



MARIN COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Committed to the preservation of life, property and environment.



September 28, 2021

Kathleen Kilgariff
Planner
County of Marin
Community Development Agency

RE: Sasan Appeal-187 Sacramento Ave., San Anselmo

Dear Kathleen,

As we discussed, this letter was written to clarify Fire's comments regarding Fire's emergency access requirements. As you know, Marin County Fire Department enforces two sets of regulations with regards to Fire requirements.

Those two regulations are the current adopted version of the California Fire Code (CFC, currently the 2019 edition) with Marin County amendments, and the Public Resources Code (PRC, when the project is located in State Responsibility Area (SRA)).

CFC (Section 503.1.1) requires fire apparatus access within 150-ft of all portions of the building. Exceptions to this requirement can be made at the Fire Official's discretion if, for example the building is equipped with automatic fire sprinklers.

For SRA, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 1273.05 requires fire apparatus turnarounds at the end of driveways over 300-ft. in length. It also requires the turnaround be located within 50-ft of the structure. In the case of the above captioned structure, the turnaround is proposed to be located approximately 80-ft from the structure.

As I mentioned previously, in my twenty years as Fire Marshal, there have been many instances where accommodation has been made for projects that did not meet strict code requirements for fire access, whether it be for driveway width (to accommodate retention of a heritage tree, or to reduce the height of retaining walls, for example), or location of fire apparatus turnarounds for the same reasons. These accommodations are certainly not uncommon given that the easily "buildable" lots are almost non-existent.

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FIRE CHIEF

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Tamalpais Fire Crew

Summarizing, in my expert opinion a deviation of 30-ft from strict code requirements for the turnaround's location is not an issue when balanced against the consequences of moving the turnaround closer (increased height of retaining walls because of site topography), and other mitigating factors such as the residence being equipped with automatic fire sprinklers, the requirement for the development of a Vegetation Management Plan, as well as the requirement for the structure to be built with ignition resistant construction. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Scott D. Alber, PE, CFO, FM, EFO, MIFireE
Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal