

Allied Neighborhoods Association

Planning Commission
De la Guerra Plaza
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93101
February 2, 2009

Re: El Encanto Hotel Project

Dear Members of the Planning Commission:

The members of the Allied Neighborhood Association met with a delegation of neighbors of the El Encanto Hotel and discussed the proposals and the processes that have to date occurred regarding the plans for the subject hotel. The Allied Neighborhoods Association voted to support the neighbors and to advise the city regarding the following concerns:

(1) There was concern about the compatibility of the heating and service facilities location adjacent to homes. Furthermore, Allied notes the inefficiency of locating a heating and cooling “central” physical plant at the “corner” of a project because it results in significant energy losses. A central plant ought to be located somewhere near the center of the project.

There are serious concerns about (2) the manner in which the project is being addressed, i.e., in a series of meetings, and (3) that there have been numerous requests for modifications. The members felt that the project should be presented *in toto* and not piecemeal. This manner of planning does not give residents the opportunity to understand the plans fully and make relevant comments. The serial applications for modifications sets a precedent for other projects to request the same method of seeking approval.

We are also concerned that the project has grown into the size and scope that requires a full EIR. The El Encanto Hotel is considered a historical development and as such with its location in a residential neighborhood deserves to have the potential impacts fully examined.

Judy Orias, president
Allied Neighborhoods Associations Association