



4

DEVELOPMENT OVERSIGHT  
COMMISSION,  
PLANNING COMMISSION

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO**  
CALIFORNIA

300 RICHARDS BLVD.  
THIRD FLOOR  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
95811

April 27, 2009

Kevin Johnson  
Mayor, City of Sacramento  
915 "I" Street, New City Hall  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mayor Johnson,

In response to its public outreach regarding the merger of the City's Design Review and Planning Commissions as proposed by the Development Oversight Commission (DOC) in the letter to you dated January 6, 2009, the DOC has reconsidered and now proposes to work in collaboration with the Planning Commission and the Design Commission (and possibly the Preservation Commission), on exploring various means to enhance the efficiencies and effectiveness of the development review and hearing processes, which may or may not include a recommendation to merge commissions.

Notwithstanding the analysis by City Development Services Department staff in favor of such a merger, the DOC recognizes significant concerns raised by members of the Planning and Design Commissions and the public at large over any potential reduction of opportunities for public input on projects in the development review process, as well as over the proposal to delegate some commission decisions to staff level. Nonetheless, there appears to be some level of agreement that the current development review processes can be improved.

Given the importance of, and desire for, well designed projects resulting from a fair, balanced, and transparent public review process considerate of the needs of the public and applicant alike, the affected development commissions have thus agreed to collaboratively review and assess the effectiveness and efficiencies of project review through the public hearing process. To that end we jointly propose to form an ad-hoc committee made up of representatives of each of the affected commissions (DOC, Planning, and Design Commissions) and supported by DSD staff.

We appreciate your and the Council's consideration and offer our assistance for future collaboration on this issue. Please feel free to contact Janis Franklin, Program Specialist, at (916) 808-7705 or email: [jfranklin@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:jfranklin@cityofsacramento.org) should you have any further questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

Holger Fuerst, P.E., Chair  
City Development Oversight Commission

Darrel "H" Woo, Chair  
City Planning Commission

Cc: Members of the City Council  
Ray Kerridge, City Manager  
William Thomas, Director of Development Services  
David Kwong, Planning Manager  
Members of the Planning Commission  
Members of the Design Commission