Marin County Form-Based Code









Marin County, CA

Board of Supervisors **September 27, 2022**





Presentation Summary

Overview of Objective Design + Development Standards

Approach to Marin County's FBC

Overview of Marin County's FBC

Next Steps

Agenda

- What are Objective Design Standards?
- Why should Communities Have Them?
- Where should Objective Design Standards Apply?
- How will Marin County Create a Form-Based Code?

Core Neighborhood Medium (T4CN:M)

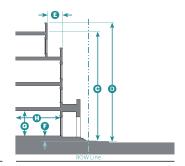


/ Design Site Line

Des	Standards		
Width (A) Depth (B)			
N/A	N/A	x.06.040	
50' min.	100' min.	x.06.050	
70' min. ³	150' min.	x.06.110	
100' min.	125' min.	x.06.130	
	N/A 50' min. 70' min. ³	N/A N/A 50'min. 100'min. 70'min. ³ 150'min.	

ign site shall have only one primary building type, sites of at least 3 acres or over 700' long or deep uired to include civic space and new street(s) per · 10 (Specific to Large Sites).

riage House is not a primary building type. -shaped building; 100' min. for a U-shaped building



---- ROW Line

Height		
_		
Primary Building¹		
Stories	3.5 max.	4 max.
To Highest Eave/Parapet	34' max.	44' ma
Overall	50' max.	50' ma
10' min. stepback for 4th stor	y; corner ele	ments ex
Ground Floor Finish Level		
Residential	6" r	nin.5
Non-Residential	——— 6" r	nax.——
Ground Floor Ceiling		
Residential	9'r	nin.——
Non-Residential	12'	min.——
Accessory Structure(s)6	1 n	nax.
Footprint		
Max. Design Site Coverage	See standa	rds in Cha
	(Specific to	Building 1
Depth, Ground-Floor Space	20'	min. ⁷ ——
⁴ See Chapter 6 (Specific to Bu	uilding Types	for refine
massing and height standard	ds.	
⁵ Common entries may be set	at grade in o	omplianc
	y standards.	

7 For habitable/occupiable space only

Overview of Objective Design + Development Standards

SECTION

1

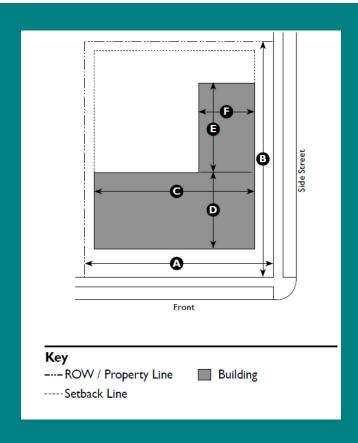
What are Objective Design standards?

"Standards that involve **no personal or subjective judgment** by a public official"

Source: California Govt Code 65658.5(a)(1)(8)

Examples

- **Building Height:** "Any building with commercial uses on the ground floor shall have a ground-floor height of least 14 feet, measured from floor to ceiling"
- Parking: "Curb cuts and driveways providing access to parking facilities shall be from an alley or secondary street"
- Building Mass: "Buildings shall not exceed a length of 100' on any side"

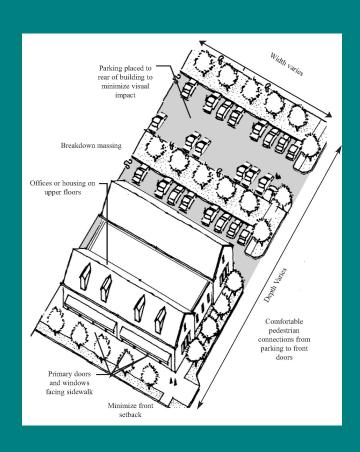


What are Design Guidelines?

Examples:

In most cases, design guidelines are **not** objective:

- "Enhance the appearance and livability of the community"
- "Shall not require excessive grading"
- "Shall not substantially harm major views"



Why should Marin County have Objective Design Standards?

• Ensure that Marin County is **positioned as strongly as possible** to achieve **high quality design** for new multi-family and mixed-use buildings.

Where would Objective Design + Development Standards apply?

- Ultimately, this is **decided by each jurisdiction**.

 They may apply to:
 - Sites where state streamlining requirements might apply
 - Other multi-family or commercial areas
 - Long-term resource for facilitating future land use decisions

Where would Objective Design + Development Standards **not** be used?

- Single-family zoned sites
- A project that requires an amendment to the general plan, a community plan, or zoning
- A project that would result in one or more significant public health and safety impacts (e.g., flood zone)

How do Objective Design Standards relate to **new** state law?

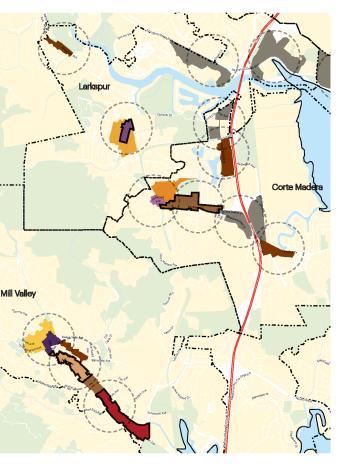
Trends and requirements in state law include:

- More ministerial approvals
- Limited subjective review of projects
- More CEQA Exemptions

In many cases, Objective Design Standards may be one of the **most important ways** for local jurisdictions to **influence and direct design** of multi-family and mixed-use buildings.

Approach to Marin County's Form-Based Code (FBC)







Marin ODDS Approach: Shared Toolkit

Prepare Objective Standards through a Toolkit for the range of physical character in 10 towns and the County.

Each jurisdiction to further customize the content before adoption.

We have worked with your staff to customize the County's FBC.



Key Elements of the Marin Approach

Existing Conditions Analysis

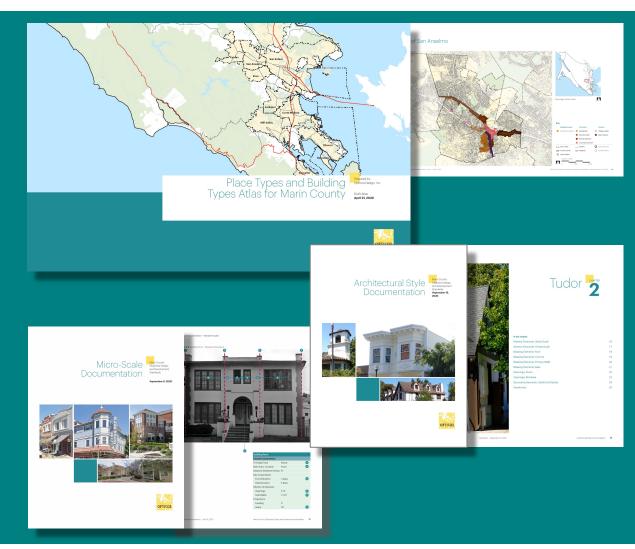
Countywide Survey

Place Types and Building Types Atlas

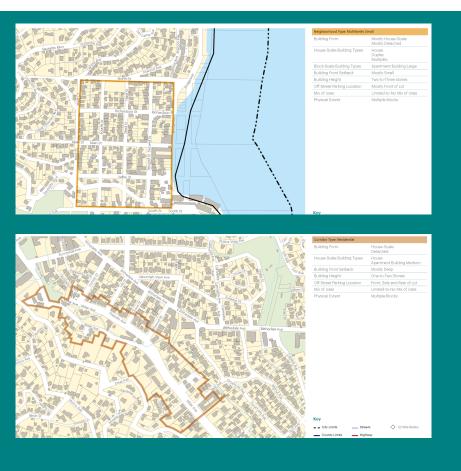
Micro-scale Analysis

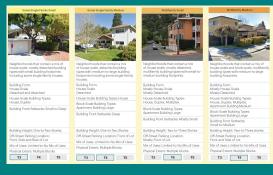
Site Testing Analysis

Development Pro-Forma



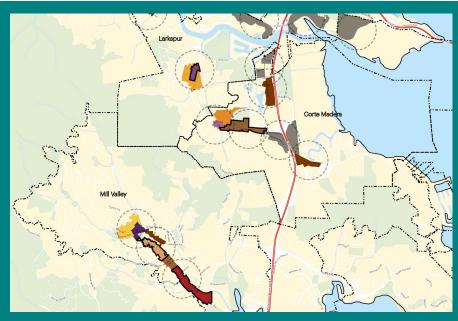
Place Types and Building Types Atlas







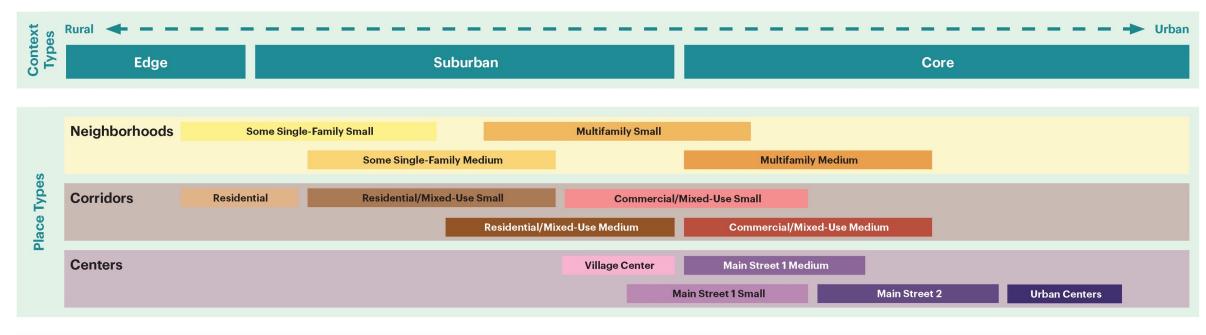


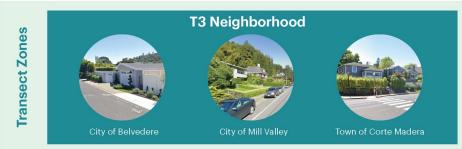




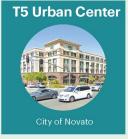


Place Types Atlas - Spectrum



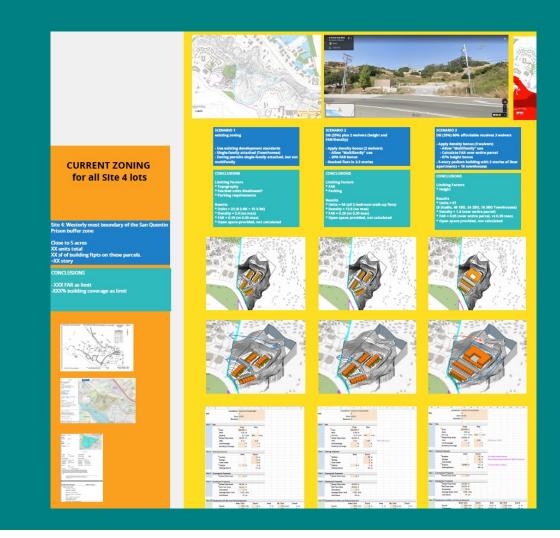






Site Testing

- Yield analyses to help understand what types of standards might be needed.
- And to help customize the zones to your needs.



Palette of 8 Zones and Standards

T3 Zones T4 Zones -T5 Zones -Less Urban More Urban T4 Suburban Neighborhood, Small x.03.050

Zone Abbreviation

Sub-Zone(s)

Medium-to-Large Side Setbacks

A walkable neighborhood environment of small-to-medium footprint, low-intensity housing choices, supporting and within short walking distance of neighborhood-serving retail

House-Scale Buildings Detached Buildings Small-to-Medium Building Footprint Medium-to-Large Front Setbacks

Up to 2.5 Stories without Bonus; up to 3 Stories with Bonus House, Duplex Side-by-Side, Fourplex, and Pocket

Porch Projecting, Porch Engaged, and Dooryard Frontage

A walkable neighborhood environment of small-tomedium footprint, low-to-moderate-intensity housing

Up to 2.5 Stories without Bonus; Up to 3 Stories with Bonus House, Duplex Side-by-Side, Cottage Court, Fourplex, Neighborhood Townhouse, and Pocket Neighborhood Porch Projecting, Porch Engaged, and Doorvard Frontage

choices, supporting and within short walking distance of neighborhood-serving retail and services.

Small-to-Medium Side Setbacks

Sub-Zone(s)

House-Scale Buildings

Neighborhood, and Multiplex

Frontage Types; Shopfront in Open Sub-Zone



different signage and sometimes additional frontages within the same form and character of the base zone.

A walkable neighborhood environment of small-to-medium footprint, moderate-intensity housing choices, supporting and within short walking distance of neighborhood-serving

Desired Form House-Scale Buildings Primarily Detached Buildings

Small-to-Medium Building Footprint Small-to-Medium Front Setbacks

Small-to-Medium Side Setbacks Up to 2.5 Stories without Bonus; up to 3 Stories with Bonus House, Duplex Stacked, Cottage Court, Fourplex, Neighborhood Townhouse. Neighborhood Courtyard. Pocket

Porch Projecting, Porch Engaged, Doonvard, and Stoop



Sub-Zone(s)

T4CN.M-Open. The open sub-zone allows more uses. different signage and sometimes additional frontages within the same form and character of the base zone.

footprint, moderate-intensity housing choices, supporting

and within short walking distance of neighborhood-serving Desired Form

Primarily House-Scale Buildings Primarily Detached Buildings Medium-to-Large Building Footprint

Up to 3.5 Stories without Bonus: up to 4 Stories with Bonus House, Duplex Stacked, Fourplex, Neighborhood Townhouse, Neighborhood Courtyard, Pocket

Neighborhood, and Multiplex Porch Projecting, Porch Engaged, Doorward, and Stoop Frontage Types; Shopfront and Terrace Frontage Types in



T4SMS.S-Open. The open sub-zone allows more uses. different signage and sometimes additional frontages, within the same form and character of the base zone.

A walkable vibrant district of small-to-medium footprint moderate intensity, mixed-use buildings and housing choices, supporting neighborhood-serving ground floor retail food and services

Desired Form

Primarily House-Scale Buildings Primarily Attached Buildings

Small-to-Medium Building Footprint None-to-Small Front Setbacks

None-to-Small Side Setbacks

Up to 2.5 Stories without Bonus: up to 3 Stories with Bonus Courtyard, Multiplex, and Main Street Building

Porch Projecting, Porch Engaged, Forecourt, Shopfront, Terrace, and Gallery Frontage Types; Dooryard, Stoop, and Maker Shopfront Frontage Types in Open Sub-Zone or on



4CMS-Open. The open sub-zone allows more uses. different signage and sometimes additional frontages, within the same form and character of the base zone.

A walkable vibrant district of medium-to-large footocint moderate intensity, mixed-use buildings and housing choices, supporting neighborhood-serving ground floor

retail, food and services

Desired Form

Block-Scale Building Primarily Attached Building: Medium-to-Large Building Footprin

None-to-Small Front Setbacks None-to-Small Side Setbacks Up to 3.5 Stories without Bonus: up to 4 Stories with Bonus

Multiplex, Core Townhouse, Core Courtyard, and Main Stree

Eprecourt, Shopfront, Terrare, and Gallery Frontage Types: Dooryard, Stoop, and Maker Shopfront Frontage Types in Open Sub-Zone or on Side Street



TSCN-Open. The open sub-zone allows more uses, different signage and sometimes additional frontages, within the same form and character of the base zone.

A walkable neighborhood environment of large footprint. short walking distance of neighborhood-serving retail and

Desired Form Block-Scale Buildings Primarily Detached Buildings Large Building Footprint Small Front Setbacks

Small Side Setbacks Up to 5 Stories without Bonus; up to 7 Stories with Bonus Multiplex, Core Townhouse, and Core Courtyard

Porch Projecting, Porch Engaged, Stoop, Forecourt, and Terrace Frontage Types; Shopfront in Open Sub-Zone

TSCMS-Onen. The onen sub-zone allows more uses. different signage and sometimes additional frontages, within the same form and character of the base zone.

A walkable, vibrant district of large footprint, high-intensity nixed-use buildings and housing choices supporting ground floor retail, food and services

Desired Form

Block-Scale Buildings Attached Buildings Large Building Footprin No Front Setbacks

Up to 5 Stories without Bonus: up to 7 Stories with Bonus Core Courtyard, and Main Street Building

Shopfront, Terrace, and Gallery Frontage Types: Stoop and Maker Shopfront Frontage Types in Open Sub-Zone or Side

Marin County Objective Design and Development Standards Toolkit 23

February 17, 2021

20 Marin County Objective Design and Development Standards Toolkit

February 17, 2021

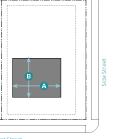
February 17, 202

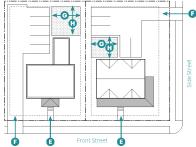
Marin County Objective Design and Development Standards Toolkit 21

22 Marin County Objective Design and Development Standards Toolkit.

February 17, 2021

x.06.090





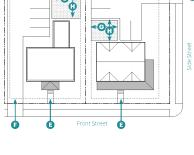
Building

2.5 max. 48' max.

48' max. 20' max. 15' min.

in compliance with Chapter 8 ection 5 of the zone

ry less than main body and 10' less



ROW/ Design Site Line	Frontage	
····· Building Setback Line	Common Open	Space
4. Pedestrian Access		
Main Entrance Location	Front Street	G
Each unit may have an indiv	idual entry.	
5. Vehicle Access and Park	ing	
Driveway and parking locati	on shall comply with	G
standards in Subsection 7 o	f the zone.	
Parking may be covered, un	covered, or in a garage.	
6. Open Space		
Common Open Space ³		
Width	15' min.	G
Depth	15' min.	0

Required common open space shall be located behind the

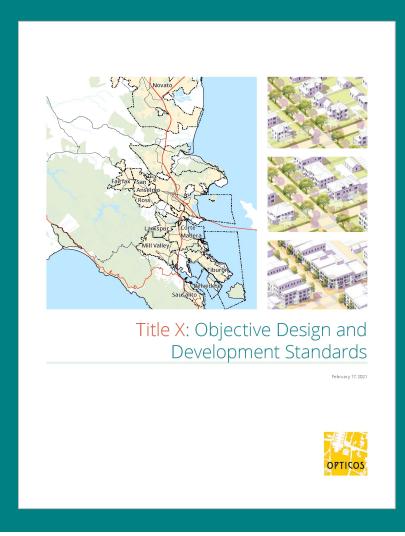
main body of the building.

Key Components of Marin County's FBC



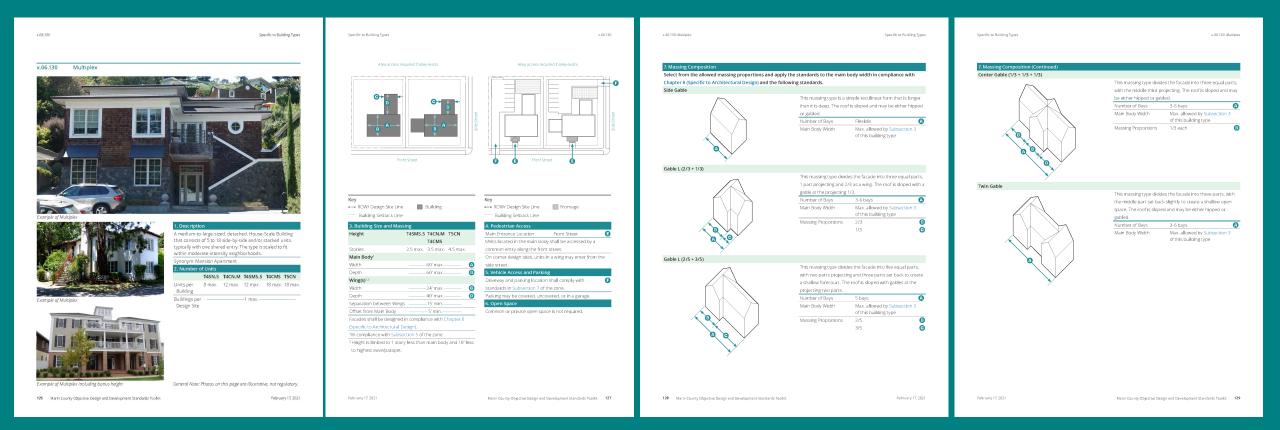
³ None is required if the building is within 800' of public open

Marin County's FBC



- Preamble
- Ch 1 Introduction and Applicability
- Ch 2 Palette of Zones
- Ch 3 Zone Standards
- Ch 4 Specific to Uses
- Ch 5 General Standards
- Ch 6 Specific to Buildings
- Ch 7 Specific to Frontages
- Ch 8 Specific to Architecture
- Ch 9 Specific to Signage
- Ch 10 Specific to Large Sites
- Ch 11 Administration
- Ch 12 Definitions

Building Type Standards



6 Architectural Styles to choose from

Table x.08.040.A: Architectural Styles Overview

Contemporary



Typical Characteristics

Long, low-sloped roof forms with simple eaves with deep overhangs Asymmetrical facade compositions with square and horizontal openings often made from ganged vertical windows

Mix of exterior materials to differentiate massing forms, with prevalent natural materials including wood siding

Horizontally proportioned balconies and terraces with minimalist vertical supports

Applicable Standards

Building Roof Parapet Windows Bay Windows Dormers Entry Doors Balconies Porches Storefronts

Craftsman



Typical Characteristics

Low-pitched roofs with deep eaves and exposed rafter tails Horizontally proportioned openings

made from ganged vertical windows Emphasis on natural materials including wood shingles

Asymmetrical composition with wall plane broken by projecting gable ends

Main Street Classical



Typical Characteristics

Symmetrical facade composition with proportions that imply load-bearing masonry structure

Prominent cornice with classical detailing and parapet or pedimented

Regular pattern of vertically proportioned openings

Brick and stucco as primary facade

Table x.08.040.A: Architectural Styles Overview (Continued)

Mediterranean



Typical Characteristics

Low-pitched gabled or hipped roofs clad in red tile with open eaves Flat, rectilinear wall plane with vertically proportioned punched openings without trim

Stucco as primary facade material with stucco or wood attached elements

Tudor



Typical Characteristics

Prominent gabled roof forms with steep pitch and open eaves Vertically proportioned openings with

Brick and stucco as primary facade materials, often with half-timbering at upper floors



Typical Characteristics

Simple, rectilinear forms articulated with a regular pattern of openings Vertically proportioned elements, including steeply pitched roofs, projecting gable ends, and tall cornices and parapets

Vertically proportioned windows, angled or boxed bays, and picture

Siding or stucco with shingled elements

Materials

Building Roof Rake Eave Parapet Windows Bay Windows Dormers Entry Doors Balconies Porches

Storefronts

Materials

Applicable Standards

Applicable Standards **Building Roof** Parapet Windows Bay Windows Entry Doors Balconies Porches Storefronts

Applicable Standards

Building Roof Parapet Windows Bay Windows Dormers Entry Doors Balconies Porches Storefronts Materials

Applicable Standards

Building Roof Eave Windows Bay Windows Dormers Entry Doors Balconies Porches Storefronts Materials

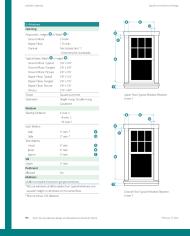
Applicable Standards

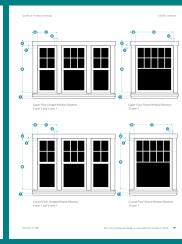
Building Roof Rake Eave Parapet Windows Bay Windows Dormers Entry Doors Balconies Porches Storefronts Materials

Architectural Style Standards



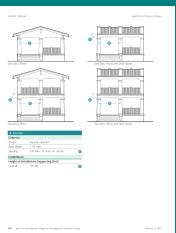


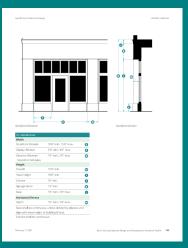












Public Realm Standards

			Developme	ent Scenario		
Required Improvements		Infill Design Site on Existing Block	Two or More Design Sites on Existing Block	More Than Half of Existing Block	New Block(s)	
		Development consists of one design site.	Development consists of two or more design sites that are less than half of the block face.	Development consists of two or more design sites that are more than half of the block face.	Development creates one or more new blocks.	
a.	Sidewalk. Add missing segment(s) along abutting front and/or side street.	R	R	R	R	
b.	Sidewalk. Repair uneven segments along abutting front and/or side street.	R	R	R	N/A	
c.	Street trees. Add street trees along abutting front and/ or side street where there is adequate room to also maintain sufficient width for traffic lanes, pedestrian sidewalks, and bicycle facilities. See Subsection 04.030.4.A.(2).	R	R	R	R	
d.	Crosswalk improvements. Add crosswalk.	Х	Х	Х	R; Including adjacent and new intersection(s).	
e.	Bicycle facilities. Add bicycle facilities required in Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.	Х	Х	R	R; Including bike lanes.	

Table 04.060.B: Public Frontage Types Overview

Table B (Public Frontage Types Overview) provides an overview of the allowed public frontage types in or abutting each zone.

Public Frontage	Specific	T3		T4			T5		
Types	Standards	EN	SN	SN.S	CN.M	SMS.S	CMS	CN	CMS
Street	04. 060 .C.1	Р	Р	Р	Р	X	Х	Р	X
Avenue/Boulevard	04.060.C.2	Х	Х	Х	Р	X	Р	Р	X
Main Street	04.060.C.3	Х	Х	Х	Х	Р	Р	Х	Р

Table 04.060.C: Public Frontage Assemblie

Width

5' min.

Table 04.060.C: Public Fr	ontage Assemblies		
Table C (Public Frontage A	ssemblies) identifies the required e	lements and dimensions of each	public frontage type.
	Street 04.060.C.1	Avenue/Boulevard 04.060.C.2	Main Street 04.060.C.3
Assembly. The type			
and dimension of curbs, walkways, and planters.)—©
Total Width	(A) 11' min.	(A) 13' min.	16' min.
Note: See below for requir	red elements of each assembly		
Curb. The detailing of the edge of the vehicular pavement, incorporating drainage			
i. Type	Raised Curb	Raised Curb	Raised Curb
b. Walkway. The pavement dedicated exclusively to pedestrian activity.			
і. Туре	Walkway	Walkway	Walkway
ii. Width	6' min.	8' min.	12' min.
Note: Placement of curb	ramps shall match the desired path of p	edestrian travel. See Marin County S	tandard Plans for curb ramp design.
 Planter. The area that accommodates street trees and other landscaping. 		3 − 3	o
Arrangement	Regular	Regular	Regular
Types	Planting Strips along curb edge and R.O.W. edge	Planting Strips along curb	Tree Wells (must be located between walkway and curb)

5' min.

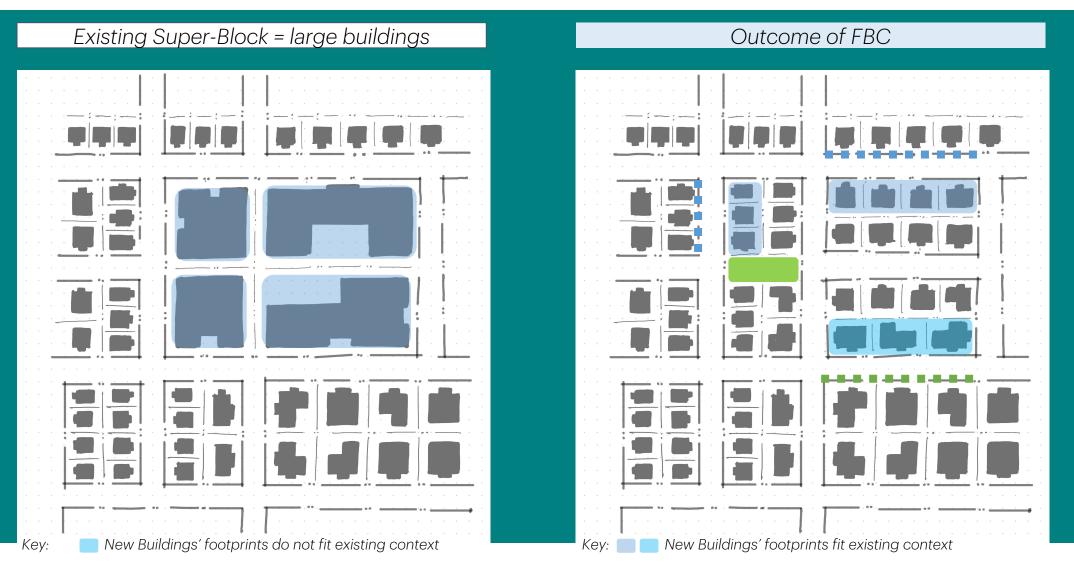
4' min.

Applying the FBC to large sites

- For lots exceed a length that may allow for a new street in response to existing context
- When lots are larger than few acres and may allow for new streets and blocks



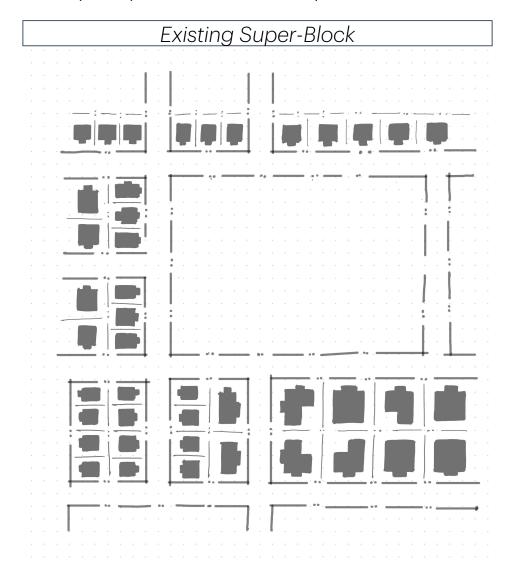
Why? To fit new buildings to the context

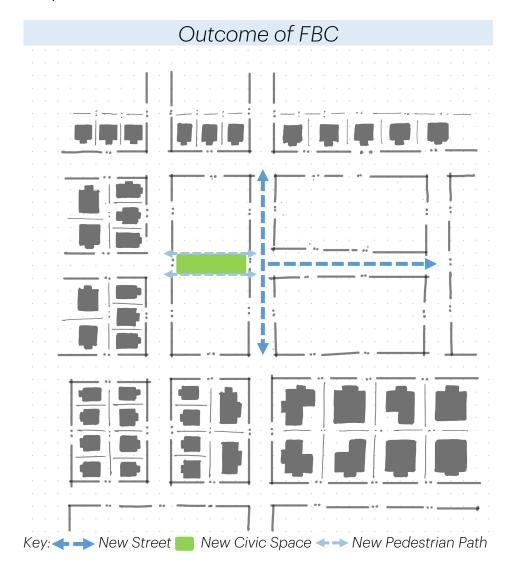


Apply maximum block-size standards



• Break up super blocks and promote a transit-friendly street & block network

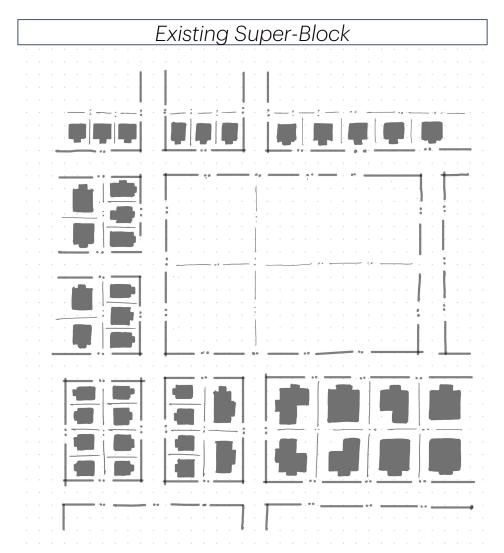


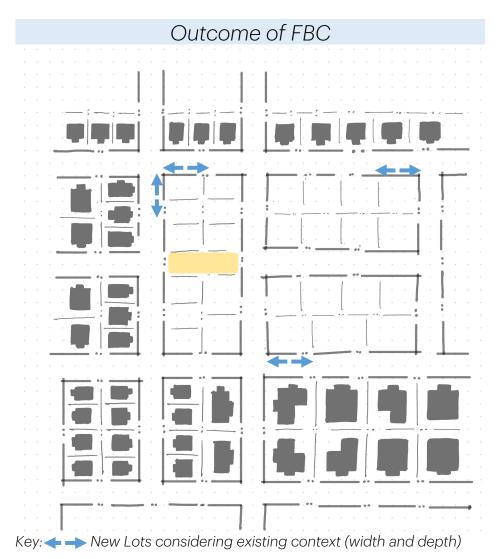


Apply maximum lot size standards



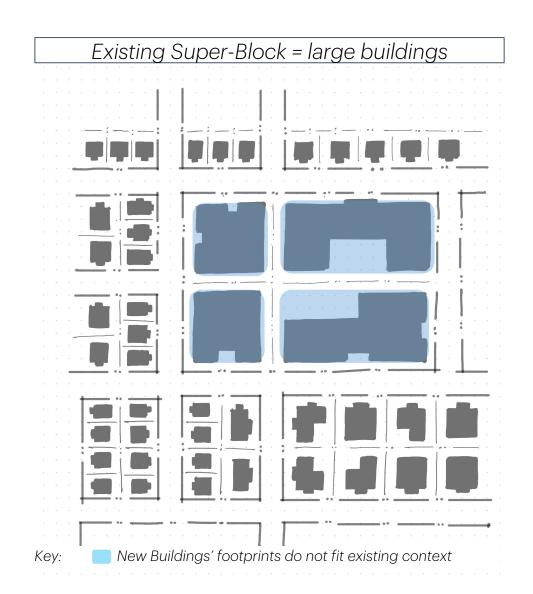
• Reinforce the existing lot size pattern through lot standards coordinated to building size

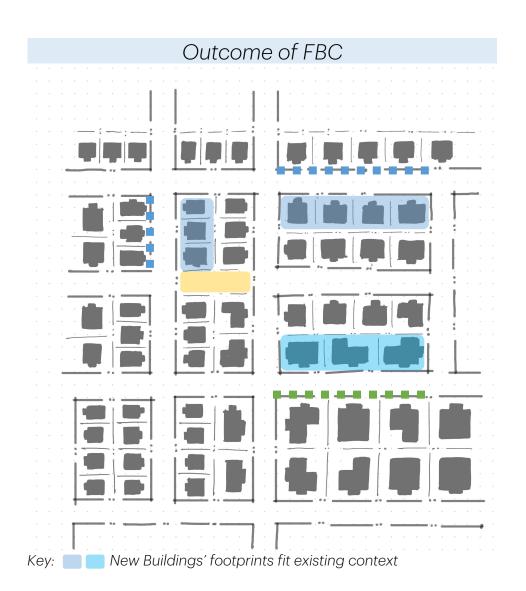




Apply building type and frontage standards



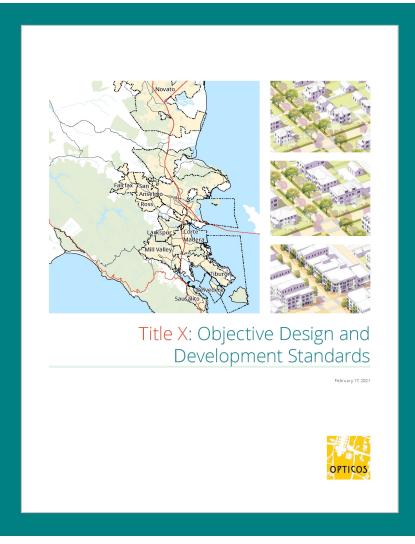




Relief from the Standards

Administrative Relief Type for Design Sites Over 6% Slope		Re	equired Findings	Allowed Administrative Relief	Reference to Standard
5.	Design Site Dimensions				
a.	Increase or decrease in	i.	Existing slope exceeds 15% grade for over 50% of design site depth.	20% max. of the standard	Subsection 3 of the zone
		ii.	An existing or new design site can be developed consistent with the intent of the zone as described in Subsection 1 of the zone.		
In mi	Increase or decrease in	i.	Existing slope exceeds 15% grade for over 25% of design site width.	10% max. of the standard	Subsection 3 of the zone
		ii.	An existing or new design site can be developed consistent with the intent of the zone as described in Subsection 1 of the zone.		
6.	Building Setbacks				
a.	Rear ii Increase or decrease in minimum to maximum required setback areas for	i.	Existing slope exceeds 15% grade.	Reduction in the	Subsection 5 of the zone
		ii.	An existing tree, rock outcrop, and/ or utility infrastructure prevents compliance with the standard.	minimum setback up to within 5' of the design site line. Where side	
		iii.	An existing or new design site can be developed consistent with the intent of the zone as described in Subsection 1 of the zone.	street setback is 5' minimum, reduction in the minimum setback up to within 3' of the design site line.	

Progress



- Toolkit delivered February 2021 (1 year from start)
- 2 towns have adopted a further customized version (Corte Madera, Belvedere)
- 4 towns are in progress with customization (County, Sausalito, San Anselmo, Fairfax)
- 3 towns intend to use the Toolkit (Novato, Ross, Larkspur)
- 2 others are not using the Toolkit (Tiburon, Mill Valley)