

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DIR-2017-264-CDP-MEL-1A, et al.

February 11, 2020

To: Vincent P. Bertoni, AICP, Deputy Advisory Agency
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, 7th Floor, Room 750

From: Jesus Adolfo Acosta, Grading Division Chief
Department of Building and Safety

TRACT: 9300
BLOCK: 137
LOT(S): 1 (Arbs. 1 & 2), 3 (Arbs. 1 & 2) - 8 (Arbs. 1 & 2), & 2 (Arbs. 1 - 3)
LOCATION: 560 - 620 N. Marquette Street

At the request of the Department of City Planning (DCP), the Grading Division of the Department of Building and Safety has reviewed the latest comment letter by Eugene D. Michael (EDM), dated 11/03/2019, regarding the proposed eight-lot residential development on Marquette Street. EDM's current comment letter follows a response by Byer Geotechnical, Inc. (BG) to an appeal, which included EDM's letter dated 05/30/2019 that presented geotechnical concerns, including groundwater and slope stability. The recent 11/03/2019 letter by EDM did not contain any rebuttals to BG's response and presented identical comments that were presented in the letter dated 05/30/2019.

EDM had commented, once again, that the local groundwater regime had not been determined by BG and that previous regional geologic maps indicate a possible landslide. However, BG has based their geotechnical analysis, conclusions and recommendations on actual site investigation. Licensed geologists down-hole logged seven deep borings up to 60 feet deep and determined that no landslide exists at the site.

The Grading Division of the City's Department of Building and Safety takes potential geologic instability quite seriously. When possible geotechnical issues are raised by a third party, such as EDM in this case, the consultant is asked by the Department to address these concerns. As such, BG did this and prepared their 05/30/2019 letter. When the third party ignores the rebuttal and repeats their original ideas, there is no reason why the Department should ask more of the project consultant, whose findings are based on actual geologic exploration and laboratory analyses. EDM's second letter does not bring up anything that hasn't been addressed.

In conclusion, the Department approval letter dated 03/20/2017, Log #96236-01 remains applicable.

el/DCS

EL/DCS:el/dcs

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213-482-0480

cc (by email): Kenton Trinh, Department of City Planning
Juliet Oh, Department of City Planning
Shannon Ryan, Department of City Planning

Date: 2/11/20
Submitted in PLUM Committee
Council File No: 20-0027
Item No. 5
Deputy: Comm from DBS