# CITY OF <br> ANTI@CH <br> CALIFORNIA 

# STAFF REPORT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION 

DATE: Regular Meeting of December 15, 2021
SUBMITTED BY: Zoe Merideth, Senior Planner $\mathcal{M}$
APPROVED BY: Forrest Ebbs, Community Development Director 惯 for 柜
SUBJECT: Laurel Ranch Use Permit and Landscaping Design Review (UP-2115, AR-21-13)

## RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is recommended that the Planning Commission take the following action:

1. Adopt the resolution approving a Use Permit and Design Review for the Laurel Ranch project.

## DISCUSSION

## Requested Approvals

The Applicant, KB Home, requests approval of a Use Permit and Design Review for project landscaping, sound walls, minor revisions to the previously approved Stormwater Control Plan, and associated project improvements for the Laurel Ranch residential project at 2941 Neroly Road (APN: 053-060-051).

## Environmental

On May 28, 1996, the City Council certified the Future Urban Area \#2 (East Lone Tree) Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the significant and unavoidable impact related to regional air quality. The Laurel Ranch residential project area is included in the geographic area of the EIR. Pursuant to the City procedures and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Addendum to the Future Urban Area \#2 (East Lone Tree) Specific Plan EIR was prepared for the Laurel Ranch residential project in 2016. The Addendum determined all environmental impacts could be mitigated to less-than-significant levels through project compliance with appropriate mitigation measures with the exception of the project's impact on air quality. The City Council adopted the Addendum and reaffirmed the

Agenda Item \#

Statement of Overriding Considerations on September 13, 2016. The proposed Design Review and Use Permit request is consistent with the project analyzed in the Addendum; therefore, no further environmental review is required.

## Background

In 2016, the City Council approved a Planned Development rezone to PD-15-03, a Vesting Tentative Map/Final Development Plan, and a Development Agreement for the Laurel Ranch residential project. The project approvals allowed for the development of 180 singe family homes and associated improvements, including parks and open space parcels, on a portion of a 54 -acre parcel. The development includes two single family detached neighborhoods: Conventional and Private Lane. The Conventional neighborhood consists of 88 dwelling units and is proposed to have a minimum lot size of 4,000 square feet. The Private Lane neighborhood consists of 92 dwelling units arranged in six-unit groupings. Each lot fronts onto a short private lane that takes access from the public streets. A minimum lot size of 2,580 square feet is proposed, providing each home with an individual driveway, and private side and rear yards for personal use. The original applicant was not the current home builder. Therefore, project specific Design Review Guidelines were adopted for the project.


## ANALYSIS

## Project Overview

The applicant is currently requesting Design Review for the project landscaping, sound walls, minor revisions to the previously approved Stormwater Control Plan, and
associated project improvements. The 2016 project approvals require the architecture, sound walls, mailboxes, lighting, any accent paving, addressing, and landscaping for the entire project to be subject to design review and approval by the Planning Commission. Currently, the applicant is not requesting project architecture or review of the parks, which would come back to the Planning Commission at a future time. The applicant is also requesting a Use Permit for the project. The Antioch Municipal Code § 9-5.2307 requires a use permit prior to the construction of any phase of an approved P-D District. The intent of the use permit is to further clarify the details of the development phase being considered and to ensure that each component complies with the established provisions of the district. Use permit approval is also required prior to final map recordation for all Planned Development projects. The requirement to obtain a use permit is also required in the 2016 project approvals.

## Landscaping, Entry Design, Cluster Mailboxes

The 2016 approvals included the approval of project specific design guidelines that include architectural development standards and landscaping guidelines. The landscaping guidelines include street trees, plant materials, and entrance designs. Currently, the applicant is proposing street trees, open space and green space landscaping, and the project entry design and landscaping. The front yard landscaping has not yet been submitted and will be required to be reviewed along with the home architecture.

The 2016 project approvals' conditions of approval require a minimum of one 15-gallon tree to be located within 10 feet of the sidewalk in the front yard of each Conventional home and Private Lane home. The applicant has provided a street tree for each home and includes a mix of trees including raywood ash and Chinese hackberry, which are included in the project's design guidelines' plant palette.

The applicant is proposing a mix of plants for the project's open space and green space areas. The project features sloped open space areas at the northern and eastern side of the project boundaries. The eastern side of the project borders State Route 4. The applicant has proposed a mix of coast live oaks and valley oaks in these open space areas. The rest of the area will be hydroseeded with a native seed mix. This mix of trees and hydroseeding is consistent with the treatment of other steep open space areas in residential developments.

The applicant is proposing to turn lot 48 into a passive green space for residents. The reasons for this change are discussed below in the "Minor Changes to the Final Development Plan" section of the report. The area features a central open space of turf with a concrete walk and park bench. The permitter of the open space is heavily planted with a mix of flowering trees including a Chinese hackberry, which is included in the project specific design guidelines' plant palette. The shrub palette includes plants from the design guidelines' plant palette including coyote bush, rosemary and other shrubs including dwarf bottlebrush. Staff is supportive of the dense perimeter planting because it buffers the surrounding residential lots from residents enjoying the green space.

Not included in this application are the designs of the Parcel A and Parcel B parks. The 2016 conditions of approval require the designs of these parks to first be approved at the Parks and Recreation Commission, prior to the Planning Commission approving the parks. The park designs are included in the project plans for reference, but are not being reviewed or approved at this hearing. The park designs will be heard at a subsequent Planning Commission hearing after the Parks and Recreation Commission has approved them.

The proposed entry design features a yellowish-beige and brown stone wall with a pilaster at the end of the wall featuring a light fixture. The wall will feature the name "Laurel Ranch" in an inset panel with bronze lettering. The entry design will be mirrored on both sides of the project entrance on 'A' Street at Laurel Road. The entry landscaping features a landscape parkway strip with trees and low shrubs on either side of 'A' Street with a landscaped median with trees and shrubs in the center of the street. The proposed plant palette includes crape myrtle and valley oak trees and waxleaf privet and New Zealand flax shrubs. The proposed entry design is consistent with the previously approved project design guidelines and includes many trees found in the project's plant palette. The 2016 project approvals contain conditions of approval that the project shall maintain the required sight distance triangles. These conditions of approval are applicable to the entry feature and ensure that the entry feature does not pose a safety hazard to motorists and pedestrians.

The applicant has provided plans for the cluster mailboxes, as required by the 2016 project approvals. The cluster mailboxes are proposed to be standard cluster mailboxes in a black color.

## Fencing and Sound Walls

The design review request also includes a review of the project's fencing and sound walls and retaining walls. The 2016 approvals include a condition of approval requiring "All fencing adjacent to the open space areas be wrought iron, black vinyl clad chain link, masonry, or other material as approved by the City Engineer. To meet this requirement, the applicant has proposed a six-foot-tall wood view fence with wood posts and stringers with galvanized wire mesh. Other rear and side yard fencing is proposed to be standard six-foot wood fencing or wood fencing on top of a retaining wall, where required.

The applicant has proposed black vinyl clad chain link fencing around the bioretention areas, which is consistent with the approved project specific design guidelines.

The applicant has also proposed masonry sound and retaining walls. The 2016 approvals for the project require the developer to construct eight-foot-tall masonry sound walls along the Laurel Road property line and 10-foot-tall masonry sound walls along the eastern and northern property lines adjacent to State Route 4. The project Addendum included an acoustical analysis that required the walls to be 10 feet tall to meet the General Plan noise requirements. The applicant has proposed split face CMU walls in a light brown-beige color. The proposed walls also feature pilaster columns set 12 feet apart, on center. The
proposed pilasters provide relief from a monotonous wall and are required in the City's Citywide Design Guidelines. Based on the project's 2016 conditions of approval and the Citywide Design Guidelines, staff is satisfied with the design of the CMU walls.

## Street Names

The 2016 project approvals include a condition of approval requiring the proposed street names to be approved by the Planning Commission prior to the recordation of the project's final map. The applicant has proposed a theme for the subdivision with historic Antioch names. The street names were reviewed and approved by agencies including the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the Antioch Police Department, as is typical. An exhibit with the street names is included as Attachment D.

## Minor Changes to the Final Development Plan

The 2016 project approvals included a stormwater control plan that the applicant is requesting to modify slightly. The original stormwater control plan included bioretention areas to the south of Laurel Ranch on a standalone parcel. Other bioretention areas included the area south of open space parcel $D$ and directly to the north of the homes on 'A' Lane. Finally, the original plans included bioretention areas on the eastern boundary of the project, next to State Route 4 and directly north of Laurel Road. Subsequently, the applicant was able to redesign the stormwater control plan to reduce the needed bioretention areas in the project site. Notably, this includes using parcel H as a future bioretention site for possible commercial development, eliminating the bioretention area behind the homes on 'A' Lane, and slightly reconfiguring the area next to State Route 4. These changes have been reviewed by the Engineering Division. Staff is supportive of these changes because it removes a bioretention area behind future homes and replaces it with landscaping, which reduces potential maintenance issues and increases the project's open space and landscaping area. Minor revisions to the Final Development Plans are allowed when the changes are consistent with the intent of the original approval. Staff recommends approval of this minor change.

The applicant has also proposed to remove the home from lot 48 and replace it with a passive green space. The applicant is requesting this change because a dry gas well that was never active was located on the lot. There are no land use restrictions, locally or at a State level, that would prohibit the use of this parcel for residential uses. The applicant has chosen to propose the change. Staff is supportive of this minor change because it is consistent with the project approvals allowing up to 180 units and creating a residential development with homes, open spaces, and parks. Staff recommends approval of this minor change as well.

## ATTACHMENTS

A. Design Review and Use Permit Resolution
B. Project Plans
C. Project Description
D. Street Name Exhibit

## ATTACHMENT A

## Design Review and Use Permit Resolution

## PLANNING COMMISSION

 RESOLUTION NO. 2021-**
## RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ANTIOCH APPROVING THE USE PERMIT AND DESIGN REVIEW APPLICATION FOR THE COMMON LANDSCAPING, SOUND WALLS, AND MINOR REVISIONS TO THE FINAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT THE LAUREL RANCH SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the City of Antioch did receive a request for approval of a use permit and design review application (UP-21-15, AR-21-13) from KB Home for the project landscaping, sound walls, minor revisions to the previously approved Final Development Plan, and associated project improvements for the Laurel Ranch residential project located at 3941 Neroly Road (APN: 053-060-051);

WHEREAS, the City prepared an addendum to the Future Urban Area \#2 (East Lone Tree) Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Laurel Ranch project, which was approved in 2016. The Future Urban Area \#2 (East Lone Tree) Specific Plan EIR Statement of Overriding Considerations was reaffirmed by the Antioch City Council on September 13, 2016. The proposed project is consistent with the 2016 approvals; therefore, further environmental review is not required; and

Whereas, the City Council adopted a Development Agreement for the project between the City of Antioch and Richland Planned Communities, Inc. on September 27, 2016.

WHEREAS, the adopted Development Agreement between the City of Antioch and Richland Planned Communities Inc. was recorded by the Contra Costa County Recorder's Office on February 7, 2017;

WHEREAS, the City Council approved a Rezone of the project site to Planned Development District (PD-15-03) on September 27, 2016;

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the Vesting Tentative Map/Final Development Plan consisting of 180 residential units, open space, neighborhood parks, and related improvements on September 13, 2016;

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission duly gave notice of public hearing as required by law; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission on December 15, 2021, duly held a public hearing, received and considered evidence, both oral and documentary;

NOW THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Planning Commission does hereby make the following findings for approval of a Use Permit:

1. The granting of such Use Permit will not be detrimental to the public health or welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in such zone or vicinity.

The use permit will not be detrimental to the public health or welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in such zone or vicinity because the property is zoned to allow residential uses and is consistent with the previously approved Final Development Plan. The subdivision will construct necessary infrastructure to serve the City of Antioch and future development.
2. The use applied at the location indicated is properly one for which a Use Permit is authorized.

This is an approved residential planned development. A Use Permit is required prior to the construction of any phase of an approved P-D District per Antioch Municipal Code Section 9-5.2307.
3. The site for the proposed use is adequate in size and shape to accommodate such use, and all parking, and other features required.

The proposed subdivision is adequate in size to accommodate the proposed landscaping, improvements, and residential uses.
4. That the site abuts streets and highways adequate in width and pavement type to carry the kind of traffic generated by the proposed use.

The project is located at the terminus of Laurel Road and the Laurel Road extension is currently under construction and will serve the project. The project's streets are designed to meet City Standards for adequate width and pavement.
5. The granting of such Use Permit will not adversely affect the comprehensive General Plan.

The granting of the Use Permit will not adversely affect the General Plan as the proposed residential development is consistent with the General Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission of the City of Antioch does hereby APPROVE the use permit and design review application (UP-2115, AR-21-13) from KB Home for the project landscaping, sound walls, minor revisions to the previously approved Final Development Plan, and associated project improvements for the Laurel Ranch residential project located at 3941 Neroly Road (APN: 053-060-051) subject to the following conditions:

## A. GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. The applicant shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City in any action brought by a third party to challenge the land use entitlement. In addition, if there is any referendum or other election action to contest or overturn these approvals, the applicant shall either withdraw the application or pay all City costs for such an election.
2. The project shall be implemented as indicated on the application form and accompanying materials provided to the City and in compliance with the Antioch Municipal Code, or as amended by the Planning Commission.
3. No building permit will be issued unless the plan conforms to the plans as approved by the Planning Commission and the standards of the City.
4. This approval expires two years from the date of approval (expires December 15, 2023), unless a building permit has been issued and construction has diligently commenced thereon and has not expired, or an extension has been approved by the Zoning Administrator. Requests for extensions must be received in writing with the appropriate fees prior to the expiration of this approval. No more than one oneyear extension shall be granted.
5. No permits or approvals, whether discretionary or mandatory, shall be considered if the applicant is not current on fees, reimbursement payments, and any other payments that are due.
6. No signs shall be installed on this site without prior City approval.
B. PROJECT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS
7. The use permit and design review approval applies to the project landscaping, sound walls, minor revisions to the previously approved Final Development Plan, and associated project improvements for the Laurel Ranch residential project as depicted on the following project documents submitted to the Community Development Department:
a. Project plans, including project landscaping plans and colors and materials sheets, dated received October 15, 2021, with the exception of the park plans.
b. Stormwater Control Plan dated updated July 14, 2021 and dated received on July 23, 2021.
c. Street Name Exhibit dated received December 2, 2021.
8. This development shall comply with all the obligations and requirements included in the adopted Development Agreement between the City of Antioch and Richland, which was recorded by the Contra Costa County Recorder's Office on February 7, 2017.
9. This development shall comply with all previous project conditions of approval and mitigation measures adopted for the Laurel Ranch Project, including those found in the following adopted City Council resolutions:
a. Resolution adopting an addendum to the FUA\#2 (East Lone Tree) Specific Plan Environmental Impact Report and reaffirming the statement of overriding considerations (Resolution 2016/94);
b. Ordinance rezoning the property to Planned Development District (PD-15-03) (Ordinance 2116-C-S); and
c. Resolution approving a Vesting Tentative Map/Final Development Plan for the Laurel Ranch Project (Resolution 2016/95).
10. The applicant shall submit final landscape plans that identify specific plant materials to be used, including all shrubs and groundcover, providing both common and botanical names, sizes and quantities when submitting for building permits.
11. Landscaping for the project shall be designed to comply with the City of Antioch Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO). Prior to issuance of a building permit, the developer shall demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements of the WELO in the landscape and irrigation plans submitted to the City.
12. The street names in the development shall be as follows and as shown on the street name exhibit dated received on December 2, 2021. Changes to street names shall require Planning Commission review and approval.

- Laurel Road (Existing)
- Marina Lane ('A’ Street)
- Los Meganos Lane ('A' Lane and 'C' Lane")
- Riverview Lane ('B' Lane, 'D’ Place, and 'E’ Place, 'F' Place)
- Ranch Lane ('D' Lane)
- Shoreline Lane ('G’ Place)
- Ranch Place (Unnamed court off 'D' Lane)
- Copper Place (Alley)
- Rivertown Place (Alley)
- Pier Landing Place (Alley)
- Coal Hill Place (Alley)
- Watershed Place (Alley)
- Marsh Place (Alley)
- Butler Place (Alley)
- Abbott Place (Alley)
- Union Place (Alley)
- Empire Place (Alley)
- Marsh Creek Place (Alley)
- Sand Dune Place (Alley)
- El Campanil Place (Alley)
- Bridge Place (Alley)
- Coal Mine Place (Alley)
- Primrose Place (Alley)
- Union Place (Alley)

I HEREBY CERTIFY the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Planning Commission of the City of Antioch at a regular meeting thereof held on the 15th day of December 2021.

## AYES:

## NOES:

## ABSTAIN:

## ABSENT:

# ATTACHMENT B 

## Project Plans




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## FOR REFERENCE ONLY




B6






B9





B11





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EXHIBIT
COLOR
Masonry Wall \＆Fences
CMU WALL

SPLIT FACE

PLLASTER CAP TO BE STONE
TRANSITONS 20＂SQ．DUPONT
TRANSITIONS 20＂SQ．DUPONT

WALL CAP TO BE STONE
TRANSITIONS I2 WIDE EASED
EDGE FLAT WALL CAP． COLOR TO BE SAND

Sand
CHAIN LINK FENCE

COLOR TO BE BLACK VINYL CLAD

CAPS

B14
M4
SPEL

## ATTACHMENT C

## Project Description

# City of Antioch, Planning Department 

Zoe Merideth, Associate Planner
PO Box 5007
Antioch, CA 94531-5007

## Reference: Laurel Ranch - Tract 8741 <br> Project Description:

Regional and micro-climate conditions, solar orientation and soil conditions will be taken into account with regards to plant selection and placement. The plant palette provides many plants with varying growth habits, preferences and tolerances, so selection of just the right plant should not be difficult. A high percentage of plants selected will be drought tolerant and appropriate for the climate. This palette, along with a drip irrigation system will conserve water within the project. By specifying plants which require little to no pruning, the green waste will be reduced. Plants selected will complement the architecture. Entryways and picture windows will be framed by specimen shrubs and nodes will have accent plantings. Plant species which enhance the architectural elevations shall be used. A diverse use of plant species will display various textures, forms, foliage color, and flowers; will create a beautiful landscape to contribute aesthetically to the surrounding neighborhoods. The trees have been selected to have non-invasive root systems, and placed with adequate setbacks to ensure no conflict with utilities and hardscape, or conflict with any site line distances. Root barriers will be installed on all trees near paving and utilities. Where feasible, trees have been placed to mitigate solid building surfaces and fences. Taller shrubs will also be located at solid building surfaces and fences, while lower shrubs will be located where ground level windows and architectural features occur, and at corners to maintain site line distances. Leading into the main entrance of the project site will have monumentation flanking the entry street with the project name and a split-face masonry wall will line the perimeter along Laurel Road and eastern portion facing Highway 4 to reduce the noise pollution The project features a community park space that enhances circulation by providing opportunities for adults and children to traverse throughout the park. Play equipment and seating provide a family friendly space that allows its users to enjoy the outdoors. A
 passive green space with benches can be used by the community to meditate and enjoy the outdoors, while a trail staging area that connects to the adjacent future trail will provide pet waste stations to allow pet lovers to take their fury friends on trail walks. The irrigation system will use weather-based controllers to conserve the use of water. Spray irrigation will only occur at turf areas, and spray heads with low precipitation rates will be used to minimize runoff, erosion and overspray. The balance of the planting areas will be irrigated using drip irrigation methods. The trees will be on separate valves and will be irrigated with bubblers. Shrubs will be hydrozoned according to their water requirements and microclimates.

I can be reached with questions or further comments by phone at (925) 938-7377, or by email at Annika@RipleyDesign.com.

Respectfully,


Annika Carpenter
Vice President

# ATTACHMENT D 

## Street Name Exhibit

KB HOME



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    PILASTER COLOR TO BE 336
    SPLIT FACE STANDARD－
    MEDIUM／NORMAL WEIGHT
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