



**CITY OF ORINDA**  
**Planning Application**

22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563  
 (925)253-4210 ▪ [orindaplanning@cityoforinda.org](mailto:orindaplanning@cityoforinda.org)

**PROPERTY**

Address:

Assessor's Parcel Number:

**PROPERTY OWNER(S)**

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

**APPLICANT(S) (If not the property owner)**

Name:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

**APPLICATION(S) (Check all that apply)**

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Compliance | <input type="checkbox"/> General Use Permit      | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Cell Wireless Facility |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Use Permit     | <input type="checkbox"/> Hillside Grading Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Event Permit       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design Review             | <input type="checkbox"/> Lot Line Adjustment     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal Permit          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elevated Deck Permit      | <input type="checkbox"/> Lot Merger              | <input type="checkbox"/> Variance                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Encroachment Agreement    | <input type="checkbox"/> Major Subdivision       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wireless Facilities Permit   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exception                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Subdivision       | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Amendment             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Permit             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                       |

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Is the property located: <i>In the Ridgeline and Environmental Preservation Overlay District?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>On a Severely sloped site? (average slope of 20% or greater)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Have any permits been issued in the last five years? If yes, describe work:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Present use of property and buildings:

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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1. Failure to provide all pertinent data or providing poorly executed plans may delay the processing of an application.
2. City staff and either the Zoning Administrator or members of the Planning Commission may inspect the site of your proposed project. Access to your property is mandatory, but will be limited to the above mentioned planning agency personnel, as is regulated by the State’s Planning and Zoning Law. You are not required to provide access to your property to the general public. Please make any necessary arrangements with staff regarding their access to your property.
3. Final decisions concerning discretionary permits are within the discretion of the Planning Commission or the Zoning Administrator, as appropriate. Statements made by staff to applicants concerning the merits of a proposed project are intended to guide and assist applicants. Likewise, statements made by individual Planning Commission members during hearings and in other contexts such as study sessions may be intended to guide and assist applicants. However, such comments do not bind either the Planning Commission as a whole or the Zoning Administrator and they may in fact be disregarded by the decisionmaker. The decision to approve, condition, or deny a proposed project is within the sole discretion of either the Planning Commission or the Zoning Administrator, based on the evidence presented at the hearing. The same is true for Council decisions on appeals.
4. Obtaining discretionary permit approvals from the Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator does not guarantee that a project may be built according to the approved plans if engineering plans for the proposed project are not approved. It is the applicant's choice to proceed in the discretionary review process without first obtaining engineering approvals.
5. If a request for a discretionary permit is based on soils problems, adequate proof (i.e., soils reports) must be provided to the City Engineer before the Planning Commission hearing to enable the City Engineer to assess the validity of the claim, obtain peer review if necessary, and to present a report to the Planning Commission on the subject.
6. Where soil stability is a factor, the soils engineer will be required as part of the application process to verify that the soils report meets city standards for soils reports and at the end of construction to verify that the grading and construction was accomplished as shown in the approved plans.

**PROPERTY OWNER**

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Signature:

Date:

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**APPLICANT (If not the property owner)**

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Signature:

Date:

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**CITY OF ORINDA**  
**Exception Permit**

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An exception permit is intended to provide design flexibility from certain quantitative regulations when there is no adverse impact. A wide variety of lot sizes, shapes, and topography exist within a single zoning district. Additionally, there are many older homes and other buildings built prior to zoning regulations. Due to these variations, exceptions are permitted for the preservation of the semi-rural character of Orinda.

An exception from the development standards for setbacks, height the number of stories, fences and retaining walls, single-family residential parking requirements, number of replacement trees, and for maximum lot coverage and minimum landscape area may be granted. A list of examples may be found in [§17.32.2](#).

**FEES**

Application Fee (select one):	
Exception Permit only	\$1,500.00 (deposit)
Combined with other discretionary permit(s)	\$781.00
Mailing Fee	\$189.00
13% Surcharge fee [applied to application fee]	\$

**SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Planning Application Form**

**2. Plan Set**

One full-size (24"x36"), one half-size (11"x17"), and one PDF (electronic) set of plans. See the attached Plan Set Checklist for required plan set details.

**3. Preliminary Title Report**

A title report not more than six months old for staff to verify any easements on the property.

**4. Statement of Findings**

Describe on a separate sheet how the project meets each of the Exception Permit standards listed below.

**5. Arborist Report (if applicable)**

A written recommendation from a certified arborist that discusses the species, size, location, and health of any protected tree(s) at risk of being damaged or proposed for removal as part of this project.

**6. Story Poles (if applicable)**

A [Story Pole Plan](#) shall be submitted with the plan set. Story poles must be installed to deem the applicable complete.

**EXCEPTION PERMIT STANDARDS ([§17.32.4](#))**

*An exception may be granted if findings of fact in support of each of the following standards are made, except that subsection D only applies to signs:*

- A. The strict application of the respective zoning regulations will either:
- (1) deprive the subject property of rights enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and within the identical land use district, because the site's unique characteristics, such as an irregular or constrained size, shape or topography, or limitations created by the site's existing development, limit design options available to the subject property; or
  - (2) serve no land use planning purpose under this title or the general plan because of the absence of any negative impact whatsoever on the semi-rural character of Orinda or on the privacy, views and general well-being of neighboring properties as a result of the size, shape, location or topography of the site.
- B. The exception will result in development which substantially complies with the intent and purpose of the requirements, including design review, of the land use district in which the subject property is located.
- C. For a project affecting an existing structure:
1. The exception does not substantially increase the degree of an existing nonconformity; and
  2. The exception is necessary to preserve or enhance a feature of the existing structure which is architecturally or functionally appropriate.
- D. An exception from sign size limitations is necessary for the sign to remain proportional to preexisting architectural features or site conditions.



## CITY OF ORINDA

### **Plan Set Checklist**

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The plan set checklist outlines information that shall be submitted as part of your application. Depending on the application(s) being submitted, some of the listed details may not apply to your project. Please keep in mind that the project planner may require additional information or materials.

#### 1. Site Plan

- Include a north arrow, legend, and scale.
- All property lines shown and dimensioned with metes and bounds.
- Indicate all required setbacks.
- Show all public and private roads, rights-of-way, and easements, within and adjacent to the parcel, fully dimensioned. Indicate whether public or private. Indicate nature of easements.
- Show footprints of all existing and proposed structures with dimensions to all property lines. All changes or additions to existing structures shall be ballooned, hatched, or otherwise highlighted.
- Indicate the trunk location, dripline, and species type and size of all existing trees with a trunk diameter of six (6) inches or greater measured at 4½ feet above grade. Mark any trees proposed for removal with an “X”. If there are no trees on site, state on plans that “No trees are present on site.”
- Show any significant drainage features, including swales, creeks (with required creek setbacks shown in plan and section view), and riparian habitat. Note on plans if there are no existing and/or proposed drainage improvements.
- Show all existing and proposed impervious surfaces, including but not limited to sidewalks, roofs, patios, stairs, pool decks, and driveways, with square footage of all existing and new impervious surfaces noted.
- Indicate all existing and proposed covered/uncovered parking facilities and driveways.
- Indicate location and dimensions of existing and proposed retaining walls and fences.
- Indicate location of existing and proposed sanitary sewers.
- For properties with average slopes of greater than 20%, existing and proposed topographic contours (with minimum contour intervals of 10 feet), for land within 20 feet of any proposed site improvements or drainage facilities.

#### 2. Project Data Table (see [Floor Area Calculation Handout](#) for a detailed example)

- Gross Floor Area per [Section 17.6.3](#) and [Section 17.6.4](#) (show existing and proposed) - total horizontal area in square feet of each floor within the *exterior* walls of all buildings on a parcel, as measured at the exterior face of the enclosing walls. Gross floor area includes attached and detached primary accessory buildings, garages, carport roof coverage and space which is capable of being developed as habitable area (including basements, attics, crawl spaces with significant headroom, lofts, accessory buildings, etc).
- Adjusted Floor Area per [Section 17.6.3](#) and [Section 17.6.4](#) (show existing and proposed) – Gross floor area as measured above, subtracting 400 sq. ft. of the garage/carport’s floor area if such is existing or proposed. Garage areas in excess of 400 sq. ft. shall be included as part of the adjusted floor area calculation.
- Net parcel area- total horizontal area included within the property lines of a parcel, excluding

the area within vehicular rights-of-way and vehicular easements serving 4 or more parcels.

- Floor area ratio (existing and proposed) - adjusted floor area divided by the net parcel area.
- The average slope of the development footprint of the project.
- An itemized calculation of existing and proposed impervious surface.

### 3. Floor Plans

- Show all existing and proposed rooms and label their use (including basements, attics, detached accessory structures, etc.).
- Show all doors, windows, bay windows, chimneys, stairways, etc.
- Show all existing and proposed decks, balconies, porches, garages/carports, etc., and label their use.
- Indicate all areas to be demolished with proposed walls and existing walls clearly indicated.
- Indicate all exterior dimensions.
- Indicate the limits of the floor above and the floor below on multi-level structures.
- Clearly indicate any existing walls that are to be removed.

### 4. Roof Plan

- Drawn to the same scale, and superimposed over, the grading plan (or the site plan if a grading plan is not required).
- Note elevation of each roof ridge above established data.
- Note the pitch of the roof(s).
- Indicate all changes or additions to existing structures with ballooning, hatching, or by otherwise highlighting.

### 5. Elevations

- Include full exterior dimensions including building heights per [Section 17.4.19](#) and [Section 17.4.20](#).
- Indicate both existing and finished grade.
- All proposed exterior elevations showing existing and proposed exterior walls, roof, architectural features, doors, windows, trim, down spouts, exterior wall, and roofing materials.
- Indicate both colors and materials for all exterior walls, trim, and roofing.
- Include retaining wall and fence elevations/profiles, indicating heights, colors, and materials, if retaining wall and fence are part of the project.
- All changes or additions to existing structures shall be ballooned, hatched, or otherwise highlighted.
- Show existing and proposed conditions with two separate elevation view drawings, done at the same scale, for each building elevation to be modified by the addition.

### 6. Cross Sections

- Drawn at the same scale as the elevations.
- Locations where cross sections are taken shall be indicated on the site plan and/or floor plans.
- Indicate foundation, finished floor, existing grade, finished grade and roof ridge elevations.
- For properties with average slopes of greater than 20%, cross sections must extend across the full extent of the property, including adjoining roads.

### 7. Grading Plan

*The following requirements apply to applications that involve grading more than a total of 50 cubic yards of cut or fill. Projects proposing less than 50 cubic yards of cut or fill may indicate "minor grading". If the project does not require grading, note "project does not involve grading" on plans.*

- Include a north arrow, legend, and scale.
- All property lines shown and dimensioned with metes and bounds.
- Existing and proposed contours shown and labeled. Contour lines shall have a maximum interval of two (2) feet.
- Note amount of cut, fill, import, or export.
- Show all existing and proposed drainage facilities, including but not limited to: swales, creeks, drainage ditches, discharge facilities, catch-basins, and subsurface drainage pipes (closed and open), within and adjacent to the site. Please provide the location of the creek setback and the creek setback calculations.
- Show the location or outline of any geologic or potentially hazardous soil condition, and areas subject to inundation or ponding.
- Show all public and private roads, rights-of-way, and easements, within and adjacent to the parcel, fully dimensioned. Indicate whether public or private. Indicate nature of easements.

## 8. Drainage Plans

*The following requirements apply to projects that require a drainage permit: (1) any work which increases the impervious surface on the property by 500 square feet or more; (2) any work in a watercourse; (3) installation, expansion, or alteration of a storm water drainage system; or (4) excavating or grading projects subject to a grading permit. Drainage plans may be combined with the grading plan, if required.*

- Note on plans if there are no drainage improvements proposed.
- All items listed under Site Plan.
- Topographic contours of existing and proposed ground surface based on a topographic survey (survey preparation by a licensed surveyor may be required).
- Existing and proposed surface and subsurface drainage facilities and watercourses including but not limited to creeks, swales, drainage ditches, discharge facilities, dissipaters, catch basins, and subsurface drainage pipes. Also indicate septic tanks, with, or as part of, or subsequent to the proposed work.
- Areas subject to inundation or ponding. (Note if there are none)
- Detail methods proposed to intercept and carry off surface and subsurface water.
- Include details of engineered treatment at discharge points and pipe specifications (size, material, etc.).
- Drainage across interior lot lines creating cross-lot drainage is not permitted nor changes in the drainage pattern which alter or increase the quantity which discharges to adjoining properties.
- Hydrologic calculations and plans stamped by a California licensed professional are required for new homes or additions of 1,500 square feet or more;
- Existing and proposed grading contours if grading is more than 50 cubic yards (note on plans if grading is less than 50 cubic yards).

## 9. Landscape Plans

*The following requirements apply to all applications except as follows: Projects with only minor alterations to existing landscaping may include the landscape plan as part of the site plan. Projects with no new landscaping planned may include a "no new landscaping proposed" notation on the site plan.*

- Drawn at the same scale as the site plan.
- Include a north arrow, legend, and scale.

- Include vegetation key with the following information for both existing and proposed landscaping:
  - Species
  - Common Name
  - Number
  - Size
  - Method of Irrigation
- Indicate the total square footage of irrigated area.

10. Visual Aids (Optional)

- Colored elevations that indicate shadow, relief, and proposed colors
- Photomontage (a panoramic photo with the proposed project graphically set into the scene)
- Scaled architectural model
- Perspective elevation