

**From:** [Cyriac Roeding](#)  
**To:** [Dylan Parker](#)  
**Subject:** 138 Goya, ASCC meeting July 13  
**Date:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 4:47:46 PM

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Hi Dylan, I heard that the ASCC is reviewing the plans for 138 Goya on Monday.

Wanted to send in my support for this. I have seen the plans, and the planned building is gorgeous. I hope this will sail through on Monday.

The neighbor who keeps voicing concerns about this project is acting completely inappropriately IMHO, because two-level structures are allowed in this area.

All the best, Cyriac

July 12, 2020

Mr. Dylan Parker  
Town Planner  
Town of Portola Valley  
765 Portola Valley, CA 94028

Re: 138 Goya ASCC Meeting

Dear Mr. Parker,

I write today to express our strong support for the Gambhir's submitted project at 138 Goya which is scheduled to be heard by the ASCC on July 13, 2020. My wife Brenda and I have lived next door to the Gambhirs on Golden Hills Drive for the past five years. For the previous ten years before that we lived on Westridge Drive just around the corner from 138 Goya. For the past fifteen years we have walked by 138 Goya nearly every day with our dogs so we are quite familiar with property and the surrounding neighborhood.

Sam and Aruna Gambhir are incredible people and we feel blessed to be their neighbors. While we will be sad to see them move from our immediate neighborhood, we are excited at the prospect of them being able to build a project that suits their needs while still staying nearby.

Brenda and I built two major remodel projects in Portola Valley and we're quite familiar with how important it is to stay within the building guidelines. This project will be a beautiful addition to the neighborhood and it is in keeping with all of the prescribed building requirements.

We extend our enthusiastic support for their project and urge the ASCC to approve their plans as submitted.

Sincerely,

Greg and Brenda Munks  
393 Golden Hills Drive  
Portola Valley, CA 94028



138 GOYA RD // GAMBIR RESIDENCE

# PROPOSED WASC

# MITIGATION STRATEGIES

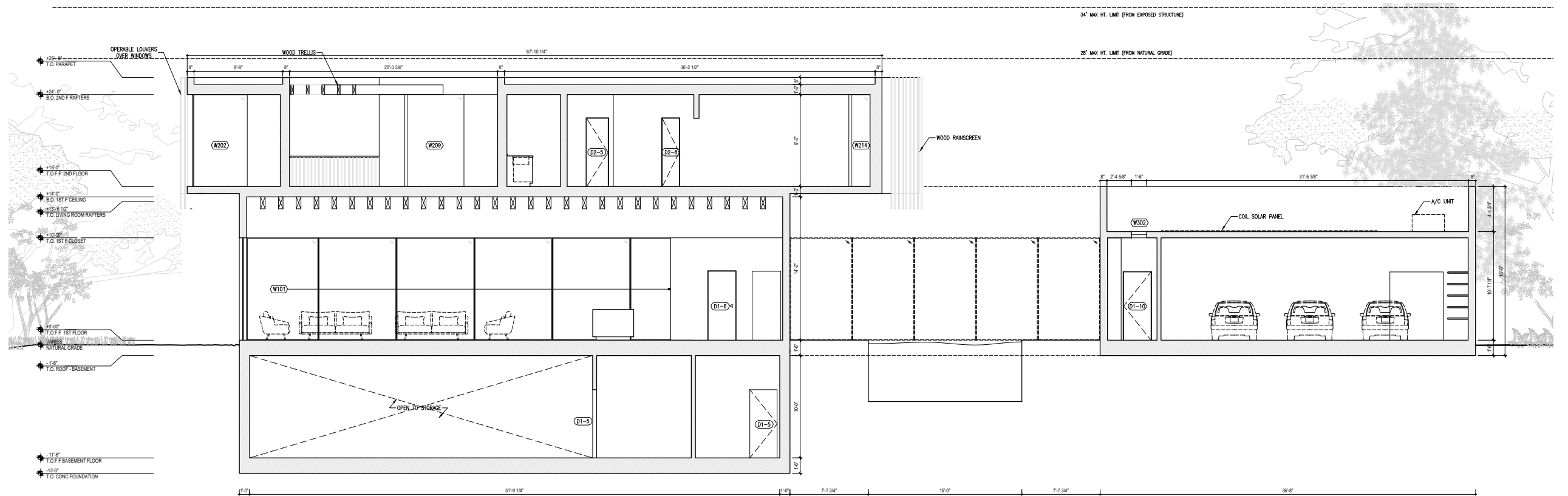
06.11.2020

AS A RESULT OF THE WASC MEETING WITH THE OWNERS OF 148 GOYA ON 6/8/20, THE WASC SUGGESTED WE CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING MITIGATION MEASURES.

1. **TREE SCREENING:** WE INTEND TO DO THIS ALREADY, BUT CAN FOCUS OUR SELECTIONS ON PROVIDING TREE SPECIES THAT WILL SCREEN THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE WITHOUT GROWING SIGNIFICANTLY TALLER THAN THE PROPOSED STRUCTURE SO AS TO LIMIT THE IMPACT ON THE VIEW CORRIDOR.
2. **HEIGHT REDUCTION:** AFTER A PRELIMINARY STUDY, WE FEEL THAT WE COULD REDUCE THE OVERALL HEIGHT OF THE STRUCTURE BY 12 -18 IN
3. **SHIFTING MASS:** AFTER EVALUATING THE SITE TOPOGRAPHY, SETBACKS, AND ACCESS ROUTES, WE FEEL THAT WE COULD SHIFT THE PRIMARY RESIDENCE OVER TOWARDS THE GUEST HOUSE BY UP TO 5-8 FT

OPTIONS 2 & 3 IN PARTICULAR ARE LABOR AND COST INTENSIVE AND REQUIRE MAKING SUBSTANTIAL COMPROMISES. WE WOULD CLEARLY PREFER TO BUILD THE HOUSE AS DESIGNED (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ZONING ORDINANCE), BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE THESE CHANGES IN THE SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE, IF THEY HELP ASSUAGE THE CONCERNS OF THE OWNERS OF 148 GOYA.



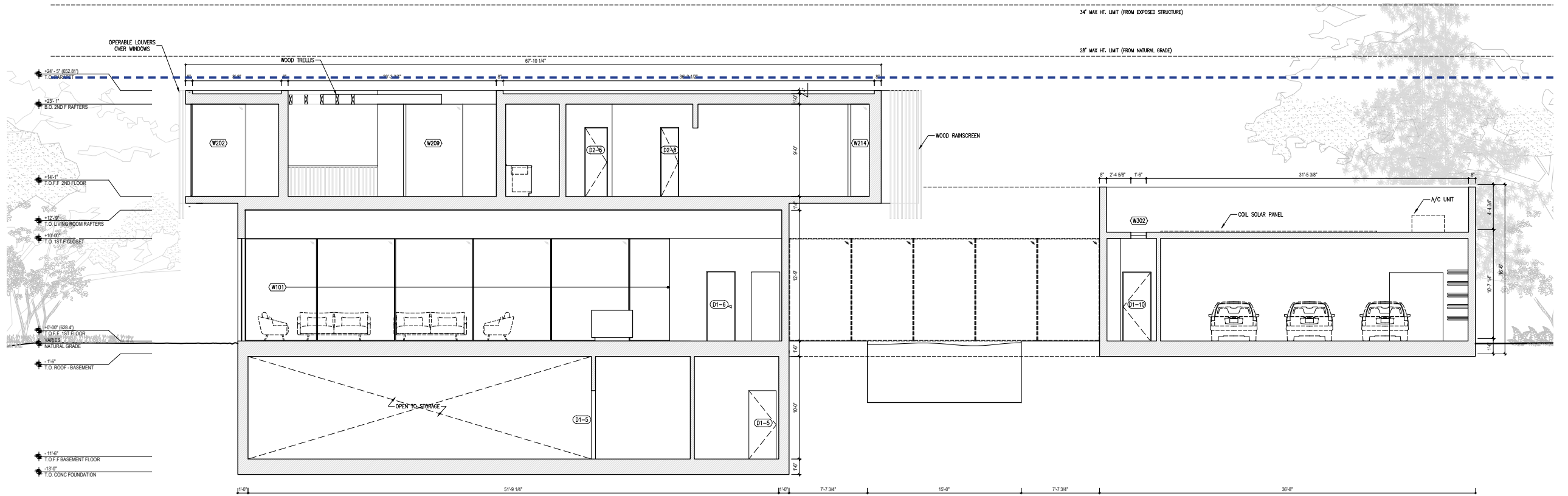


## 02 HEIGHT REDUCTION

PREVIOUS BUILDING HEIGHT  
25'-8" (654.31')

GAMBHIR RESIDENCE  
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT  
JUNE 11, 2020

PREVIOUS  
BUILDING  
HEIGHT






WE COULD REDUCE THE  
HEIGHT BY 12 -18"

## 02 HEIGHT REDUCTION

REDUCED BUILDING HEIGHT  
24'-5" (652.81')

GAMBHIR RESIDENCE  
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT  
JUNE 11, 2020



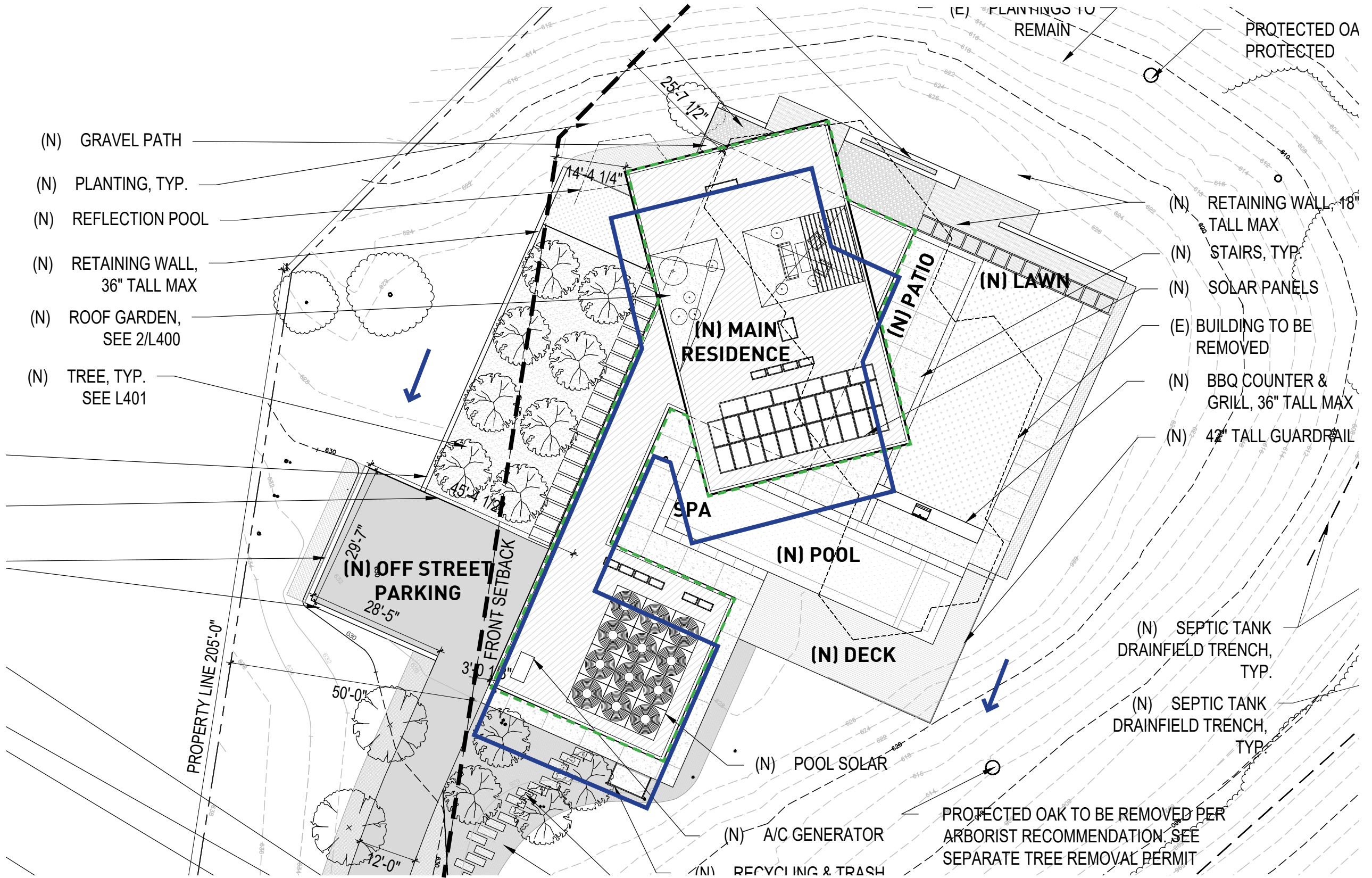
-  SETBACK LINE
-  PROPOSED PRIMARY RESIDENCE LOCATION
-  SHIFTED 8' PRIMARY RESIDENCE LOCATION

### 03 SHIFTING MASS

PROPOSED 138 GOYA RD SITE PLAN

COULD SHIFT 5 - 8FT OVER TOWARDS THE GUEST HOUSE. DIAGRAM IS SHOWN AS 8FT

GAMBHIR RESIDENCE DESIGN DEVELOPMENT  
JUNE 11, 2020





**From:** [Richard Levy](#)  
**To:** [Dylan Parker](#)  
**Subject:** Gambhir permit for 148 Goya  
**Date:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 3:07:58 PM

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I have known Sam and Aruna Gambhir since they moved to Portola Valley. As retired CEO and Chairman of Varian Medical Systems, I have had professional dealings with Sam at Stanford and know him as a friend as my next door neighbor.

Sam is a world renowned physician and Aruna, also an MD, runs her own company. You will never meet a more conscientious and gentle couple.

Their request for a permit on Goya seeks no variances and is within all guidelines. Delay in this case is unconscionable, particularly because of terrible health problems in their family and their desire not to be reminded of the death of their only son In their current house five years ago.

They do not deserve the stress of trying to resolve the permit problem at this point in their lives.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Kathy Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [Dylan Parker](#)  
**Cc:** [Aruna & Sanjiv Gambhir](#)  
**Subject:** Gambhir permit to build a home at 138 Goya Road  
**Date:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:15:42 PM

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Dear ASCC Commissioners; Chairwoman Dana Breen, Vice Chair Dave Ross, and Commissioners Jane Wilson, Al Sill, Megan Koch and Council Liaison John Richards;

I am writing to ask you to honor Aruna and Sanjiv Gambhir's request for a permit to build a home at 138 Goya Road in Portola Valley. Aruna and Sanjiv are great friends of my husband and I. We've known one another personally and professionally for over 16 years having met when our boys attended first grade together at Ormondale school. We've shared years in school at Ormondale and Corte Madera, boy scouts, and many family vacations. My husband, Peter Fitzgerald, a physician on staff at Stanford, holds the highest regard for Sanjiv's work at Stanford and beyond. Our families have had wonderful memories and endured the tragic loss of Milan, their only son. For years Aruna hung onto the home they shared with Milan while Sanjiv wanted to move and rebuild, a home and a new life. For 5 years Sanjiv searched for the perfect location, Aruna resisted each offer until she saw the site at 148 Goya Road.

It was the perfect place to rebuild. My husband and I and our two children reside at 15 Dos Loma Vista Street, two blocks away and have been actively watching the process Aruna and Sanjiv have been engaged in. They began with improving the existing house, which was very rundown, and clearing the property so perking, soil testing, leach field determination and surveying could occur. They designed and redesigned the perfect home and were eager to get started on the build. They contacted every neighbor who shared a property line or view of the house to seek support and listen to concerns and put up story poles early in the project for consideration by those same neighbors. They worked with the Town of Portola Valley ASCC and Westridge Architectural Supervising Committee to provide transparent and clear plans to build a home that reflects the neighborhood, surrounding landscape and features of that particular location. The design of the home was carefully designed to offer interest, increased value and careful respect of the land.

The work they did clearing the property was remarkable. Careful consideration of existing trees was paramount while the removal of debris, poison oak and potential fire hazards was completed. I walk my dog daily along Escobar trail which offers a direct view of the existing house and intimate contact with the home's backyard. I was amazed and delighted at the improvement in the trail as a result of the work the Gambhir's did. I have talked with their neighbor who shares the trail and she expressed her pleasure at the results of their efforts as well as the steps they took to prevent erosion into her property.

Aruna and Sanjiv have been Portola Valley residents for over 17 years and active members of our community. They have spent countless hours on this project and wish to build a new home. The plans are free of any variances and follow all the building guidelines of Portola Valley. We fully support their effort and ask that you respectfully grant them permission to proceed. Please do not let a person who is a landowner yet does not live in Portola Valley and probably never will dictate whether this couple can or cannot proceed as planned. All of the other neighbors have supported Aruna and Sanjiv's plans, I sincerely hope you will as well.

Thank you for your time as Commissioners for the Town of Portola Valley.

Sincerely,  
Kathy  
(and Peter Fitzgerald)

Kathy Fitzgerald  
15 Dos Loma Vista Street  
Portola Valley, CA 9028  
(650) 255-1132

**From:** [Greg Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Dylan Parker](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Support - 138 Goya Road  
**Date:** Monday, July 13, 2020 9:40:38 AM

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Hi Dylan-- attached is our letter of support for 138 Goya Road. My understanding is that these letters will be read tonight during the ASCC Zoom meeting (I will try to attend, but have other family obligations around that time). Thank you!

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Portola Valley ASCC and those concerned,

I am writing today to express our strong support for the project proposed by the Gambhir family at 138 Goya Road. Mariya and I have thoroughly reviewed the proposed plans for the residence, and have considered the various angles from which we will be able to see it. We feel that this beautiful home would be a great addition to the community on Goya Road and fits well with the style of other new construction in the vicinity, including our own. In addition, we feel that the current plan efficiently uses the buildable area of the property by creatively using various levels of massing, leaving more space for landscaping and green space around the residence, which would be ideal for screening, safety, and aesthetics. It is our hope that the ASCC will approve the current plans, which seem to fall within the guidelines for size, height, and design. We strongly support the project as proposed.

Thank you for your time,

Greg & Mariya Anderson, 200 Goya

**From:** [Town Center](#)  
**To:** [Laura Russell](#)  
**Cc:** [Carol Borck](#); [Dylan Parker](#)  
**Subject:** Note re 138 Goya project  
**Date:** Monday, July 13, 2020 2:16:14 PM

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**From:** Monika Gruter Cheney <mgc@gruter.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2020 1:48 PM  
**To:** Town Center <TownCenter@portolavalley.net>  
**Cc:** Aruna Gambhir <arunagambhir@gmail.com>; Rob Cheney <rmcheney@yahoo.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Note re 138 Goya project

**Rob and Monika Cheney**  
**158 Goya Road**  
**Portola Valley, CA 94028**  
**(650) 464-3911**

Dear Members of the ASCC:

We received a notice of a meeting today relating to plans for a new residence at 138 Goya Road proposed by the Gambhir family. We were not able to attend that meeting and thus wanted to pass along our thoughts via email. We live two houses up the street at 158 Goya Road. We have lived here for 15 years; and previously, since 1969, our property was owned by Monika's grandparents. We have seen many new homes built on our street over these years and feel fortunate to have a wonderful group of neighbors. We are pleased to welcome a new family to our cul-de-sac and are happy to see plans progressing. We know the Gambhirs have already lived in Portola Valley for many years and have been wonderful contributors to our community. We are happy they will make a new home on Goya Road. The Gambhirs have shared their site plans with us and from our perspective the plans look like a nice use of the property and its beautiful vistas. We are quite familiar with the current home at 138 Goya Road; for many years it was the home of Monika's grandparents' close friends, Harry and Cecelia Hicks. However, the current home is in significant need of improvements. We are happy that the property will now be improved by the Gambhirs and we support their efforts.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community.  
All the best,  
Monika and Rob Cheney



WESTRIDGE  
ARCHITECTURAL  
SUPERVISING  
COMMITTEE

7/13/2020

To: ASCC, Town of Portola Valley  
Town Planning Staff, Town of Portola Valley  
Steven Kahng  
Aruna and Sanjiv Gambhir

Subject: proposed site development plan for Gambhir's residence, 138 Goya

Members of the ASCC, and Staff—

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the perspectives of the Westridge Architectural Supervising Committee (WASC), in regard to the Gambhir's proposed new residence at 138 Goya. We have engaged as a full Committee on this project since early January, and we feel that our perspectives are best understood around a timeline of that engagement.

We were first contacted by the Gambhir's design team in late November, 2019, to arrange a site visit and plans review, which occurred on January 9, 2020, including 3 (of the then 4) current members of our Committee.

Following up on the January 9 meeting, we communicated back with Dan Spiegel of S-A-Works in regard to some specific topics on which we needed more data, and Dan responded to us on January 23 with additional diagrams and visualizations. Since some of our questions were guided by a sensitivity to potential impact on neighbors from structure massing and related view corridor impact, Dan also provided us with a complete plan for contact and review of the project with all potentially-impacted neighbors; we found this plan and approach to be extremely thorough and appropriate.

In discussing this program for neighbor reviews, Dan noted that the one abutting owner he had not been able to contact was the owner at 148 Goya, which home has been occupied by a long-term renter. Subsequent to Dan making contact with this renter, WASC was contacted by Mr. Steven Kahng, property owner of 148 Goya, who expressed concerns about the proposed project, and requested a meeting with WASC directly. Consistent with our general approach to these situations, we encouraged the two parties first to meet directly and see what common ground they could find, resulting in a meeting on February 6.

By the account of both parties, not much progress was made at the February 6 meeting. The Kahngs continued to express concern about the proposed 138 Goya project blocking key parts of the view corridor for 148 Goya, both of the current structure at 148 Goya, and a new home, which he expected to develop plans to design and build in the next 2-3 years. At this time, the principal sensitivity of the Kahngs seemed to be those elements of the proposed structure, which would obstruct views of the Hoover Tower and Stanford campus.

For the next several weeks, with key processes slowed/ halted by the Covid pandemic, little progress was made, and it was difficult to schedule meetings, except by video. In late April, WASC was contacted again by the Kahngs, and the (same) 3 Committee members agreed to attend an on-site meeting on June 8 at the 148 Goya site, to obtain a first-hand visualization of the view corridor impact as indicated by the story poles at 138 Goya.



# WESTRIDGE

WESTRIDGE  
ARCHITECTURAL  
SUPERVISING  
COMMITTEE

Our Committee members left this meeting with the perspectives that,

- (a) the project would, in fact, create some meaningful view corridor impact for 148 Goya, which would likely be limited to 20-25 degrees of impact (out of a total view corridor of maybe 200+ degrees from this site; (the current view corridor impact of highest sensitivity for the Kahngs now seems to be blocking views of the Dunbarton Bridge)
- (b) that the specific impact would vary based on where the Kahngs were to site their proposed new structure for 148 Goya, (for which plans have yet to be developed/submitted)
- (c) that this view corridor impact could be mitigated, maybe materially, by some modifications which we would encourage the Gambhirs to explore, including
  - 1) "Shifting" the proposed design/structure (as is) as far to the south as the combination of slope and soils conditions, and structural considerations, would allow
  - 2) To extent possible, lowering height of second-story elements of structure
  - 3) Reducing the visual impact of structural massing and the associated visual impact by planting 2-3 significant trees directly in the sightline (of the northwest element of the Gambhir home and Dunbarton Bridge in background), and/ or, accelerated pruning/growth shaping of existing live oaks to achieve same effect, while limiting height to that required to mask the structure
- (d) We did not conclude that it would be reasonable to limit the 138 project to a single-story home, first, because the existing structure has a partial two-story element, and second, because this would force design and siting compromises on a site/parcel where this could be very challenging or result in and much less desirable outcome for the owners

Subsequent to this June 8 meeting, we encouraged Dan and S-A-Works to consider some/all of these mitigation options, which I understand are now reflected in the plans submitted to the Town/ASCC, as well as, to continue the dialogue with the Kahngs.

Apart from this specific (and meaningful) conflict with the current neighbor arguably most impacted by this project, our Committee has viewed the design/plans as submitted to be a very desirable addition to Westridge, and Portola Valley, and subject to review of final plans, a project we would approve, and we would encourage your support.

Respectfully,

David Strohm, Co-Chair, for the Westridge Committee

p.p

Jennifer Chu, WASC Administrator