rear yard areas should be fully landscaped with a combination of trees and shrubs.

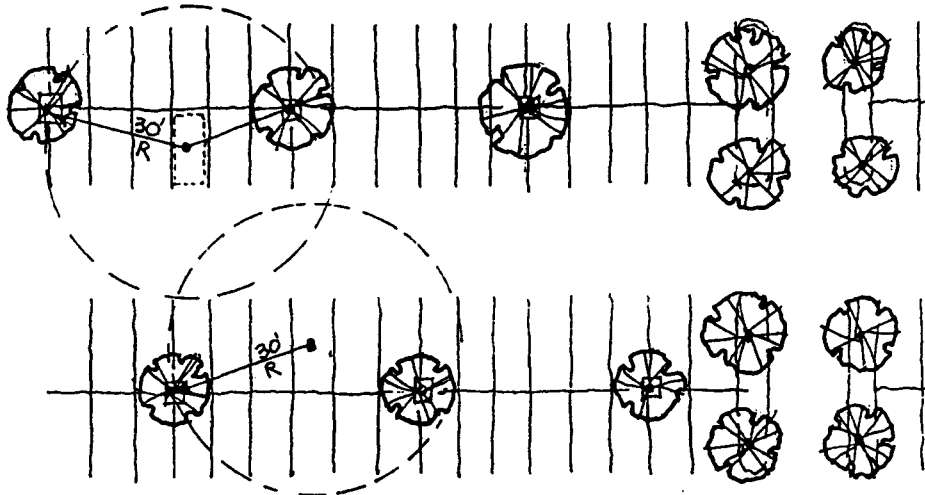
**Trees:** Provide at least one tree per 300 square feet of total yard area. Trees should be 15 gallon size, minimum.

- Parking Lot Setbacks

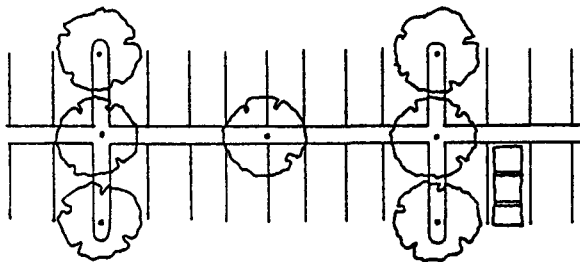
**Shrubs:** Shrubs should provide a visual screen a minimum of 30 inches in height after 2 years growth. For Shrubs in massed plantings, use "on center" dimensioning to space shrubs so that branches intertwine.

### c. Interior Parking Lot Planting

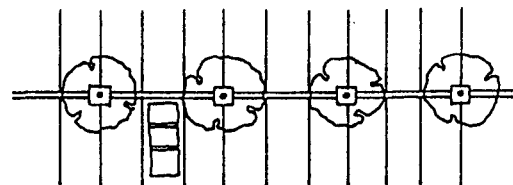
- For parking lots greater than 6000 square feet, in addition to all other guidelines, an internal area equal to a minimum of 5 percent of the total parking area should be planted with a combination of trees and shrubs. Tree spacing should be located so that every designated parking space is within 30 feet of the trunk of a tree.
- The parking lot perimeter should terminate a minimum of 5 feet from the face of a building or wall. This area should be planted with trees or shrubs, unless used as a pedestrian walkway.



Parking Radius. Every parking space should be within 30 ft. of the trunk of a tree.



Parking with planted break

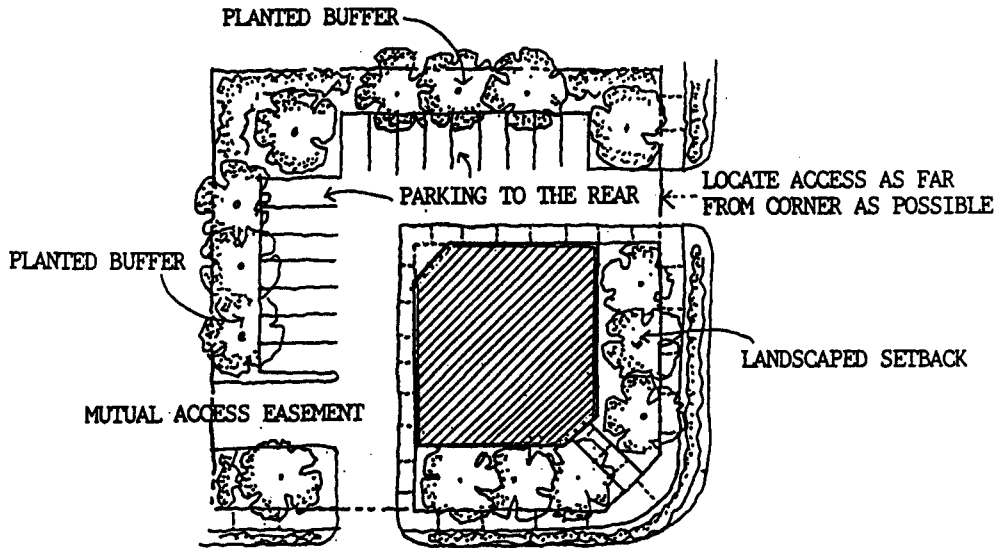


Parking with planter or grate

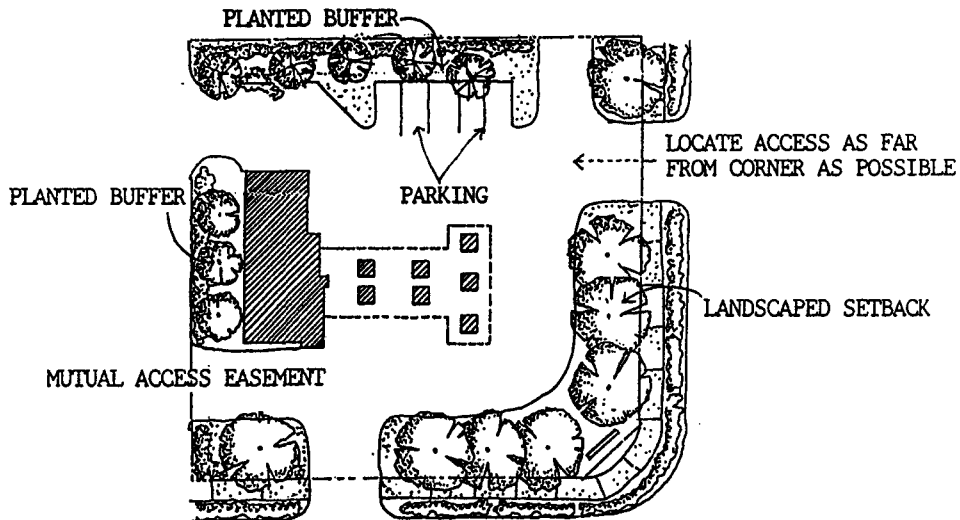
### Illustrative Methods of Providing Tree Canopies at Internal Parking Areas

## 5. Illustrations of Typical Corner Developments

### a. Typical Corner Development



### b. Corner Convenience Store or Service Station.



## B2. MULTI-FAMILY AND DUPLEX RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

**Multi-family and duplex developments should contribute to the sense of a “neighborhood” by carefully-relating building frontages and yards to public streets and adjacent properties.**

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### **1. Site Planning**

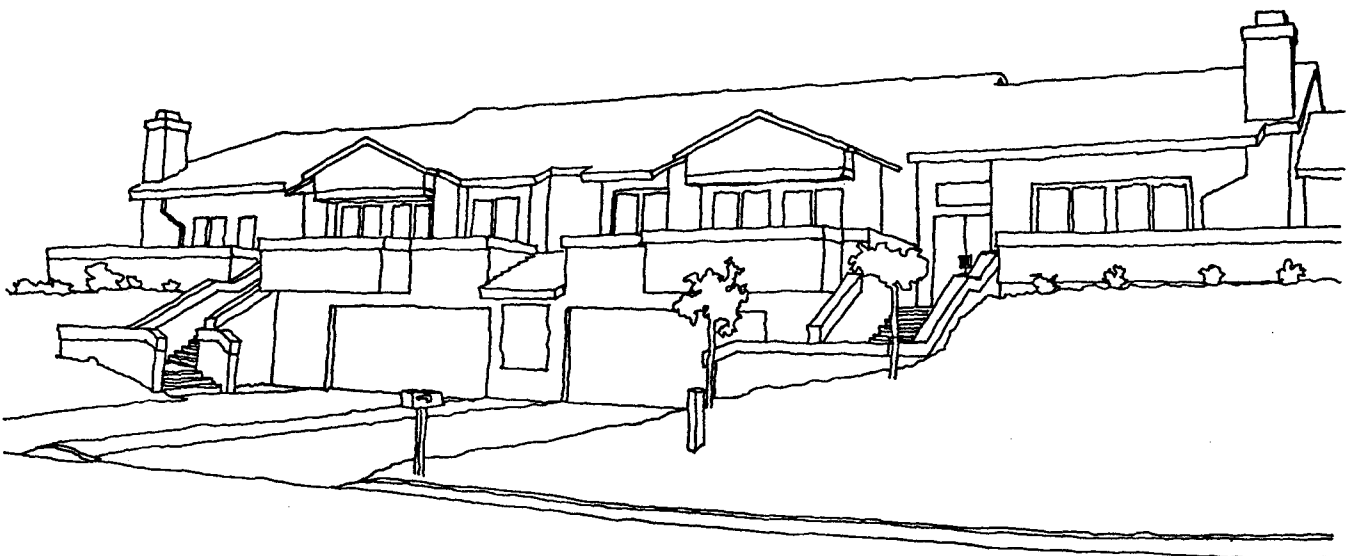
- Provide a minimum 20 foot Planted Yard setback along all front and side street property lines. The setback area should be fully landscaped, interrupted only by driveways, sidewalks and pedestrian areas. Parking is not allowed in this area.
- Public rights-of-way should be planted in a similar manner as the Planted Yard setback area, though the use of trees should be avoided within the right-of-way.
- Organize as many of the dwelling unit entries as possible to front the street. The use of front porches or entry patios and terraces facing public streets is encouraged.
- Locate the first floor of living spaces not more than one half story above ground level.

### **2. Group Usable Open Space**

#### • Definition:

Group Usable Open Space is space for common use by occupants of a development, normally including playgrounds, recreation courts, patios, open landscaped areas and swimming pools. Parking, driveways and loading areas are not considered Group Usable Open Space.

- Provide all multi-family projects with at least 100 square feet of Group Usable open space per dwelling unit.
- Provide at least one designated childrens play area of a minimum 400 square feet for the first 25 dwelling units. Add 10 square feet for each additional dwelling unit. This Guideline does not apply to senior citizen residential projects.



### 3. Private Usable Open Space

- All multi-family projects are encouraged to provide at least 100 square feet of Private Usable Open Space per dwelling unit.
- The County Development Regulations governing Private Usable Open Space should apply, with the following additional recommendations:
  - Private open spaces on the ground should be a minimum of 8 feet in each plan dimension and should be screened from public view by plantings, walls, privacy fences and other similar methods.
  - Decks used for upper floor private space should have a minimum dimension of 4 feet.
  - To provide open space on sloped sites, consider terracing to achieve level spaces.
  - Locate private outdoor spaces to receive solar gain in the winter months.
  - Consider the use of deciduous trees to provide a combination of summer shade and winter sun.

### 4. Parking and Driveway Access

#### a. General Guidelines

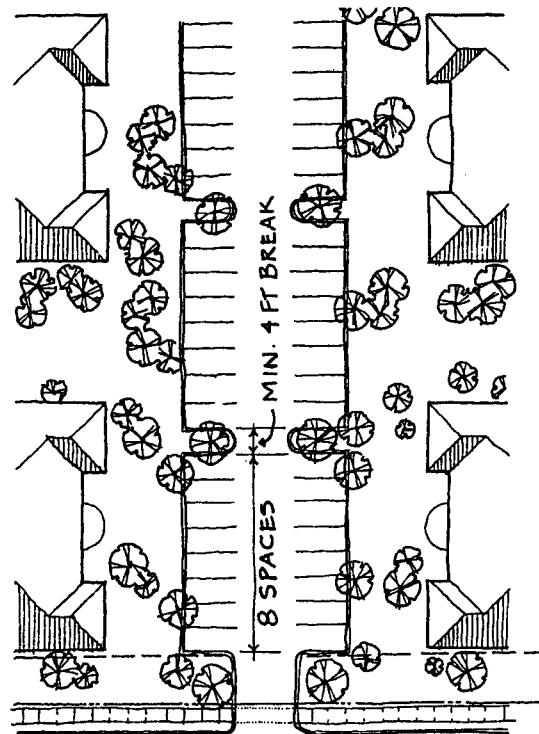
- Residential parking lots should not be located between the fronts of buildings and public streets. Place parking lots to the rear, side or internal locations on the property.
- Garage doors of multi-family buildings should open to the rear or side of the lot and should not face a public street, except in the case of a corner lot and lots with less than 100 feet of frontage. In the case of corner lots, open the garage doors to the side street. On small lots, when it is necessary for the garage to face the major

street, reduce the garage door frontage on the street to a minimum.

- Buildings which contain a common enclosed parking garage may orient one garage door opening toward the street.
- Carports and garages should be compatible with the architecture of the principal building.
- Views to parking areas should be screened from public streets, adjacent properties and Group Usable Open Spaces.

#### b. Parking Drives

Parking Drives are used for internal vehicle access to garages, carports, or open parking areas. They incorporate parking spaces along their length, whether in garages, carports or open parking.



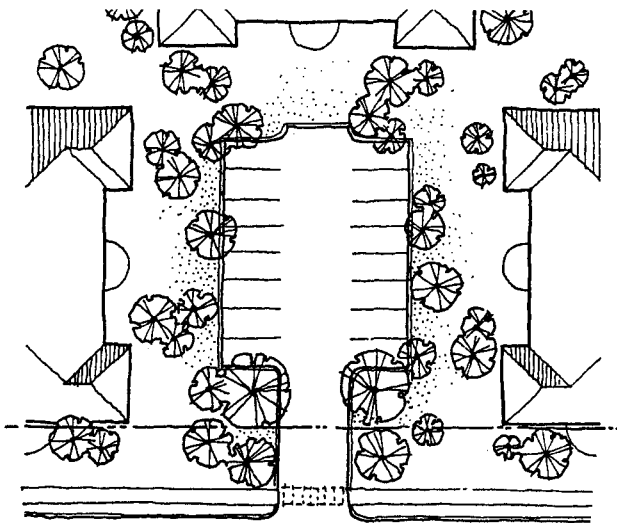
- Long lines of parked cars or blank garage doors should be relieved by planting areas or other types of screening.
- Parking arranged in bays to give a street-like character is encouraged. Each eight spaces of continuous perpendicular or

angled parking should be separated from others by a planted area not less than one parking space wide.

- The planted separation should contain at least one tree, minimum 15 gallon size.
- In multi-family projects over 50 dwelling units, the location of Parking Drives around the periphery of the project is discouraged. This kind of edge condition isolates the development from the neighborhood.

### c. Parking Courts

Parking Courts are small, landscaped parking areas with tree canopies, normally containing less than 20 parking spaces. A Parking Court can take the character of an “outdoor room” and contribute to the spatial organization of the site.



- Parking Courts are encouraged as an alternative to large parking lots or long parking drives.

### d. Covered Parking

- Covered parking within garages, carports and trellised canopies is encouraged.
- For sloping sites, tuck under parking is often an economical solution that economizes in the use of the land.

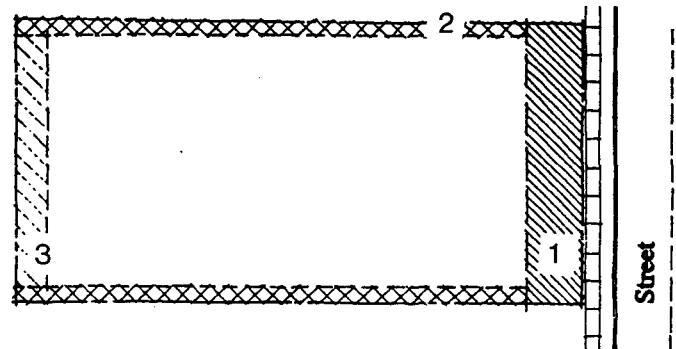
## 5. Planting Guidelines

### a. Street Trees

- New public streets and private roads in residential developments should have street trees planted at regular intervals throughout the development. Consult Appendix B. “Plant Selection Guide”.

### b. Planted Front Yard

- Parking lots should be set back from public streets by a Planted Yard of at least 20 feet in depth measured from the street facing property line. Provide at least one tree per 300 square feet of area between the property line and the face of the curb of the parking area. Trees should be 15 gallon size, minimum. See Appendix B. “Plant Selection Guide”.



1. Planted Front Yard With Street Trees
2. Interior Property Line, Side Yard
3. Interior Property Line, Rear Yard

PLAN

Planted Yards

- Parking Lots Adjacent to the Planted Yard:

Shrubs and/or low walls should provide a visual screen of a minimum of 30 inches in height after 2 years growth. When walls are used, a minimum 5 foot wide planted edge should be provided along the street facing side of the wall. For shrubs in massed plantings, use “on center” dimensioning to space shrubs so that branches intertwine after two years average growth. At driveway entrances, shrubs and/or low walls should not obstruct views of oncoming traffic.

**c. Interior Property Line Planting**

- Where side yard or rear yard setbacks are required adjacent to parking areas, the entire setback area should be planted with a combination of trees and shrubs.
- **Guideline for Interior Property Line Planting:**

**Trees:** Provide at least 1 tree per 300 square feet of total area of the required side or rear yard. Trees should be 15 gallon size, minimum.

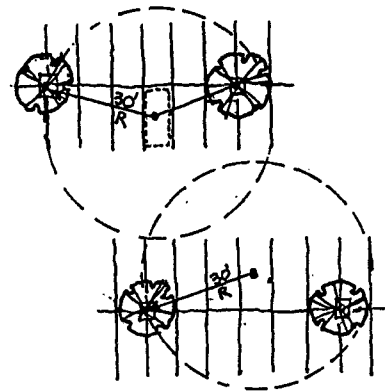
- **Guideline for parking lot edges along interior property lines:**

**Trees:** Provide at least one tree per 200 square feet of total yard area. Trees should be 15 gallon size, minimum.

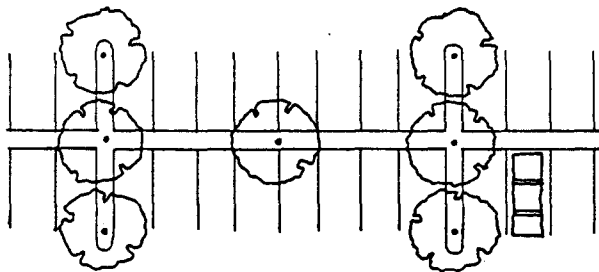
**Shrubs:** Shrubs should provide a visual screen a minimum of 30 inches in height after 2 years growth. For shrubs in massed plantings, use "on center" dimensioning to space shrubs so that branches intertwine after two years average growth.

**d. Internal Parking Lot Planting**

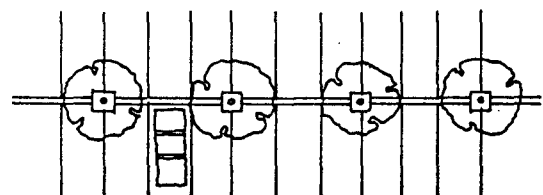
- For all parking lots greater than 6000 square feet, in addition to all other guidelines, an internal area equal to a minimum of 5 percent of the total parking area should be planted with a combination of trees and shrubs. Tree spacing should be such that every designated parking space is within 30 feet of the trunk of a tree. Turf areas are discouraged. See Appendix B. "Plant Selection Guide".
- The parking lot perimeter should terminate a minimum of 5 feet from the face of a building. This area should be planted with shrubs, unless used as a pedestrian walkway.



**Parking Radius.** Every parking space should be within 30 ft. of the trunk of a tree.



**Parking with planted break**



**Parking with planter or grate**

**Alternative Methods of Providing Tree Canopies at Internal Parking Areas**



## B3. MOBILE HOME PARKS

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### 1. Intent

Local regulation of mobile home parks is limited by provisions of State Law. It is recognized that it is impossible to anticipate locations. It is hoped that applicants for mobile home park developments will cooperate with the Community Planning Group and the Design Review Board in their review of the Major Use Permit application to conform the design as nearly as feasible to the following guidelines.

Mobile home parks should be built in such a way that they will be compatible with neighboring buildings and developments. Mobile home parks provide a unique challenge because the majority of the individual homes are prefabricated. However, it is possible for the mobile home park to use elements of landscaping, lighting, signage, and architectural character to integrate the development with the neighboring community.

- Mobile home parks shall comply with the “Mobile Home On Private Lot Regulations”, Sections 6502 through 6506, of the County Zoning Ordinance.
- Community buildings located within a mobile home park should meet all standards of the Sweetwater Design Guidelines.
- Landscaping, lighting, signage and off-street parking should follow the Design Guidelines.
- Consideration will be given by the Design Review Board to unique situations which may preclude following Guidelines which are inappropriate because of the nature of mobile home development. However, the applicant should do everything possible to adapt the project to the Sweetwater Design Guidelines.

### 2. Individual Mobile Homes

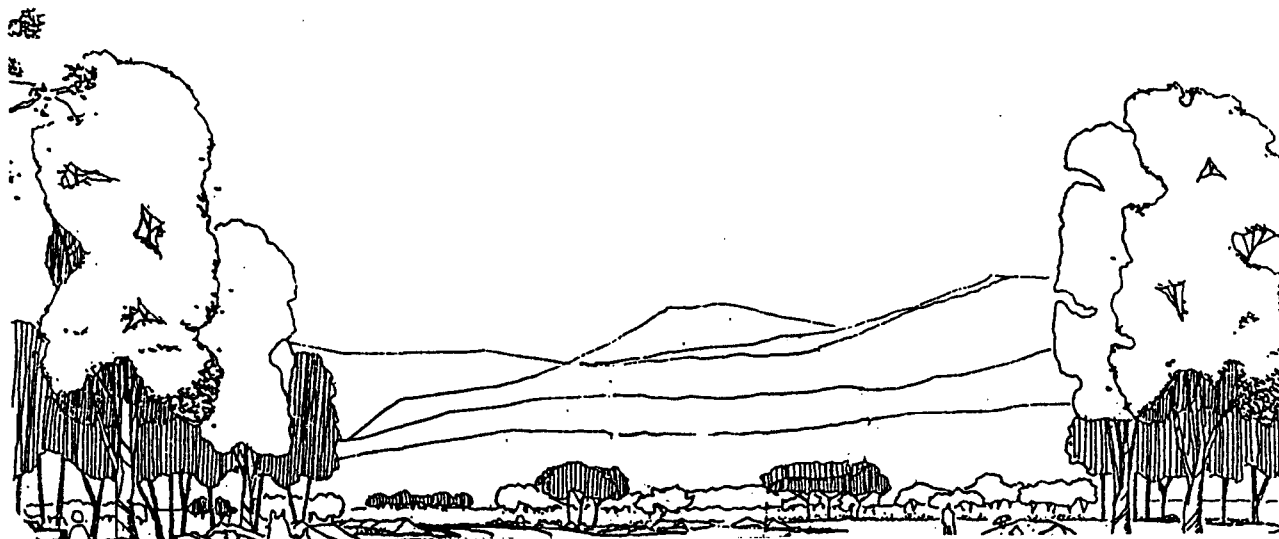
Although a specific architectural character is not required for mobile homes, the following general principles should be followed:

- Earth tones and warm, light colors are encouraged.
- Bright colored and highly reflective roof surfaces are discouraged.
- When necessary to place utilities on the roof, all visible surface equipment should be the same color as the roof or be screened from view.
- These guidelines apply to carports and other outbuildings.

## C. DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR SPECIAL AREAS

### C1. DEVELOPMENT IN FLOOD PLAINS AND RIPARIAN AREAS

---



This Guideline lists Development Standards and Design Guidelines that protect the scenic and aesthetic values of Sweetwater's Flood Plain and riparian areas. The Sweetwater River Flood Plain is a key visual focus of the community that should be preserved and protected.

- Development, including recreational projects such as golf courses, should cause minimal change to water courses and important areas of native vegetation.
- Buildings constructed in the Flood Plain fringe areas should be sited with tree clusters to visually tie them to the landscape and reduce their visual prominence.

The potential hazards created by development, grading and stream bank alteration within a Flood Plain are not only a concern of the development itself, but may cause damage to properties upstream and downstream of the property. For this reason, the larger

off-site implications of all proposed buildings, other built improvements such as roads and parking areas, land form grading and stream bank alterations within a Flood Plain should also be considered in all development reviews.

While the following definitions and guidelines are compatible with current regulations, they do not supercede adopted County ordinances and policies pertaining to development in Flood Plains. These currently include the Resource Protection Ordinance and Board of Supervisors Policy I-68, "Proposed Development in Flood Plains with defined Floodways".

#### 1. Definitions

- "100-YEAR FLOOD" means a flood estimated to occur on an average of once in 100 year (1% probability of occurrence in each year).

- "FLOOD PLAIN" means a land area which is likely to be flooded, adjoining a river, stream, watercourse, ocean, bay or lake.
- "FLOODWAY" means the river channel and the adjacent land areas needed to carry the 100-year flood, without increasing the water surface elevation more than one foot at any point. Additional criteria needed to provide good flow conditions may apply.
- "FLOOD FRINGE" means all land lying in the 100-year Flood Plain that is outside the Floodway.

## 2. The Floodway

The Floodway should be kept as close as possible to its natural condition. Structures, parking areas and other major improvements are prohibited. Land form and stream bank alterations within the zone are strongly discouraged, except as outlined below.

## 3. Development Within the Flood Plain

The general intent of this Guideline is to discourage development within the entire Flood Plain. Since this is sometimes not possible without a complete loss of property development potential, development in the Flood Fringe area is permitted subject to the following Guidelines:

### a. Properties Partially within a Flood Plain

For developments on properties with areas lying both within and outside of the Flood Plain, buildings shall be clustered, to the maximum extent feasible, in the areas of the site lying outside the Flood Plain. Use of the Flood Plain as group open space for recreation or other activities which would leave it in a natural state is strongly encouraged.

The intent of this paragraph should be observed in all new lot splits and Planned Developments. Required open spaces should be applied to all land which is not proposed to be developed.

### b. Properties Entirely within a Flood Plain

If a development is proposed in the Flood Fringe area, the applicant must demonstrate the building, filling and other land form alterations will not contribute to off-site property damage by flooding, nor will it be subject to erosion by future floods. Fill shall be limited to that which is necessary to elevate the structure above the elevation of the floodway and to permit minimal functional use of the structure.

### c. Modification to the Floodway

Filling and/or development of permanent structures is prohibited in the floodway. Allowable land uses are outlined in the Resource Protection Ordinance and include agricultural, recreational and other such low-intensity uses, provided they do not harm the environmental value of the floodway area.

Construction of concrete or other engineered channels, dikes and levees within the Floodway zone is prohibited, except when used to protect existing structures built prior to the enactment of the Resource Protection Ordinance.

## 4. Stream Bank Stabilization

Self-formed stream channels tend to be in a state of equilibrium, nearly stable, and usually do not require artificial bank stabilization. Land use changes that cause an increase in impervious surfaces or sedimentation will result in channel en-

largement and stream bank erosion. This may require measures to stabilize the stream bank.

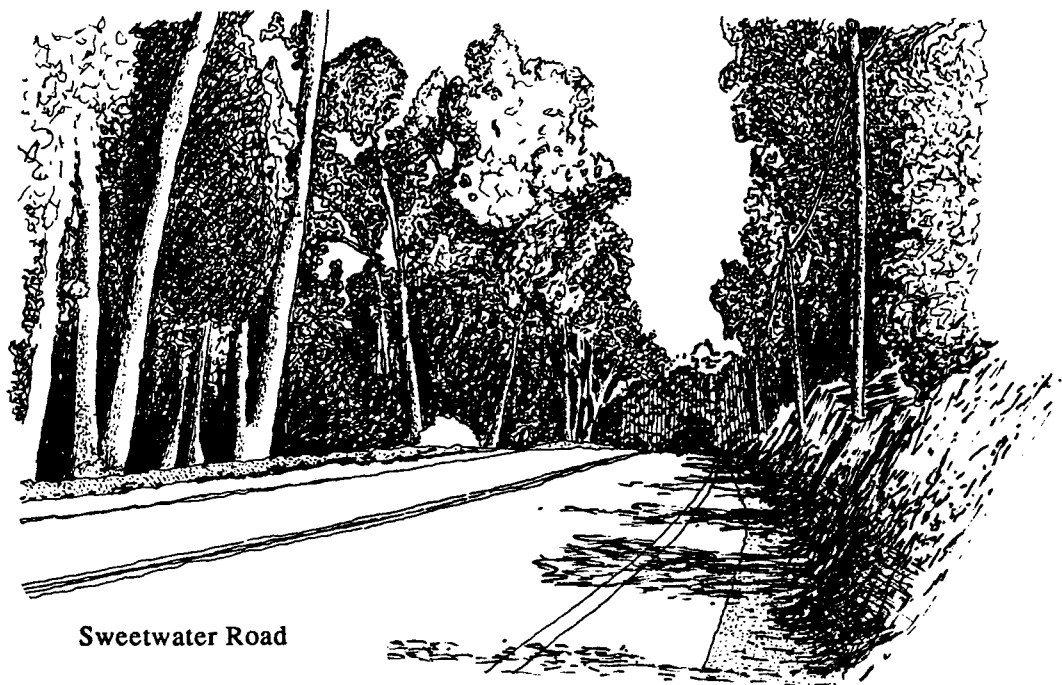
- a. Stream reahbilitation is the preferred method of stabilization, its objective being to maintain the natural characteristics of the watercourse. The process may include enlarging the channel at points of obstruction, clearing obstructions at natural bends and points of constriction, limitation of use in areas of excessive erosion and restoration of riparian vegetation.
- b. Concrete channels and other mechanical measures of stabilization should not be permitted unless no other alternative exists.
- c. If a stream bank stabilization other than stream rehabilitation and vegetative methods is required, hand-placed stone or rock riprap are the preferred methods.
- d. Planting in the Flood Plain

The Flood Plain should be kept as close as possible to its natural state. The large open spaces and indigenous riparian vegetation such as live oaks, sycamores and scrub should be preserved and emphasized in new plantings. Ornamental plantings and the introduction of non-native species should be avoided.

## C2. SCENIC ROADS AND TRAILS

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- **Preserve and improve the rural character of Sweetwater's Scenic Roads.**
  - **Consider expansion of Riding and Hiking Trails where appropriate within the community.**
- 



### 1. Scenic Roads

#### a. Application

- Development subject to Design Review along Scenic Roads should follow the Guidelines of this section. The Guidelines are recommended design principles for development not subject to Design Review.
- Scenic Roads in Sweetwater fall into three categories:

- (1) The Scenic Highway Element of the San Diego County General Plan designates the following roads as first priority scenic roads in the Sweetwater Planning Area: Bonita Road, San Miguel Road, Guajolote

Road (unbuilt), and Sweetwater Road.

- (2) Roads which may be considered for future scenic designation include Quarry Road and Proctor Valley Road.
  - (3) Several other roads are visual resources whose character should be preserved: Acacia Avenue, Lomacitas Lane, Lynwood Street, Grevilla Way and Hill Road.
- New development along each of the three categories of Scenic Roads should give special design attention to road edge conditions, strengthening the rural appearance of buildings and open spaces as viewed from the road.

## b. Road Edge Zone

For all development subject to Design Review, a 20-foot deep Road Edge Zone should be observed along all Scenic Roads.

The Road Edge Zone should be designed in a rural character, by retaining existing natural features and limiting site improvements to rural elements:

- Retain existing land forms, mature trees, and important rock outcroppings. The location of driveways and underground utilities should avoid destroying important natural features.
- Retain and strengthen the qualities which are unique to the particular section of each road. Preserve existing vistas. Where roads wind through canyons, canopy trees can enhance the experience of being “enclosed.” Planting native oaks or California Peppers along the road edge will provide an evergreen canopy over the roads.
- Low walls of native stone, wooden rail fences, boulders and native rocks are encouraged.
- Recommended plant species for Scenic Roads are listed in Appendix B, “Plant Selection Guide. For fire protection, low fuel volume plants are recommended along all roads.
- Structures and parking areas should not be located in the Road Edge Zone.

## c. Other Site Areas

- Views of other site areas visible from Scenic Roads should be carefully considered. Design of these areas in a rural character similar to the Road Edge Zone is encouraged.

- Building setbacks in excess of minimum requirements are encouraged.
- Equipment storage and service areas should be located to the rear of properties and screened from public view.

## 2. Trails

- Sweetwater’s extensive trail system is a unique element of the community. New development should dedicate rights-of-way for trails designated in the Sweetwater Riding and Hiking Trails Plan. Linkages between trails are encouraged to strengthen connections throughout the system.
- Trails must be designed and constructed to applicable County regulations.
- Views of yards, buildings and other site areas, as seen from trails, should be considered. Design of visible areas in a rural character, using the principles outlined in Paragraph (1b) “Road Edge Zone”, is encouraged.



## IV. GUIDELINES FOR OTHER REVIEWS

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This section presents desirable standards for other types of discretionary project reviews not subject to the Community Design Review program.

Section A deals with single family residential development. Some of the standards in this section are contained in other County regulations. Where that is not the case, the standards must be adopted into the Sweetwater Community Plan before they can be used in project reviews.

Section B addresses the community's public right-of-way standards. Before these improvements can be constructed, the standards need to be authorized through Board of Supervisors Policy J-36 which allows deviations from the County's normal road standards.

Where the guidelines are appropriately authorized, they may be considered in the review of all projects subject to discretionary review. For this reason, the applicant should confer with County planning staff to determine which of the guidelines apply. Discretionary projects include but are not limited to:

- Specific Plans
- Tentative Maps and Tentative Parcel Maps
- Major Use Permits
- Site Plans
- Grading permits which are subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

In addition, the guidelines for Community Design Review presented in the previous sections of this booklet might also be applicable in these other types of discretionary project reviews, provided they are authorized through existing County regulations or through future adoption into the Sweetwater Community Plan.



## A. SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

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### A1. Preservation of Open Spaces and Existing Natural Features

Residential development plans should demonstrate an effort to preserve and protect significant natural features in the layout and design of streets, lots and grading patterns.

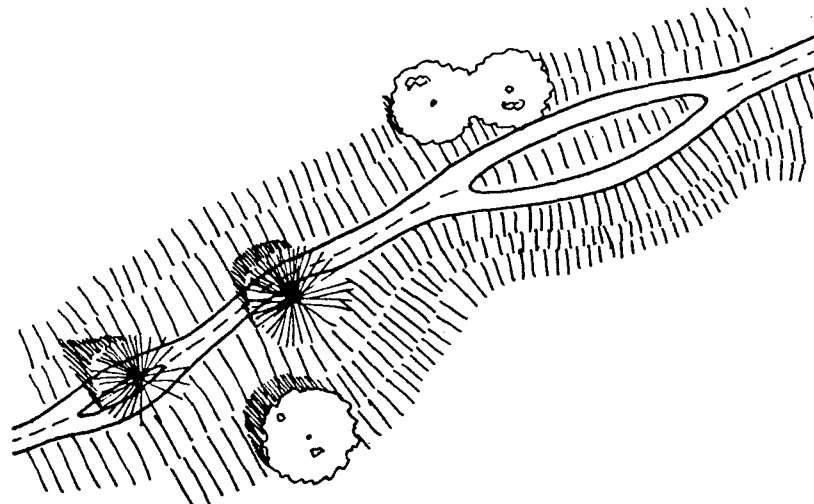
- The provisions of Guidelines A1 "Site Design" and A2 "Preservation of Significant Trees" in Section III of this document should be followed as general design criteria for the preservation of natural features in the planning of single family residential developments.
- Sweetwater's designated open spaces are important community assets that should be preserved from encroachments and erosion damage. Provisions should be made to properly maintain these areas, providing for fire hazard control, removal of litter and protection of vegetation.

### A2. Street Layout and Design

- Street layout should be aligned to conform, as closely as possible, to existing grades and minimize the need for the grading of slopes. Natural land forms may often be retained by introducing

gentle horizontal and vertical curves in road alignments.

- On hillside sites where conditions permit, streets and driveways should be laid out parallel to existing topographic contours in order to minimize grading.
- Bridges should be considered for streets crossing natural drainage courses, canyons and ravines of environmental or scenic value.
- Align streets and lots to take advantage of potential public views from streets.
- Street widths of the minimum width permitted by County standards are encouraged if the reduced width will lessen the need for hillside grading. It is often possible to omit a parallel parking lane, or to split the lanes of a roadway, to accomplish this objective.
- When streets are located on exposed hillsides viewed from a distance, cut slopes should be rounded off to approximate a natural appearance.

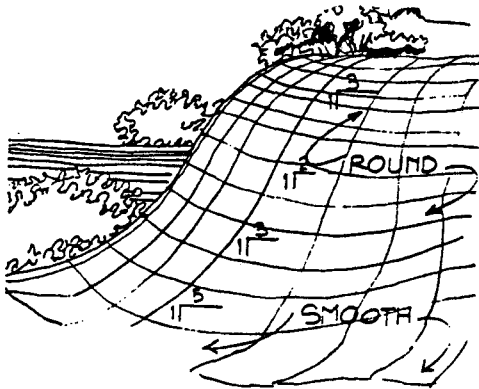


Integrate natural features with roadway alignments

### A3. Hillside Grading and Drainage

Sweetwater's hillsides are an important part of the community's environment. The design of single family developments should minimize grading impacts in the layout of streets and lots.

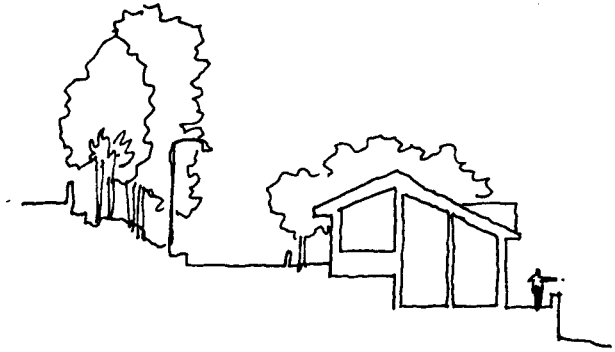
- Hillside grading should create slopes that approximate the surrounding natural hills.
- The "engineered" appearance of manufactured slopes should be avoided by creating smooth, flowing contours of varying gradients, preferably with slopes of 2:1 to 5:1. Avoid sharp cuts and fills, and long linear slopes that have a uniform grade.
- Slope banks can be softened by contoured grading at the top and toe of the slope.



Contoured Grading

- Terracing should be designed with small incremental steps, avoiding wide-step terracing and large areas of flat pads.

- Building sites should be graded so that they appear to emerge from the slope. Pads should be of minimum size to accommodate the structure and a reasonable amount of adjacent outdoor space. Split level terraces are encouraged to reduce pad size. As much of the remaining lot area as possible should be kept in the gradient of the original slope.



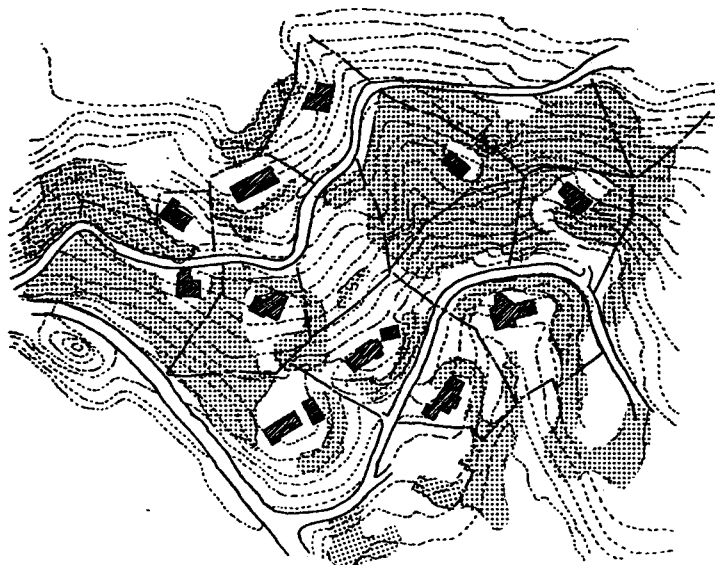
Site Terracing

- Grading should be minimized within 10 feet of all perimeter property lines of the development, unless the grading is similar to the existing adjacent slopes or to the planned grading of the adjacent slopes.
- Retaining walls and pony walls visible from off-site should be of minimum height. Retaining walls faced with stone or earth-colored materials are encouraged.
- Drainage devices such as terrace drains, benches and downdrains should be placed in locations of least visibility on slopes. The side of a drain may be bermed to conceal it.

Natural swales leading downhill are a good location for downdrains. Visible drains should be as close as possible to natural soil color. Visible concrete drains should be color tinted and screened with planting to improve concealment.

#### **A4. Lot Configuration and Building Setbacks**

- The layout of lots in a residential development should be imaginatively derived from the natural form of the land. The development plan should adapt to existing topography and natural features, avoiding unnecessary alteration of land forms.
- Lot patterns which offer a variety of lot shapes influenced by topography and natural features are encouraged.



- **Building Setbacks.** Varied and staggered front building setback patterns on adjacent lots are encouraged. This will produce a more rural feel to the development and reduce the monotony of repetitive setbacks.

The amount of setback variation will depend upon lot size. Residential developments at a density of 4 or more dwellings per acre should vary adjacent setbacks by at least 5 feet; lots at 2 dwellings per acre should vary adjacent setbacks by at least 10 feet; lots one acre or larger should vary adjacent setbacks by at least 20 feet. Minimum building setbacks may not be reduced to meet this guideline.

In order to review proposed setbacks, building pad locations should be indicated on grading plans submitted with

Tentative Maps, Tentative Parcel Maps, Site Plans and Major Use Permits pertaining to single family residential development.

- Buildings should not be sited on visually-prominent ridgelines when a choice of building pad location exists. Locate the building roofline below the ridgeline, as viewed from important off-site locations such as major public roads.

#### **A5. Planting Design for Hillsides**

##### **Common Areas.**

Common open spaces and landscaped areas maintained by a Homeowners Association are subject to review under this guideline. Provisions of the guideline are recommended for planting on single family lots not subject to Design Review.

- **Plant Selection.**

Plant materials should be selected for their effectiveness of erosion control, fire resistance and drought tolerance.

Hillside plant selection should consider neighbors' views and observe the following principles:

- Where views have been established, follow downhill alignment of taller trees.
- Use less dense, open trees that provide shade but do not block views.

- **Planting Techniques for Graded Slopes.**

Irregular plant spacing is encouraged to achieve a natural appearance on graded slopes. Plant trees along contour lines in undulating groups to create grove effects which blur the distinctive line of the graded slope. Shrubs of varying height may be planted between tree stands.

When possible, locate trees in swale areas to more closely reflect natural conditions and gather surface runoff for plant irrigation.

- **Transitional Slope Plantings in High Fire Hazard Areas.**

Transitional slopes may be used between the domestic plantings of new development and the native, flammable brush of undisturbed areas. The goal is to slow down the approaching fire within the transitional zone by reducing the fire's fuel supply. The following techniques may be used to accomplish this goal:

- (1.) Evaluate the plant materials existing within the transitional zone for fuel volume and health. Remove plants from this area which are of particularly high fuel volume: Common Buckwheat, California Sagebrush, Chamise, and Sage. Also remove any plants which are in poor health.
- (2.) Retain in thinned out groupings the following low fuel volume native plants: Manzanita, Ceanothus, Buckthorn, Sumac, Oaks, Toyon and Silk Tassel.
- (3.) Clean out all dead leaves and branches in this area annually. Bare dirt is a good fire break. Thin native plants by pruning to reduce their fuel volume.
- (4.) If water supplies permit, irrigate this zone monthly during the summer months to retain a high level of moisture in the plant leaves.
- (5.) Do not plant any trees other than oaks in this zone. Trees spread fire quickly.

- **Internal Slope Plantings.**

Internal slopes exist within a newly developed project. They do not blend into native areas, as do transitional slopes, and, therefore, may be planted with a different type of plant palette. The following principles are suggested for internal slopes:

- (1.) Establish gradient of new slope and determine erosion control requirements.
- (2.) Fulfill erosion control needs with water-conserving plant material.
- (3.) As a general rule, use water-conserving plant species.
- (4.) Arrange plants in naturalized patterns, rather than regimented rows.

## B. COMMUNITY RIGHT-OF-WAY STANDARDS

The County, through Supervisors Policy J-36, has established a process to permit individual communities to adapt County right-of-way design standards to local needs, provided the standards meet certain requirements for funding, maintenance, liability and safety.

Community standards can affect all items in the right-of-way except the travel lane widths, which are fixed County-wide. The design standards need to be developed with public participation and incorporated into the Community Plan.

The County's process for final adoption of community right-of-way standards requires cost estimates, public hearings, and notification of affected property owners.

Modification of County Right-of-Way Standards are proposed for the following land use categories of the Sweetwater Community Planning Area. This is a preliminary proposal that must follow the approval process outlined in Supervisor's Policy J-36 before final adoption.

### B1. Commercial, Multi-Family Residential and Institutional Development.

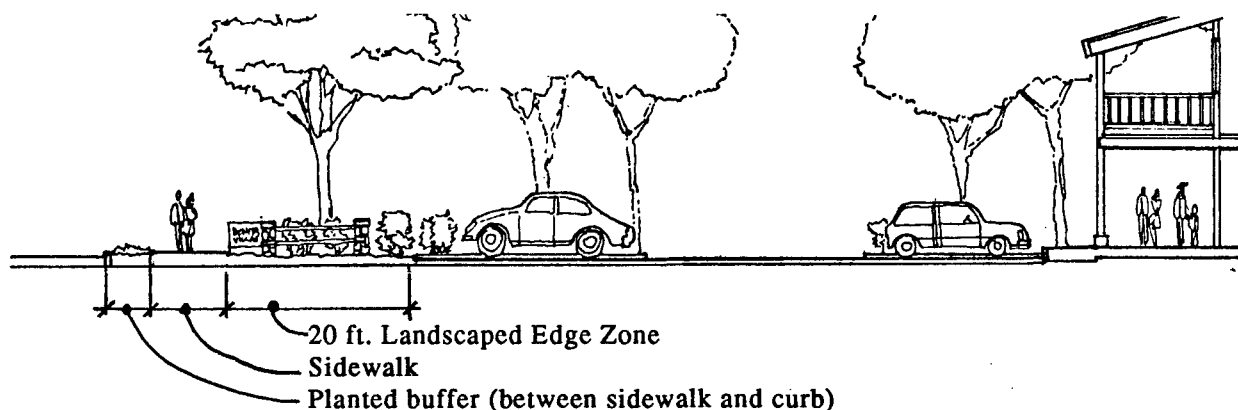
- The County standard should be modified to separate the curb from the sidewalk by a minimum 3 foot wide planting buffer. The buffer area should be planted with shrubs or ground covers with a mature height of two feet or less.

### B2. Scenic Roads

- Where public sidewalks and concrete curbs are required in developments along the Scenic Roads listed in Section III.C2.1, the sidewalk should be separated from the curb by a minimum 3 foot wide planting buffer of shrubs, ground covers, or decomposed granite.

### B3. Public Parks and Open Spaces

- At road edges along public parks and other public open spaces, avoid concrete curbs where feasible.
- Separate sidewalks and trails from the road edge with a planted buffer. The buffer should be as wide as possible after taking into consideration the size of the site and site activity requirements. Unless site conditions are restricted, the buffer area should have a minimum width of 10 feet.



Section Through Landscaped Road Edge

# Appendix A

## DESIGN REVIEW APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

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This section lists submittal requirements for all projects subject to Design Review. Eighteen copies of all drawings must be submitted. All copies must be folded to fit an 8-1/2" x 11" envelope, unless they are so thick they can only be rolled up.

Please make submittals as clear as possible and follow accepted conventions of drawings--all drawings clearly labeled, scales shown, north arrow on plans, clear and readable line work.

Proposals should not be presented open-ended with expectations of the staff or Design Review Board to make decisions.

Additional information, drawings or other materials necessary to describe the project may be requested by Department of Planning and Land Use staff or the Design Review Board depending on the nature of the project or site.

Also, depending on the project's nature, not all of the above requirements may be needed – the applicant should discuss proposed modifications with the Planning staff member assigned to Sweetwater Community Design Review.

The applicant may include additional information or materials such as sketches and models or photos if they help explain the proposal. Photos of the site and surrounding properties are always required. One set of photos should be provided to the County Department of Planning and Land Use with the Design Review Application. A second set of photos should be mounted on an illustration board and brought to the Design Review Board meeting.

### **PRELIMINARY REVIEW**

Development proposals that elect the optional step of Preliminary Review or a request for waiver may submit drawings or other materials appropriate to the nature of the project and extent of planning studies completed. In most cases, site design, location of buildings, grading, basic form and height of buildings and landscape concepts will be important. Building elevations, perspectives and other information may be presented, but kept in preliminary form.

### **SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:**

#### **A. SITE ANALYSIS (of existing site conditions).**

To enable evaluation of development proposals in relationship to existing conditions on the site, the following information must be presented on one or more drawings, accompanied by photographs and, if needed, written description.

1. Basic site information (locate on drawing): Site boundaries with dimensions; building setback lines and easements; existing streets, sidewalks and public rights-of-way; existing structures and other significant built improvements.

2. Existing natural features (locate on drawing):
  - Trees 6 inches or more in diameter. Note trunk size and species.
  - Topography. Existing contours at 2 foot intervals with areas of slope over 25% highlighted.
  - Patterns of surface drainage, including location of dry and running streams, gullies, washes and natural swales.
  - Location of flood zone: locate floodway and 100-year flood plain.
  - Rock outcroppings greater than 8 feet in diameter measured at the ground. Include spot elevations to help visualize the mass of the rock outcropping.
  - Locate other significant natural features which are either site amenities or potential hazards in development.
3. Photographs of the site and neighboring environment: Provide photographs of the existing site and site conditions on adjacent properties within 400 feet of all site boundaries (including buildings on adjacent sites). Include photos of views to and outlooks from the site. Clearly label each photograph.
4. Summary. A brief written synopsis should summarize:
  - Existing site amenities and assets.
  - Special problems and dangers. Site areas in need of special consideration or to be avoided due to such problems as poor soil, drainage, steep slope, high water table, flood plain location.
  - This synopsis may be noted on the Site Analysis drawing.

## **B. SITE PLAN**

1. Boundaries and public improvements.
  - Site boundaries, building setback lines, public streets and sidewalks (as proposed-include widths), other proposed public improvements (curbs, gutters, curb cuts).
  - Include dimensions.
2. Streets, sidewalks and parking areas within the site:
  - Include dimensions of parking areas and width of streets and sidewalks.
  - Show location and label materials of areas of special paving such as walkways, courtyards, patios, and arcades.
  - For parking areas show layout of spaces, areas of landscaping, dimensions of spaces and aisles, arrows indicating direction of flow. Number the parking spaces.
3. Structures.
  - Location and dimensions with respect to lot lines.
  - Include fences, walls and accessory buildings proposed. Give heights of fences and walls.
4. Show location of dumpsters and loading areas.
5. Grading and Drainage. This may be drawn on a separate plan at the option of the applicant. It should include:
  - Existing and proposed contours at 2 foot intervals.

- Finished floor elevations of proposed structures.
- Indication of all water courses, with spot elevations of high and low points.
- Area of depth of cuts. Location and height of fills.
- Show retaining walls and adjacent spot elevations.

### **C. LANDSCAPE PLAN.**

Show at same scale as Site Plan. This may be combined with the Site Plan (B) in the case of small projects.

1. Existing trees 6 inches or more in diameter with their proposed disposition (to be retained or removed). Give species and trunk diameter of each.
2. Location, species (give common and Latin name) and size (at planting - gallon or box size) of all new plant materials.
  - Use symbols and a legend as necessary. Show all plant materials to scale.
  - Ground cover may be indicated in mass.
3. Describe method of irrigation.
4. Describe means of erosion control, if applicable.

### **D. BUILDING FLOOR PLANS.**

### **E. BUILDING ELEVATIONS.** Show all elevations.

- Note all finish materials on drawings.
- Provide color samples (paint chips) or one color board at the Design Review session.
- Dimension building heights from finish grade.
- Include exterior walls and fences with heights dimensioned.
- Show locations and sizes of building-mounted signs in building elevations.
- Show location of mechanical equipment, roof equipment, electrical transformers and solar panels in building elevations. Show means of screening roof equipment.

### **F. SECTIONS.**

One sectional drawing is suggested at a suitable scale to show relationship of buildings to the site, public street and parking area. This item is optional.

### **G. SIGNS.**

Provide a scaled drawing of each proposed sign with exterior dimensions and mounting height called out. Give total area of each.

- a. Draw or provide sample of letters and logos, and the full message to appear on the sign.
- b. Describe materials and colors of background and letters.
- c. Give means of illumination and magnitude of illumination.



## **H. LIGHTING.**

Provide a sign lighting plan with location, type, fixture height, power rating and shielding methods indicated. Include security lighting. Show elevation drawing or manufacturer's photo of each fixture, including its material and color.

## **I. STATISTICAL SUMMARY.**

Provide a written summary:

- a. **Site areas.** Total area of site, area-covered by buildings, area covered by parking lots and driveways, net area of site landscaping. All in square feet.
- b. **Buildings.** Total enclosed building area. If a residential project give number of units and development density (units/acre).
- c. **Number of parking spaces required and proposed.**
- d. **This information may be noted on the Site Plan drawing.**

# APPENDIX B

## PLANT SELECTION GUIDE

The shrubs and trees listed within this Appendix are a reflection of the design goals stated in A6, "Landscape Character". They are listed by uses. Other shrubs and trees not listed here may also accomplish the desired goal and may be used.

To use this Appendix determine the use of the tree and find the appropriate heading. Please consult the Sunset Western Garden Book for additional information about each plant.

Presented first is a Shrub List. Nerium oleander has toxic foliage but is included in the Appendix because of its other excellent qualities. Its use is encouraged where toxic foliage will not present a hazard. Size considerations are important for shrubs; use low creeping varieties for ground covers; medium shrubs and large sized shrubs can be used for screening, accents, and spatial definition. All shrubs listed are considered low water user species. The Ribes and Rhus species have deciduous habits; all others are evergreen.

Please note the Lows Fuel Volume Shrubs for use in high fire hazard areas. All of these shrubs are low growing and can exist with little summer irrigation.

The second plant list is a Tree List which includes Low Fuel Volume Trees for use in high fire hazard areas.

### SHRUBS

#### 1. Shrubs for General Site Conditions

Calliandra species  
Powderpuff Plant

Ceanothus species  
California Lilac

Grevillea noelii  
NCN

Heteromeles arbutifolia  
Toyon

Lantana species  
NCN

Juniperus species  
Juniper

Mahonia species  
Oregon Grape

Melaleuca species  
Cajeput

Nerium oleander species  
Oleander

Ornamental Grasses  
Pittosporum species

Mock Orange  
Photinia species

NCN  
Pyracantha species

Firethorne  
Raphiolepis species

Hawthorne  
Ribes species

Currents  
Rhus species  
Lemonade Berry

## 2. Shrubs for Parking Lot Setback Conditions

Shrubs in this area are to provide screening of 30 inches in height.

Ceanothus species  
California Lilac  
Grevillea noelii  
NCN  
Lantana species  
NCN  
Juniperus species  
Juniper  
Mahonia species  
Oregon Grape

Nerium oleander, dwarfs  
Oleander  
Ornamental Grasses  
Pittosporum dwarfs  
Mock Orange  
Pyracantha species  
Firethorne  
Raphiolepis species  
Hawthorne

## 3. Shrubs for 6 foot Screening Conditions

Shrubs in this category may be used for service areas

Calliandra species  
Powderpuff Plant  
Ceanothus species  
California Lilac  
Heteromeles arbutifolia  
Toyon  
Juniperus species  
Juniper  
Melaleuca species  
Cajeput  
Nerium oleander species  
Oleander

Pittosporum species  
Mock Orange  
Photinia species  
NCN  
Pyracantha species  
Firethorne  
Raphiolepis species  
Hawthorne  
Ribes species  
Currents  
Rhus species  
Lemonade Berry

## 4. Floodplain shrubs

Continuation of native floodplain vegetation is desirable.

Coastal sage scrub  
Chamise chaparral  
Native grasses  
Coast barrel cactus  
Marsh elder  
Otay tar weed

## 5. Low Fuel Volume Shrubs for high fire hazard areas.

These shrubs may be used in other locations but are particularly suited to fire hazard areas.

Arctotheca calendula Cape Weed	Myoporum parvifolium Myoporum
Baccharis pilularis Prostrate Coyote Bush	Nerium oleander Oleander
Coprosma kirkii Creeping Coprosma	Pyracantha species Firethorne
Lippias canescens Lippia	Rhamnus alaternus Buckhorn
	Ribes species Currants, Gooseberries

## 6. Shrubs for Road Edges

These shrubs are recommended for planting within road rights of way and along the edges of scenic roads.

Calliandra species Powderpuff Plant	Melaleuca species Cajeput
Ceanothus species California Lilac	Nerium oleander species Oleander
Grevillea noelii NCN	Ornamental Grasses
Heteromeles arbutifolia Toyon	Pittosporum species Mock Orange
Lantana species NCN	Photinia species NCN
Juniperus species Juniper	Pyracantha species Firethorne
Mahonia species Oregon Grape	Raphiolepis species Hawthorne
	Ribes species Currants
	Rhus species Lemonade Berry

# TREES

## 1. General Site Locations

Trees in this section are appropriate for yards, setback areas and other site spaces.

### Flowering Trees

*Acacia decurrens*

Green Wattle

*Albizia julibrissin*

Silk Tree

*Arbutus unedo*

Strawberry Tree

*Bauhinia variegata*

Orchid Tree

*Brachychiton acerifolius*

Flame Tree

*Callistemon species*

Bottlebrush

*Calodendron capense*

Cape Chestnut

*Cassia leptophylla*

Gold medallion Tree

*Ceanothus "Ray Hartman"*

California Lilac

*Eucalyptus ficifolia*

Red Flowering Gum

*Jacaranda acutifolia*

Jacaranda

*Koelreuteria species*

Rain Tree

*Pyrus calleryana 'Bradford'*

Bradford Pear

*Robinia pseudoacacia*

Locust

### Evergreen and Deciduous Trees

*Agonis flexuosa*

Peppermint Tree

*Cinnamomum camphora*

Camphor Tree

*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Red Gum

*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*

Sugar Gum

*Eucalyptus citriodora*

Lemon Gum

*Eucalyptus lehmanii*

Bushy Yate

*Geijera parviflora*

Australian Willow

*Ginkgo biloba*

Maidenhair Tree

*Olea europaea*

Olive Tree

*Pistache chinensis*

Pistache Tree

*Platanus acerifolia*

Plane Tree

*Quercus agrifolia*

Coastal Live oak

*Rhus lancea (males)*

African Sumac

*Schinus molle*

California Pepper

*Schinus terebinthefolia*

Brazilian Pepper

*Ulmus parviflora*

Evergreen Elm

## 2. Constrained Planting Areas

The following trees can be used in courtyards and constrained spaces.

<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> Lemon Gum	<i>Podocarpus macrophylla</i> Yew Pine
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i> Rosea Pink Ironbark	<i>Prunus caroliniana</i> Cherry Laurel
<i>Hymenosporum flavum</i> Sweetshade	<i>Pyrus calleryana</i> 'Bradford' Bradford Pear
<i>Melaleuca leucadendron</i> Cajeput Tree	<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> 'Fastigiata' Locust

## 3. Parking Lot Trees

These trees may be planted in the perimeter and interior locations of parking and service areas.

<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i> Victorian Box	<i>Tipuana tipu</i> Tipu Tree
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> Plane Tree	<i>Tristania conferta</i> Brisbane Box
<i>Podocarpus elongata</i>	

## 4. Street Trees

Trees which are planted close to the street-bordering property line and are characteristic of existing trees bordering Sweetwater's roads.

<i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i> Lemon-Scented Gum	<i>Pinus halepensis</i> Allepo Pine
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> Red Gum	<i>Pinus canariensis</i> Canary Island Pine
<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i> Sugar Gum	<i>Schinus molle</i> California Pepper
<i>Platanus acerifolia</i> Plane Tree	<i>Ulmus parviflora</i> Evergreen Elm

## 5. Floodplain Trees

Trees should be located along the banks of streams, rivers and creeks. The rest of the floodplain is natively grasses and shrubs.

<i>Platanus racemosa</i> California sycamore	<i>Salix species</i> Willow
<i>Populus species</i> Cottonwood	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> Coastal Live Oak

## 6. Fire Retardant Trees

These trees can be planted sparsely on hillsides in fire hazard areas.

Arbutus unedo  
Strawberry Tree  
Ceratonia siliqua  
Carob Tree  
Cercis occidentalis  
Redbud Tree  
Feijoa sellowiana  
Pineapple Guava

Myoporum species  
Myropoprum  
Pittosporum species  
Pittosporum  
Prunus species  
Evergreen Cherry  
Schinus terebinthefolia  
Brazillian Pepper

## 7. Scenic Roads

Trees planted along these roads reinforce the existing varieties.

### Sweetwater Road

Eucalyptus citriodora  
Lemon-Scented Gum  
Eucalyptus camaldulensis  
Red Gum  
Eucalyptus cladocalyx  
Sugar Gum  
Platanus acerifolia  
Plane Tree

Pinus halepensis  
Allepo Pine  
Pinus canariensis  
Canary Island Pine  
Schinus molle  
California Pepper  
Ulmus parviflora  
Evergreen Elm

### Bonita Road

Eucalyptus citriodora  
Lemon-Scented Gum  
Eucalyptus camaldulensis  
Red Gum  
Eucalyptus cladocalyx  
Sugar Gum  
Platanus acerifolia  
Plane Tree  
Pinus halepensis  
Allepo Pine

Pinus canariensis  
Canary Island Pine  
Schinus molle  
California Pepper  
Ulmus parviflora  
Evergreen Elm  
Washingtonia robusta  
Mexican Fan Palm