

PLANNING COMMISSION
RESOLUTION NO. 2025- P26

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF
THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA REJECTING
CERTIFICATION OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT AND REJECTING THE ADOPTION OF
THE FINDINGS OF FACT AND MITIGATION AND
MONITORING REPORT FOR THE GUAJOME LAKE
HOMES PROJECT - STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO.
2022110028

APPLICATION NO: T22-00004, D22-00009, DB22-00005
APPLICANT: Rincon Capital Group LLC
LOCATION: Guajome Lake Road (APN 157-412-15)

THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA
DOES RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Guajome Lake Homes project was prepared and circulated for public and responsible agency review and proper notification was given in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission did on the 11th day of August 2025 conduct a duly advertised public hearing on the content of the Final Environmental Impact Report and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting program; and,

WHEREAS, on the 11th day of August 2025, the Planning Commission continued the public hearing and afterwards re-noticed the public hearing to the 13th day of October 2025.

WHEREAS, based on evidence comprising the entire Administrative Record, including testimony of the applicant, the public and written submissions in opposition to the project, the staff report, technical studies, the Final Environmental Impact Report and Mitigation and Monitoring and Reporting Program, the Planning Commission has determined that there are certain significant environmental effects raised at the Public Hearing that have not been adequately addressed by the Environmental Impact Report including an inaccurate project description and potentially significant biological, traffic,

1 safety, and air quality related impacts. Specifically, the Planning Commission finds as
2 follows:

3 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

4 A. **Final Environmental Impact Report:**

5 1. That the project site does not meet the definition of an infill site.
6 Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21099 an “Infill site”
7 means a lot located within an urban area that has been previously
8 developed, or on a vacant site where at least 75 percent of the perimeter
9 of the site adjoins, or is separated only by an improved public right-of-
10 way from, parcels that are developed with qualified urban uses. A
11 qualified urban use is defined in PRC Section 21072 as any residential,
12 commercial, public institutional, transit or transportation passenger
13 facility, or retail use, or any combination of those uses. The project site is
14 located directly across Guajome Lake Road public open space that
15 constitutes approximately 26% of the perimeter of the project site. In
addition, the project site abuts land containing a hardline preserve with
riparian habitat to the north and south.

16 2. That biological impacts generated by the project have been inadequately
17 mitigated with regard to the loss of Coastal Sage Scrub proposing the
18 replacement of this resource outside of Oceanside and in the City of
19 Carlsbad. The City of Oceanside Subarea Habitat Conservation Plan
20 (SAP) has been referenced for guidance for habitat conservation within
21 an Offsite Mitigation Zone (OMZ) located outside of the Wildlife
22 Corridor Planning Zone (WCPZ), stating that natural vegetation may be
23 removed in these zones subject to SAP guidelines, which include offsite
24 mitigation. Impacts to biological resources within the OMZ must be
mitigated within the WCPZ or within Pre-approved Mitigation areas
according to the following order of preference (presented in order of
decreasing priority): (1) any lands within the WCPZ and south of SR-76;

1 (2) any land within the WCPZ and north of SR-76; (3) any Pre-approved
2 Mitigation Area; or (4) an existing mitigation bank within the City.

3 3. That wildlife movement and connectivity have not been adequately analyzed
4 between surrounding areas, the project site and the San Luis Rey River.

5 4. That biological impacts generated by the project have been inadequately
6 mitigated with regard to the future management of the on-site riparian forest.
7 The riparian habitat, which is potential habitat for the federally endangered
8 Least Bell's Vireo, warrants protection through the establishing of a
9 conservation easement over the forest and by assigning oversight
responsibility of the forest to a professional habitat management organization
in perpetuity rather than to the proposed Homeowners Association.

10 5. That the EIR inadequately analyzes Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impacts
11 as it concludes that the project screens out because it creates less than 1,000
12 vehicle trips. The Project site's high VMT renders the City Guidelines' 1,000
13 Average Daily Trip ("ADT") threshold inappropriate. Thresholds are not
14 determinative and cannot be applied in a way that would foreclose the
15 consideration of other substantial evidence tending to show the
16 environmental effect to which the threshold relates might be significant.
17 Because the project site is not infill but rural, the Project will result in
18 significant VMT impacts. SANDAG identified the Project site as having a
19 high VMT classification. The site is surrounded by rural, agricultural, open
20 space, parks, and semi-rural uses. The site is not served by urban services,
21 nor is it near any transit. The Project will increase automobile dependency in
22 an area with no transit. The EIR failed to analyze, disclose, and mitigate the
23 Project's significant VMT impacts.

24 6. That the project is inconsistent with the San Diego Association of
Governments (SANDAG) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and
Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). An EIR must discuss any
inconsistencies between the proposed project and regional plans including

1 the RTP. The EIR failed to adequately disclose and analyze the project's
2 inconsistencies with the RTP/SCS, which forecasts the site as "Spaced Rural
3 Residential," which is a much lower density than as proposed by the Project.

4

5 7. That the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) fails to adequately
6 consider, analyze, and mitigate the safety impacts. Guajome Lake Road
7 currently turns into a dirt road. If the development is approved a portion of
8 the road will be paved creating a major thoroughfare off of Highway 76. This
9 will exacerbate the already dangerous situation of traffic speeding down
10 Guajome Lake Road where park visitors park along the street. The analysis
11 should inform the City's decision about whether the Project's requested
12 waivers would result in a specific, adverse impact upon public health and
13 safety.

14 8. That the EIR did not adequately analyze safety impacts with regard to the
15 five-minute Oceanside Fire Safety Response Time Standard. The City of
16 Oceanside standard is for 90% of priority one calls to be responded to within
17 five minutes. The EIR concluded that the standard was not fully met and
18 recommended that action to mitigate this be at the sole discretion of the
19 OFD. In responding to comments about this, the emergency response time
20 study was updated. This updated study still concludes that the majority of
21 the project site cannot achieve the 5-minute standard. Instead of proposing
22 new corrective action, it deleted the previously proposed corrective action
23 and instead proposes to do nothing. Furthermore, the updated analysis only
24 evaluated response time to the project site. There is no reason to assume that
is the only parcel that will be impacted. Emergency response time will be
degraded throughout the surrounding area. In addition, the increase in the
traffic on Guajome Lake Road, much of which will remain unpaved, will
also adversely impact emergency response times. Thus, this impact has not
been adequately mitigated.

1 9. That the EIR does not address impacts on equestrian use by all of the other
2 owners in the Equestrian Overlay District (EOD) or those equestrians
3 moving between Guajome Regional Park and other equestrian sites nearby.
4 Guajome Lake Road is the street used for equestrian movement between the
5 Guajome Regional Park, and the stable and other equestrian properties to the
6 north of the park. The project will more than double average daily traffic
7 along Guajome Lake Rd, making crossing of the road more dangerous for all
8 users.

9 10. That the EIR did not adequately analyze impacts to Guajome Regional Park,
10 as the FEIR places a portion of the Fire Management Zone (FMZ) within the
11 park. In addition, the project does not control and cannot guarantee that the
12 existing vegetation within Guajome Regional Park will remain in an
13 acceptable state to meet FMZ requirements.

14 11. That the EIR fails to adequately analyze and mitigate significant Greenhouse
15 Gas Impacts. The EIR relied on an outdated California Air Resources Board
16 (“CARB”) Scoping Plan as part of its GHG impact analysis, rather than the
17 more recent 2022 CARB Scoping Plan. The FEIR did not adequately
18 address this question in the Response to Comments stating that the City has
19 the discretion to choose the significance threshold for discretionary projects.
20 The City’s Climate Action Plan (CAP) relies on a screening threshold based
21 on land use size and a CAP (2019) Consistency Checklist to determine
22 whether a project’s emissions would be consistent with GHG emissions
23 estimated within the City’s CAP. Per the second thresholds of significance
24 the EIR asks: “Would the project generate conflict with an applicable plan,
policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of
greenhouse gases?” The 2022 CARB Scoping Plan is an applicable plan
adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Thus, the FEIR fails
consider this impact. Additionally, the project does not include features that
will reduce estimated VMT by at least 15 percent below the regional average

1 for projects located outside of designated Smart Growth Opportunity Areas
2 or beyond $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of a priority Transit Oriented Development (TOD)
3 corridor, as determined by the Smart and Sustainable Corridors Plan and/or
4 SB 743 screen-out boundaries.

5

6

7

8

9

10 12. That the EIR fails to adequately analyze and mitigate significant air quality
11 impacts generated by the increase in vehicle trips and vehicle speeds on the
12 partially unpaved Guajome Lake Road.

13 13. That the EIR did not include a General Plan compliant project in the EIR's
14 alternative analysis. The Existing Land Use Designation Alternative was
15 considered but rejected for a detailed analysis.

16 B. Tentative Map/Development Plan/Density Bonus

17 1. The required findings for approval of a tentative map are set forth in
18 Section 406.C of the Oceanside Subdivision Ordinance. Subsection
19 406.C.4 requires the Planning Commission to make, among other
20 findings, the following finding: "That the design of the subdivision or the
21 proposed improvements will not cause substantial environmental damage
22 or substantially and avoidably injure fish or wildlife or their habitat.
23 (Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Planning Commission may approve
24 such a tentative map if an environmental impact report was prepared and
25 approved and findings of overriding considerations are made in
26 accordance with the CEQA)." Subsection 406.D.4 of the Subdivision
27 Ordinance authorizes the Planning Commission to deny the tentative map
28 if it finds, among other things, "that the design of the subdivision or the
29 proposed improvements is likely to cause substantial environmental
30 damage or substantially and avoidably injure fish or wildlife or their
31 habitat."

32 2. The required findings for approval of a development plan are set forth in
33 Section 4306 of the Oceanside Zoning Ordinance. Subsection 4306.A.4
34 requires the Planning Commission to find, among other things, "that the
35 project as proposed is compatible with existing and potential

1 development on adjoining properties or in the surrounding
2 neighborhood.”

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

3. State Density Bonus Law (Govt. Code section 65915) and the Housing Accountability Act (Govt. Code section 65589.5) allow local agencies to deny housing development projects or requested incentives/concessions or waivers only if (a) the project or requested incentives/concessions/waivers would have a specific, adverse impact upon the public health or safety (defined as “a significant, quantifiable, direct, and unavoidable impact, based on objective, identified written public health or safety standards, policies, or conditions as they existed on the date the application was deemed complete”) and (b) there is no feasible method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact other than the disapproval of the housing development project or the approval of the project upon the condition that it be developed at a lower density.
4. The Planning Commission finds that there is no substantial evidence in the administrative record to support the findings required by Section 406.C of the Oceanside Subdivision Ordinance and Subsection 4306.A.4 of the Oceanside Zoning Ordinance. As described in paragraphs A.1 through A.13 above, the administrative record is supported by substantial evidence that the project will cause significant biological, traffic, greenhouse gas, and air quality impacts that were neither disclosed in the EIR nor mitigated. As a result, the Planning Commission is unable to make the mandatory findings to approve the tentative map and development plan.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

23

24

1. The Planning Commission hereby rejects certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Guajome Lake Homes project and further rejects adoption of

Exhibit "A" (FINDINGS) and Exhibit "B" (MMRP) for the Guajome Lake Homes project.

2. The Planning Commission hereby denies the Tentative Tract Map (T22-00004), Development Plan (D22-00009), and Density Bonus (DB22-00005).

PASSED AND ADOPTED Resolution No. 2025-P26 on October 13, 2025 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Tom Morrissey, Chairperson
Oceanside Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Darlene Nicandro, Acting Secretary

I, Darlene Nicandro, Acting Secretary of the Oceanside Planning Commission, hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2025-P26.

Dated: October 13, 2025