

## County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

## Planning Commission Staff Report Agenda Item No. 2 April 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Variance Application No. 4100

DESCRIPTION: Allow the reduction side-yard setback to 8-feet (20-feet required) in

the AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone

District.

LOCATION: The subject parcel is located on the east side of Peach Avenue,

approximately 560-feet south of the intersection of Peach Avenue and North Avenue. (APN: 331-080-42S) (3102 S. Peach Avenue,

Fresno, CA 93725)

OWNER/

APPLICANT: Anselma Botello

STAFF CONTACT: Ethan Davis, Planner

(559) 600-9669

David Randall, Senior Planner

(559) 600-4052

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

- Deny Variance Application No. 4100; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action.

#### **EXHIBITS:**

- 1. Conditions of Approval and Project Notes
- 2. Location Map
- 3. Existing Zoning Map
- 4. Existing Land Use Map
- 5. Site Plans and Detail Drawings

#### SITE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION:

Criteria	Existing	Proposed
General Plan Designation	Industrial	No Change
Zoning	AL-20 (Limited Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size)	No Change
Parcel Size	1.86-acres	No Change
Structural Improvements	Single Family Residence	Change to existing Residence
Nearest Residence	Approximately 170 feet	Approximately 170 feet
Operational Features	Single Family residence	No Change

#### EXISTING VIOLATION (Y/N) AND NATURE OF VIOLATION: N

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

It has been determined pursuant to Section 15061(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment and is not subject to CEQA.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Notices were sent to 36 property owners within 1320 feet of the subject parcel, exceeding the minimum notification requirements prescribed by the California Government Code and County Zoning Ordinance.

There was no public correspondence received.

#### PROCEDURAL CONSIDERATIONS:

A Variance may be approved only if four Findings specified in the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, Section 873-F are made by the Planning Commission.

The decision of the Planning Commission on a Variance Application is final, unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors within 15 days of the Commission's action.

#### Findings 1:

There are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved which do not apply generally to other property in the vicinity having the identical zoning classification; and

	Current Standard:	Proposed Operation:	Is Standard Met (y/n)
Setbacks	Front: 50-feet	Front: 50 feet	N
	Side: 15-feet	Side: 8'-6"-feet	

	Current Standard:	Proposed Operation:	Is Standard Met (y/n)
	Rear: 20-feet	Rear: 20-feet	
Parking	One covered parking space	No Change	Y
Lot Coverage	30% lot coverage	No Change	Y
Space Between Buildings	6-feet	N/A	Y
Wall Requirements	6-feet	No Change	Y
Septic Replacement Area	Septic	N/A	Y
Water Well Separation	Private Well	N/A	Υ

#### **Reviewing Agency/Department Comments Finding 1:**

There were no comments from reviewing agencies or County Departments regarding the project other than advisory statements about required regulations that have been noted under the Projects Notes section of Exhibit 1.

#### Finding 1 Analysis:

In support of Finding 1, the Applicant states that the home was built close to the northern portion of the property to provide adequate distancing from the surrounding businesses in the area. The carport that is within the setback is used for housing equipment that is used to maintain the property and does not cause any harm to the surrounding uses. According to the applicant the property can't be sold while the violation exists. The variance is to abate that violation so the applicant can sell their property. They have stated they are at an age where they are no longer able to maintain the property.

A consideration in addressing Variance applications is whether there are alternatives available that would avoid the need for the Variances. Alternatives for the carport would be demolishing said addition and removing it from the setback and construct covered parking, needed to comply with the ordinance, on the eastern or southern portion of the home.

There is not anything exceptional or extraordinary about the property that does not generally apply to other properties in the area.

#### **Recommended Conditions of Approval:**

None

#### **Conclusion Finding 1:**

Based on the above analysis that the situation is not exceptional or extraordinary, Finding 1 cannot be made.

#### Finding 2:

Such Variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of a substantial property right of the applicant, which right is possessed by other property owners under like conditions in the vicinity having the identical zoning classification.

#### **Reviewing Agency/Department Comments Finding 2:**

There were no comments from reviewing agencies or County Departments regarding the project other than advisory statements about required regulations that have been noted under the Projects Notes section of Exhibit 1.

#### **Analysis Finding 2:**

In support of Finding 2, the Applicant states that in order for the residence to be conductive, the residence must be as far north as possible to avoid the trucking operation on the adjacent parcel to the south. The carport within the setback is used to cover the equipment that is required to maintain the property. Additionally, the owner is looking to sell the property as she is at an age where she is unable to manage the property, fixing the violation would allow her to sell the property.

In regard to Finding 2, staff does agree that positioning the carport within the setback is a substantial property right possessed by other properties with the same zoning in the area. The carport could be located in various other locations not within the setback.

#### **Recommended Conditions of Approval:**

None

#### **Conclusion Finding 2:**

Based on the above analysis, the situation does not involve a property right enjoyed by other properties in the area, Finding 2 cannot be made.

<u>Finding 3</u>: That the proposed use will have no adverse effect on abutting property and

surrounding neighborhood or the permitted use thereof

#### **Reviewing Agency/Department Comments:**

There were no other comments from reviewing agencies or County Departments regarding the project other than advisory statements about required regulations that have been noted under the Projects Notes section of Exhibit 1.

#### **Analysis Finding 3:**

In support of Finding 3, the Applicant states that the carport has existed for over a decade and has not been materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property and improvement in the vicinity which the property is located.

In analyzing this proposal. Staff considered the intent of restrictions of yard setbacks. A primary purpose of the setback standard is to protect the aesthetic character of an area by providing an offset of structures from the adjacent properties. Given the built environment and mature

landscaping surrounding the neighborhood, the proposed Variance would not adversely impact the neighborhood.

#### **Recommended Conditions of Approval:**

None.

#### **Conclusion Finding 3:**

Staff believes that there will be no significant adverse impacts on neighboring properties, Finding 3 can be made.

**<u>Finding 4:</u>** That the proposed development is consistent with the General Plan

#### **Reviewing Agency Comments Finding 4:**

The Policy Planning Section of Public Works and Planning determined there are no General Plan issues with the existing carport within the required side-yard setback. The property is within the Roosevelt Community plan and is designated as General Industrial, future uses in the area may impact the residential use of the property.

No other comments specific to General Plan Policy were expressed by reviewing agencies or County Departments.

#### **Analysis Finding 4:**

In support of Finding 4, the Applicant states that the proposed addition is not contrary to the objectives of the Fresno County General Plan. The Applicant states that the granting of this Variance would be in accordance with the objectives of the General Plan.

Staff notes that there are no General Plan policies specifically pertinent to the proposed reduction in setback requirement.

#### **Recommended Conditions of Approval:**

None.

#### **Conclusion Finding 4:**

As the General Plan does not address side-yard setbacks, Finding 4 can be made.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

#### **SUMMARY CONCLUSION:**

As the requested Variance is not a unique situation and a substantial property right that has been afforded to other properties in the area, staff believes Findings 1 and 2 cannot be made and recommends denial of Variance No. 4100.

#### **PLANNING COMMISSION MOTIONS:**

#### **Recommended Motion** (Denial Action)

- Move to determine that the required Findings cannot be made (as stipulated by Staff) and move to deny Variance Application No. 4100; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action

#### **<u>Alternative Motion</u>** (Approval Action)

- Move to determine the required Findings can be made (state basis for making the findings) and move to approve Variance Application No. 4100, subject to the Conditions of Approval listed in Exhibit 1; and
- Direct the Secretary to prepare a Resolution documenting the Commission's action

#### **Recommended Conditions of Approval and Project Notes:**

See attached Exhibit 1.

ED:im

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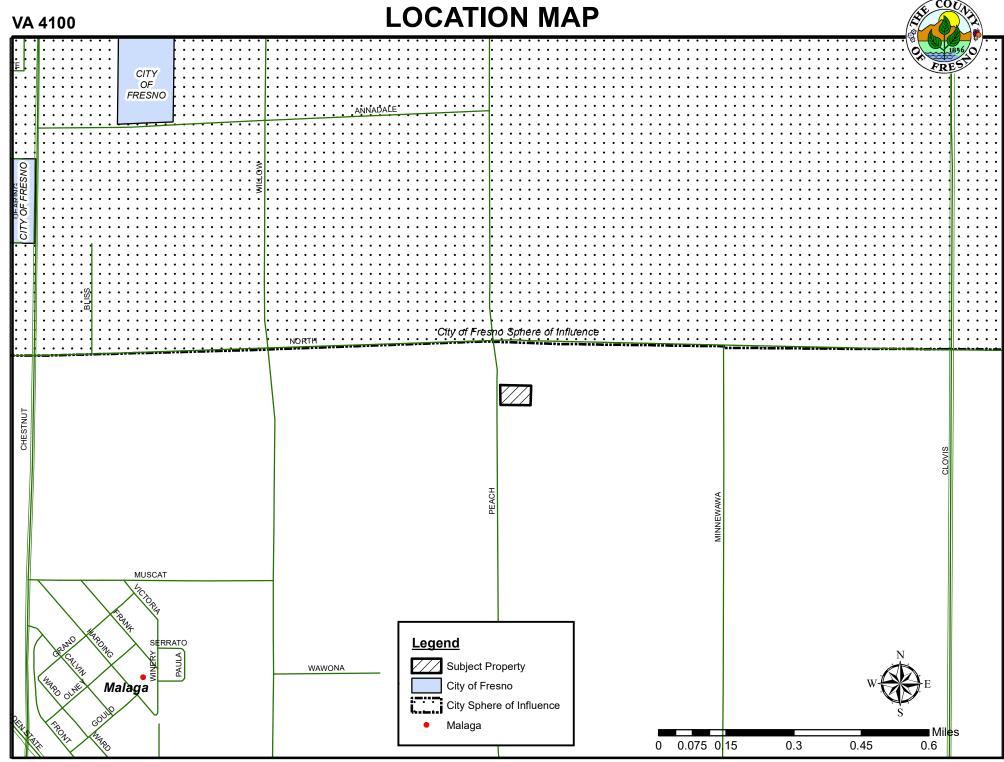
# Variance Application No. 4100 (Including Conditions of Approval and Project Notes)

	Conditions of Approval		
1.	Development shall be in accordance with the site plan as approved by the Planning Commission.		
2.	Plans, permits and inspections will be required to remedy the violation.		

	Notes			
7	The following Notes reference mandatory requirements of Fresno County or other Agencies and are provided as information to the project Applicant.			
3	Development will be subject to the requirements of the current Fire Code and Building Code when a building permit or certificate of occupancy is sought.			

#### ED:

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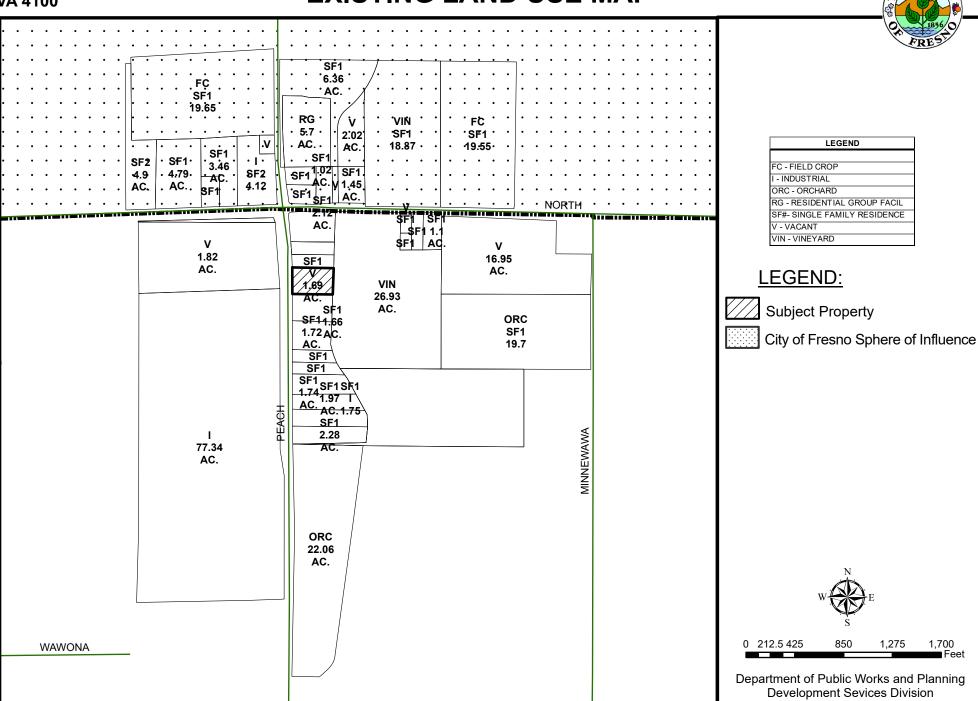


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#### **VA 4100**

### **EXISTING LAND USE MAP**



2014 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE

3102 S PEACH AVE

1.3

1.888

110 MPH

NO

EXPOSURE "C"

CLASS 'D'

36.569942

FA

FY

SDC D

1500 PSF

2500 PSI)

10 PSF

20 PSF

27 DEGREES

NO

1500

58 DEGREES

SLAB ON GRADE

110 MPH

NEG.

119.620914

DATE:

9/18/2020

SCALE:

SHEET:

SITE PLAN

1" = 30' 0" SCALE

AMENDED BY THE DESIGNER AND SUBMITTED TO THE CITY FOR REVIEW AND

3. THE CONSTRUCTION WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN MUST FINALIZED PRIOR TO CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY.

TRUCK PARKING ( P LJ TRUCK PARK ) Nahal Brothers Farm RAV TRANSPORT

SPEED MPH

TOPO EFFECTS

MEATHERING

TERMITES

VICINITY MAP

THESE DRAWING ARE THE PROPRIETARY WORK PRODUCT AND PROPERTY OF (FELIPE GAUILAR). DEVELOPED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF (FELIPE AGUILAR) USE OF THESE DRAWINGS AND CONCEPTS CONTAIN THEREIN WITHOUT THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF (FELIPE GAUILAR) IS PROHIBITED AND MAY SUBJECT YOU FOR A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES FROM FELIPE AGUILAR

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE THESE PLANS ARE DRAWN TO COMPLY WITH OWNER'S AND/OR BUILDERS SPECIFICATIONS AND ANY CHANGES MADE ON THEM AFTER PRINTS ARE MADE WILL BE DONE AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE AND RESPONSIBILITY. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AN ENCLOSED DRAWINGS. FELIFE AGUILAR IS NOT LIABLE FOR ERRORS ONCE CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN. WHILE EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS PLAN TO AVOID MISTAKES. THE MAKER CANNOT GUARANTEE AGAINST HUMAN ERROR. THE CONTRACTOR OF THE JOB MUST CHECK ALL DIMENSIONS AND OTHER DETAILS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION AND BE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE THEREAFTER.

FELIPE AGUILAR

BUILDING DEPT. APPROVAL

PLANNING DEPT. APPROVAL

Anselma Botello 3963 Twain Avenue Clovis, CA 93619

February 9, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Variance for Side Yard Setback Reduction Pre-Application Review No. 20-00062

My residence is located at 3102 S. Peach Avenue, Fresno California 93725 on the lot with the assessor's parcel number 331-080.42S. The parcel is 1.86 acres in the AL20 zoning. On the adjacent North side of the property is an existing residence and on the adjacent South side of the property is AZ Transportation Truck Parking.

In order to secure continued use of my rights of ownership to the aforementioned property, I understand a variance is required. Therefore, the required four findings for the approval of a variance are as follows:

- 1. Finding number one: The residence is built on the far Northeast corner of the lot so as to maximize the distance from the truck parking business on the adjacent South side and place it in closer proximity to the adjacent residence on the North side of the property. The attached porch is used to house large equipment needed to maintain the property. Given the nature of the property and the need to house equipment, as well as the need for the residence to have adequate distancing from the adjacent business, extraordinary circumstances are applicable to the property in question.
- 2. Finding number two: In order for my property to be conducive to a place of residence, i.e., free of the business noise and traffic on the adjacent South side, the home needs to remain where built which exceeds the zoning's requirement for side yard setback. In addition, the attached residence porch is essential for the equipment necessary for property upkeep. Therefore, a variance is needed for the preservation and enjoyment of my substantial property right.
- 3. Finding number 3: The attached porch on the residence has been in existence for almost a decade and has not been materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to property and improvement in the vicinity in which the property is located. A 6-foot fence surrounds the property and the porch is over eight feet from the adjacent residential property's back yard; it is significantly removed from the neighboring residence.
- 4. Finding number 4: The granting of this requested variance would not be contrary to the objectives of the Fresno County general plan as this property, as built, would continue to be used as a residence in which its occupants could both reside and maintain within its agricultural setting.

Please consider the additional information with regard to the requested variance to allow a reduction of side yard setbacks:

- My husband died unexpectedly in 2013. He was a licensed contractor and constructed the building on this
  property. Although he began the permit process, he died before it was completed. I was not aware my property
  lacked permits until I put it up for sale.
- I have had to put this property up for sale as I am a senior and with the Covid19 pandemic, I have not been able to work. I am currently on unemployment and social security. Also contributing to my need to sell is that my elderly sister, aged 82, lives with me and the upkeep of this property is not manageable for two senior citizens. Without the necessary permits, I am not able to sell this property. This has placed a significant hardship on us.

I hereby ask that you consider all the information in this letter and grant the requested variance.

Sincerely,

Anselma Botello

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