



Community Development Department
1 Plaza, PO Box 667
Patterson, CA 95363
209.895.8020
email: planning@pattersonca.gov
www.pattersonca.gov

VARIANCE

This information is provided as a guide to assist you in the preparation of the application for a **Variance**. It is also intended to explain the process by which the City analyzes and acts upon the application.

What is a Variance?

The Patterson City Code allows for relief from the zoning ordinance under specific and strict standards. A Variance is a provision that allows for relief from the zoning ordinance where difficulties and unnecessary hardships may result from the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance. Variances are granted only for relief from development standards and shall not be construed to allow any deviation from land use restrictions.

Application Submittal

An application for a Variance shall be filed by the property owner or their representative/agent on forms prescribed for this purpose. The application shall be submitted to the Planning Department, 1 Plaza (P.O. Box 667), Patterson, CA 95363.

A written explanation of the proposed variance and why the variance will meet the required finding (see "Required Findings")

- ☐ Any evidence or other information that demonstrates that the required findings can be made (may include, but not limited to, photographs, maps, or sketches)
- ☐ Proof of owner's interest in the property (copy of deed, tax bill, etc...)
- ☐ Owner's concurrence in the application (if owner does not sign the application)
- ☐ A location map
- ☐ A site plan (a drawing of the proposed project with dimensions)
- ☐ A written list of any other permits or approvals required or already obtained for this project (include agency, permit #, and dates)
- ☐ A completed Environmental Information Form



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Processing the Application

The processing time for a completed application for a Variance varies from one to three months depending on the complexity of the application, any required environmental documentation and public noticing requirements. A hearing before the Planning Commission will be scheduled and open to the public. It is recommended that the applicant or their agent attend the hearing to speak on behalf of the applicant and to answer questions the Planning Commission may have.

Planning staff will prepare a staff report for the Planning Commission. The staff report contains an analysis of the application and a recommendation for action by the Planning Commission. This recommendation may be to approve the application, approve the application with staff recommended changes, approve the application with changes or revisions, or to recommend denial. The petitioner and their agents will be mailed a copy of the meeting agenda and staff report prior to the Planning Commission hearing.

Note: If the application is not complete within thirty (30) days of receipt the City of Patterson Planning Department will deem the application incomplete, request additional information or return the application and application fee(s) to the applicant.

Procedure

Variance Review

1. Pre-Application Conference with Planning Department Staff (Optional).
2. Submit Application.
3. Staff Review Application for Completeness.
4. Staff Evaluation of Application.
5. Staff Produces Staff Report and Recommendations.
6. Public Notice sent to the newspaper and surrounding properties at least 10 days in advance of the Planning Commission Hearing.
7. Planning Commission Meeting.
8. After meeting:
 - a. If Approved: Application is valid 10 business days after Planning Commission meeting, unless an aggrieved party appeals the Planning Commission decision to the City Council.
 - b. If Denied: Petitioner can appeal the decision of the Planning Commission to the City Council.



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Decisions and Appeal Process

After the Planning Commission has rendered a decision, you will receive written communication of this determination, and if approved, any conditions of approval. Any interested party, aggrieved by the determination of the Planning Commission, may appeal this decision to the City Council, within ten (10) business days after such date of determination.

Approval of the application is not in effect until the appeal period has expired, or any appeal filed has been acted upon by the City Council. Appeals must be made in written form, addressed to the City Council and accompanied by the required fee of \$686.00.

If not utilized or acted upon, a Variance permit will expire one (1) year from the date of the determination. Extensions may be granted by written request to the Planning Commission accompanied by the required fee of \$238.00. A variance may be revoked if conditions are not met.

Building Permits

Application for a Variance does not constitute an application for a building permit. Separate building permit applications are required prior to any construction. Building permits shall not be issued until the appeal period has expired or any appeals filed have been made upon by the City Council.

Required Findings

To approve an application for a Variance, the Planning Commission must determine that this project complies with the following required findings:

- A) There are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applying to land, buildings, or uses referred to in the application which circumstances or conditions do not apply to land, buildings, and/or uses in the same district.
- B) The granting of such application will not, under the circumstances of the particular case or as conditioned, materially affect adversely, be injurious or detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of persons or property in the vicinity of the subject site, or the general welfare of the city.



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- C) The strict application of this title deprives such property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under identical zoning classifications.
- D) The granting of such variances shall not constitute a special privilege.



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Application Contents

- ☐ Written summary of the proposed Variation.
- ☐ Any evidence or other information that demonstrates that the required findings can be made. ☐
- Proof of owner's interest in property (i.e. copy of deed, tax bill, etc.)
- ☐ Location Map
- ☐ Site Plan, depicting proposed project with dimensions.
- ☐ A written list of and other permits or approvals required or already obtained for this project.
- ☐ A completed Environmental Information Form (attached).
- ☐ Other information and/or attachments as may be required by the Planning Director/Planning Commission.

- ☐ Variance Fee:
- ☐ \$1122.00 RESIDENTIAL
- ☐ \$2026.00 NON-RESIDENTIAL

Note: At least one copy of all the maps, site plans, floor plans, etc., must be provided as an 8.5 x 11" or 11" x 17" reproducible copy.

Note: Should your project require an environmental review, the applicant is responsible for the environmental filing fees (effective 1-1-2026) as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| • Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)* | \$3043.75 |
| • Environmental Impact Report (EIR)* | \$4227.50 |
| • Environmental Document Pursuant to a Certified Regulatory Program* | \$1437.25 |
| • County Clerk Processing Fee | \$57.00 |
- (*Department of Fish and Game Fees)



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Project #: _____

Name of Project / Development

Applicant Name

Mailing Address/City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Email

Property Owner

Mailing Address/City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Email

Property Description / Location:

Street Address

Assessor's Parcel Number(s) APN:

SIGNATURES:

The above information as well as the plans and materials submitted herewith in support of this application are, to the best of my/our knowledge, true and correct.

APPLICANT: _____ **DATE:** _____

OWNER: _____ **DATE:** _____



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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

In order to approve a Variance, the following findings must be made by the Planning Commission:

- A. That there are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applying to land, building or use referred to in the application, which circumstances or conditions do not apply to land, buildings, and/or uses in the same district; and
- B. That the granting of such application will not, under the circumstances of the particular case or as conditioned, materially affect adversely, be injurious or detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of people or property in the vicinity of the subject site, or to the general welfare of the City; and
- C. That the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance deprives such property of privileges enjoyed by other property in the vicinity and under identical zoning classifications; and
- D. That the granting of such variance shall not constitute a special privilege.

In the spaces below, provide the justification which you would suggest the Planning Commission use in approving the requested Variance (use additional sheets if necessary). City staff will include your justification exactly as written below and will recommend to the Commission whether or not to accept these justifications.

1) **(Special Circumstances)**

2) **(Would not grant a Special Privilege)**



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Environmental Information Form

This information is provided as a guide to assist you in the preparation of the **Environmental Information Form**. It is also intended to explain the process by which the City analyzes and acts upon the form.

The State of California requires that most development projects submitted to the City of Patterson undergo some level of review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA is a state law that requires an analysis and public report on the potential environmental effects of any project that is conducted or approved by the City. The Environmental Information Form is used to determine whether a project needs to be reviewed under the CEQA regulations. The City of Patterson is responsible for reviewing the project to determine whether it is exempt from CEQA review.

If CEQA review is required, three types of reports are typically prepared for projects: 1) CEQA Exemption, 2) a Negative Declaration, or 3) an Environmental Impact Report. The majority of projects are either Exempt or Negative Declarations. Planning Staff will let you know what type of documentation is required based upon the type of project that is being proposed, the characteristics of the property, and other factors that are spelled out in State CEQA regulations.

Application Submittal

The Environmental Information Form shall be filed by the property owner or their representative agent on forms prescribed for this purpose. The application shall be submitted to the Planning Department, 1 Plaza (P.O. Box 667), Patterson, CA 95363.

Additional information may be required by the Planning Director during the review of the application.



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Number of Units, Unit Size, Range of Sale Prices/Rents, and Type of Household Size expected (Residential Only)

Type of Development (Regional, City or Neighborhood), Square Footage of Sales Area and Loading facilities (Commercial Only)

Type, Number of Employees per Shift and Number of Loading Facilities (Industrial Only)

Major Function Employees per Shift, Occupancy, Loading Facilities, Community Benefit of Project (Institutional Only)

Are the following items Applicable to the project or its effects? Please explain on additional sheets all items checked 'Yes'.

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| ☐ | ☐ | Inconsistent with the City of Patterson's General Plan. |
| ☐ | ☐ | Affect the use of a recreation area or area of important aesthetic value. |
| ☐ | ☐ | Affect the functioning of an established community/neighborhood. |
| ☐ | ☐ | Displace community/neighborhood residence. |
| ☐ | ☐ | Affect unique natural or man-made features in the project area |
| ☐ | ☐ | Significantly affect the potential use, extraction or conservation of a scarce natural resource |
| ☐ | ☐ | Significantly affect a historical or archeological site |
| ☐ | ☐ | Serve as wildlife habitat for rare/endangered plant or animal species |
| ☐ | ☐ | Affect fish, wildlife or plant life |
| ☐ | ☐ | Result in soil erosion of agricultural land |
| ☐ | ☐ | Change the pattern, scale, or character of the general area of the project |
| ☐ | ☐ | Require certification, authorization or issuance of a permit by a Local, State, or Federal environmental control agency |
| ☐ | ☐ | Require facilities to be constructed in a flood plain |
| ☐ | ☐ | Require facilities to be constructed on land with greater than a 15% slope |
| ☐ | ☐ | Require constructing facilities on an active geologic fault |
| ☐ | ☐ | Generate significant amounts of dust or noise (in either the construction or operational stages) |
| ☐ | ☐ | Generate significant amounts of solid waste |
| ☐ | ☐ | Substantially change existing noise or vibration levels |
| ☐ | ☐ | Endanger the quality of the regional air or water resources |
| ☐ | ☐ | Cause a significant change in the hydrology of the area |



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- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| ☐ | ☐ | One in a series of foreseeable actions that may ultimately have an impact on the environment |
| ☐ | ☐ | Involve the application, use or disposal of potentially hazardous waste |

Certification: I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this initial evaluation to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct the best of my knowledge and belief. **If any of the facts represented here change it is my responsibility to inform the City of Patterson.**

Applicant: _____ Date: _____