

# Agenda Report

TO: CITY COUNCIL

DATE: JULY 31, 2006

FROM: CYNTHIA J. KURTZ, CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY-PLAN REVIEW (PPR) FOR NEW MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT AT 680 E. WALNUT STREET

## RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information only.

## BACKGROUND

The administrative guidelines for Preliminary-Plan Review (PPR) require presentations to the City Council about projects of community-wide significance. The proposed, new mixed-use development at the southeast corner of E. Walnut Street and N. El Molino Avenue, in the CD-3 (Walnut Housing) zoning district, qualifies for a PPR presentation to the Council because it has more than 50 dwelling units.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project site is located on five parcels at the southeast corner of Walnut Street at El Molino Avenue in the Central District. This district is transitioning to a higher density urban residential character. The proposed project envisions removing the four existing single-story buildings totaling 8,236 square feet, and the construction of three mixed-use buildings four to five stories in height with 59 dwelling units and 7,551 square feet of commercial area with a gross total of 93,149 square feet. The height of the proposed building would be 65'-0". Also included are 124 subterranean parking spaces. The Mixed–Use development standards apply to the five-story building at the southeast corner of Walnut and El Molino with a mix of commercial and residential units. The Urban Housing development standards apply to the remaining two buildings that are residential only.

MEETING OF 07/31/2006

AGENDA ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_11.A.

The maximum residential density for the subject site is 87 units/acre, as identified in Figure 3-6 of the Zoning Code. City records indicate that the total square footage for the five lots is 41,207 square feet (.95 acres). Based on the lot size, the maximum allowable residential density of the site is 82 units. The 59 residential units proposed are within the maximum density allowed for the site. Mixed-Use and Urban Housing projects are subject to Inclusionary Housing requirements.

The maximum building height for the subject site is 60-feet. The maximum building height utilizing height averaging for the subject site is 75-feet.

The project utilizes height averaging. When utilizing height averaging, the additional height permitted cannot exceed 30% of the building footprint on a development parcel provided that the average height of that footprint does not exceed the otherwise maximum permitted building height. The Mixed-Use structure is 68 feet in height and the Urban Housing buildings are 58 feet and 49 feet in height. Height averaging requires approval of the Design Commission.

#### **REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS**

<u>Design Review</u>: Design review is required for all new construction in the CD-3 zoning district. The Design Commission is responsible for conducting design review of a project of this scale at a noticed public hearing. At both concept review and final review, it will review the architectural design, site plan, materials, and landscaping. In addition, the Design Commission is also responsible for approving any requests for height averaging; in this case, the project utilizes height averaging.

Public Art Review: The public art requirements apply to the project.

<u>Trees:</u> The tree inventory list submitted indicates that 14 trees are proposed to be removed, seven of which are protected trees. Trees may only be removed if specific findings to support the removal can be made. Tree removal will be considered during the Design Review process.

<u>Environmental Review</u>: The CEQA review of the project will address traffic, air quality, aesthetics, and other issues.

<u>Timeline:</u> The following timeline outlines the major steps in the process.

Date	Activity
March 7, 2006	Application submitted for Preliminary Application Conference by City staff.
May 2006	City Staff reviews PAC comments with applicant. Development team responds to comments from City staff. Technical studies are identified and initiated.

July 17, 2006	Preliminary Plan Review presentation to City Council.
July/August 2006	Technical studies submitted to City. Environmental completed. If an EIR is required, this time line will need to accommodate the EIR process.
September 2006	Design Commission—Concept Design Review and Review of Height-Averaging.
To Be Determined by Applicant filing	Final Design Review

#### FISCAL IMPACT

The applicant will be required to pay fees for Design Review and the processing of environmental documents for the project which cover staff time. The project will also generate plan check and permit fees, in an amount that cannot be determined at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

GÝNTHIA J. KÚRTZ

CITY MANAGER

Prepared by

Robert

Associate Planner

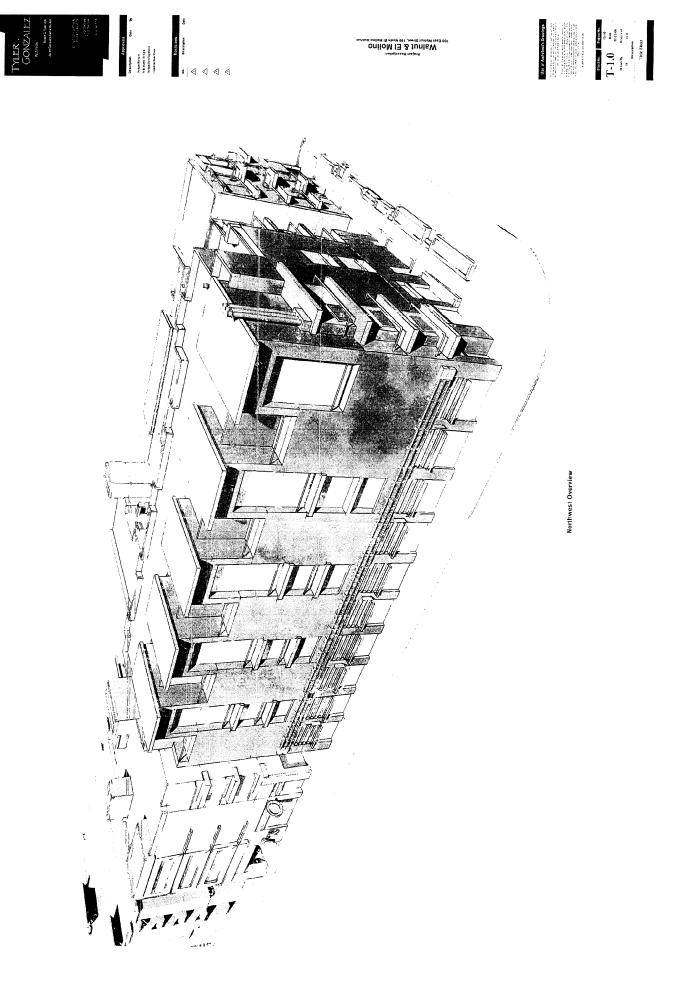
Approved by:

JPP

Richard J. Brückner Director of Planning & Development

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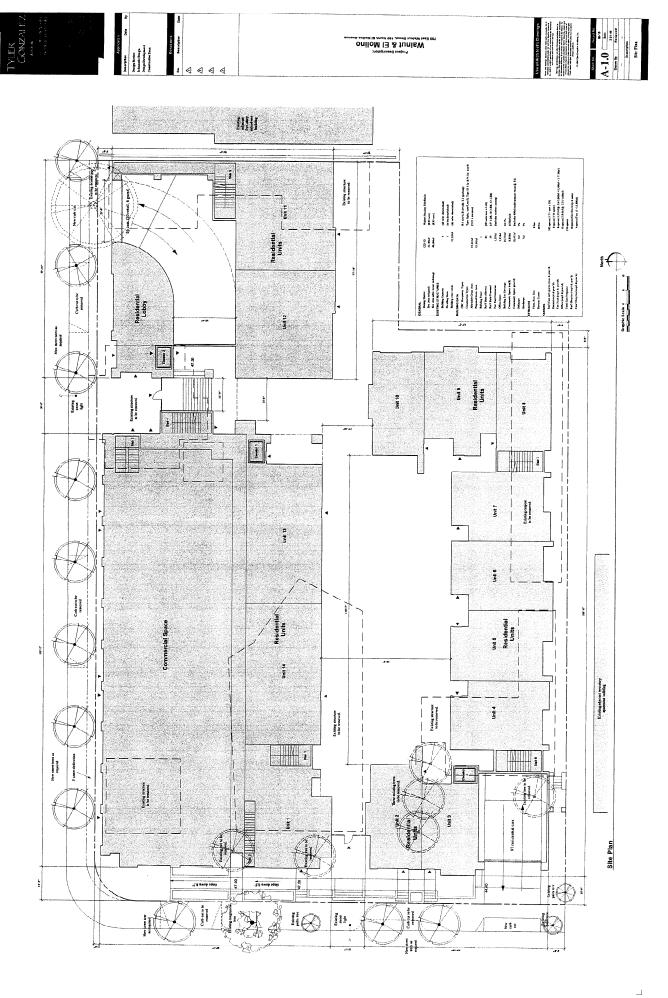
Attachment: Proposed Plans and Preliminary Elevations for "700 East Walnut," Tyler Gonzalez Architects, 02/22/2006.



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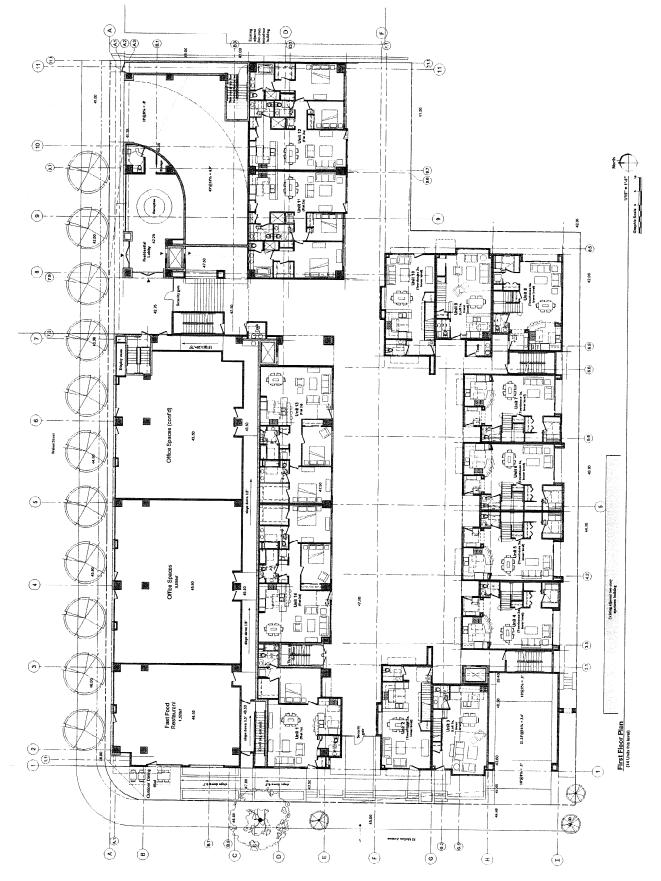
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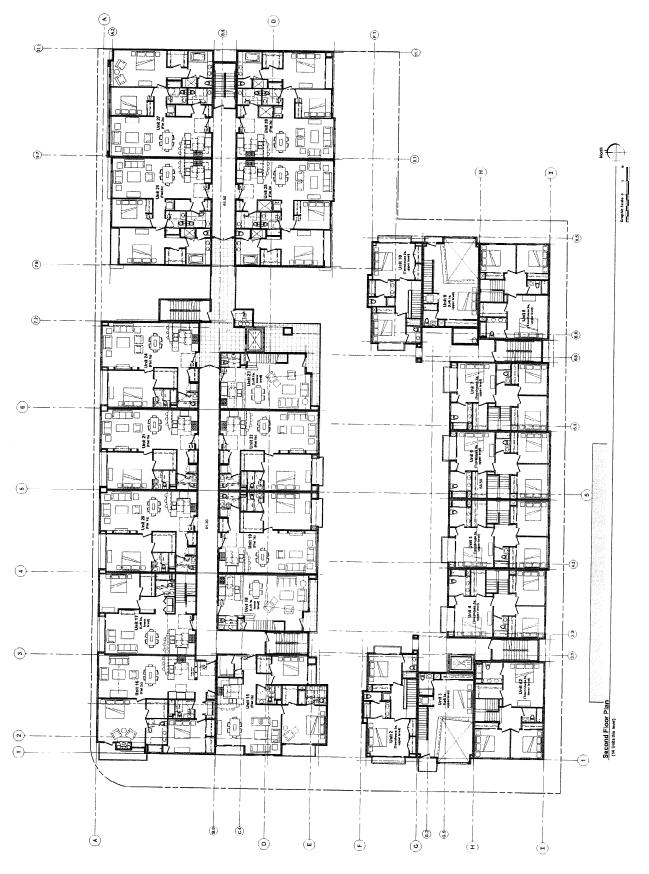
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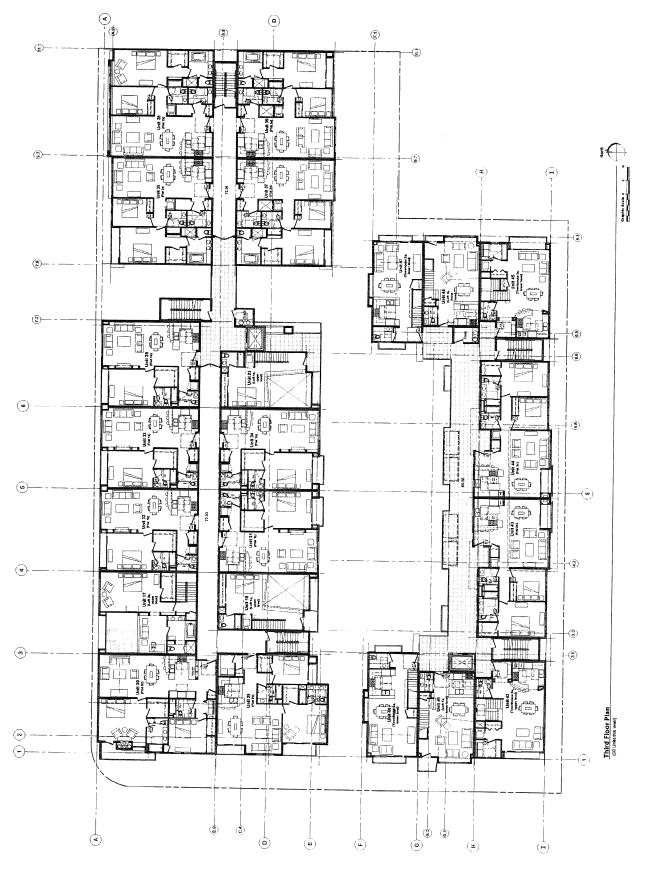
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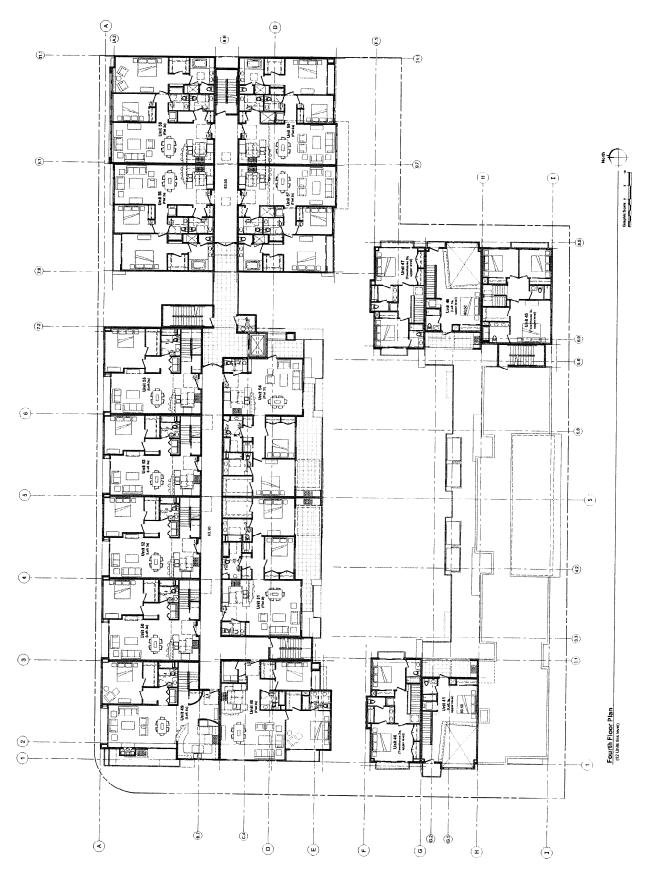
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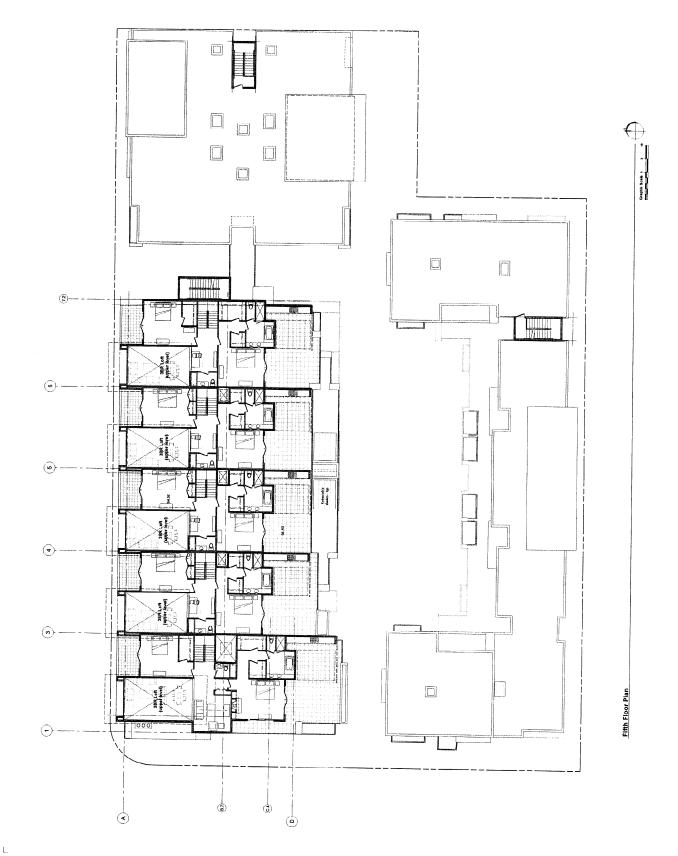
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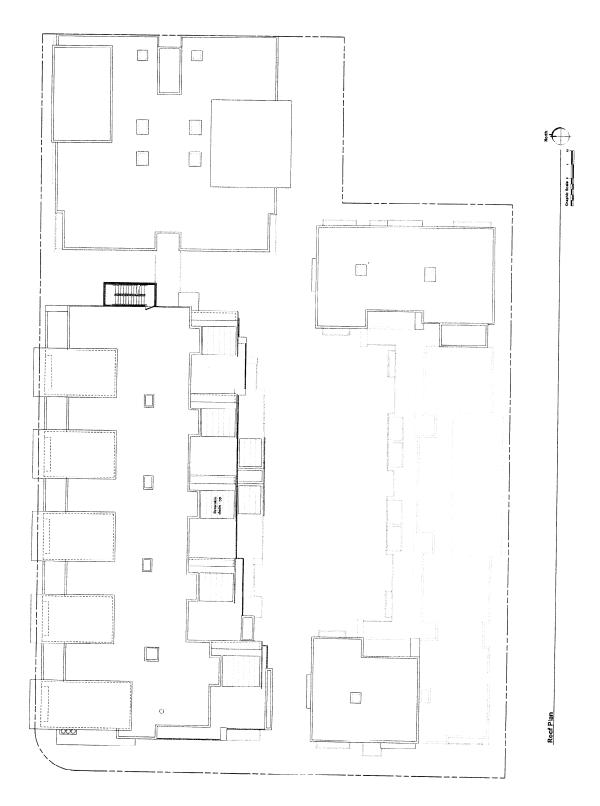
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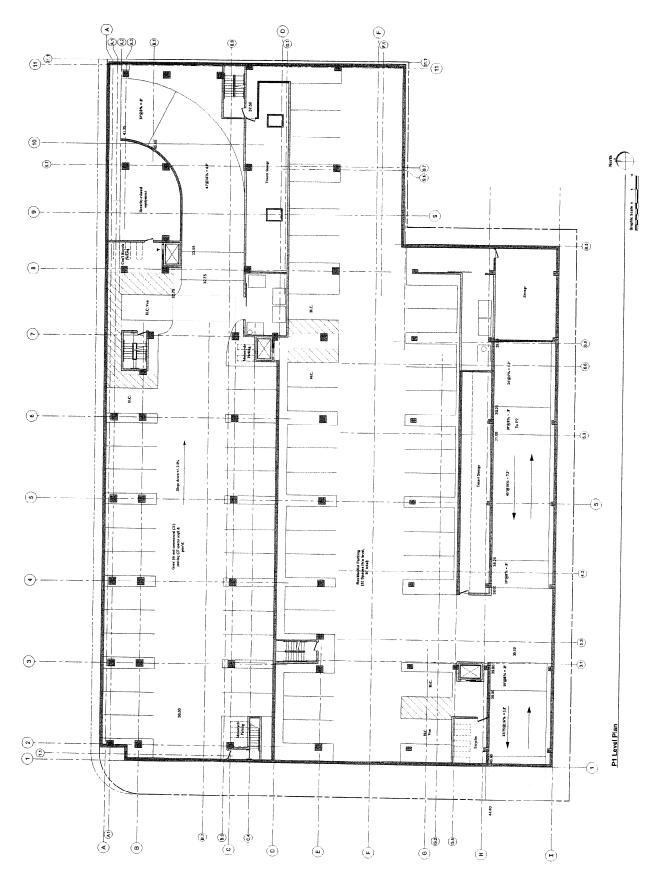


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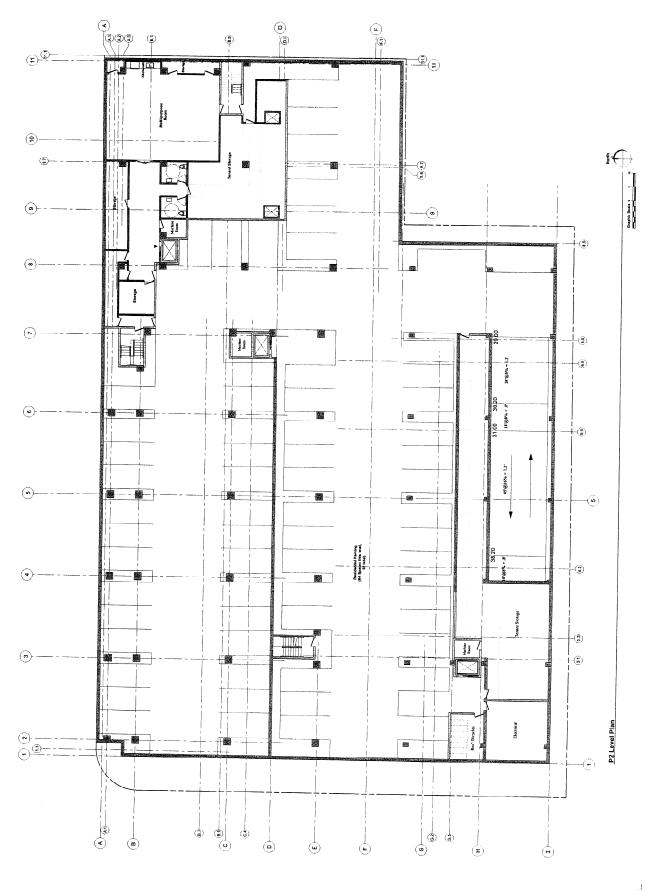
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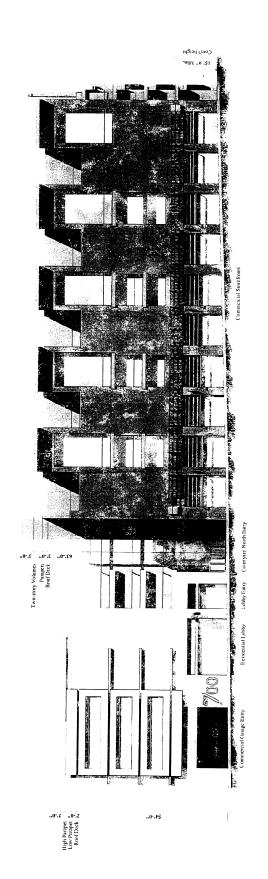


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Graphic Scale o 1 "



North (Walnut) Elevation

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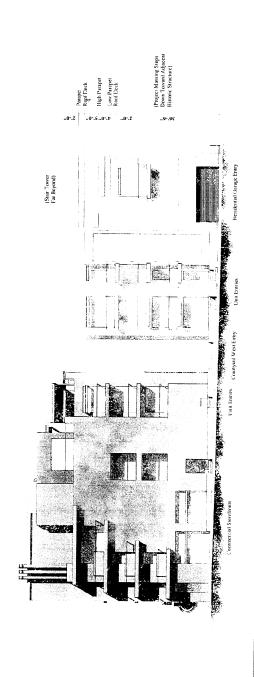
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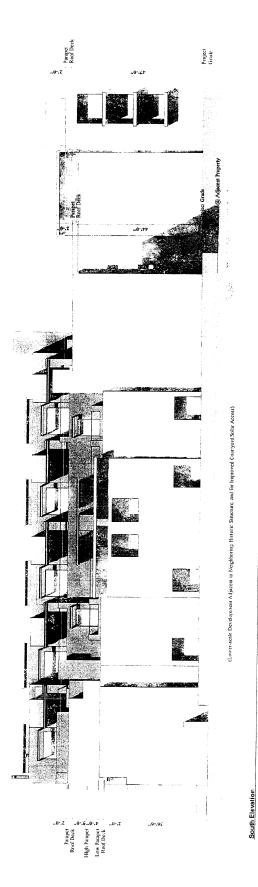
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West (El Molino) Elevation

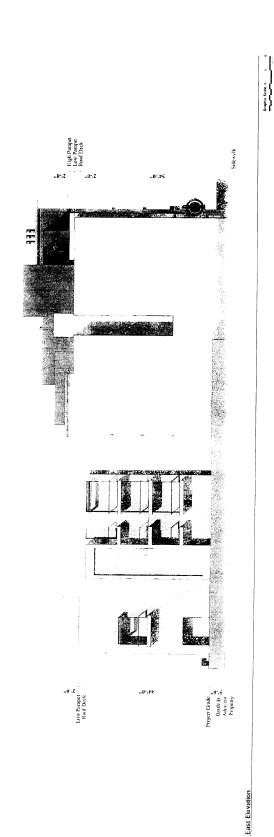
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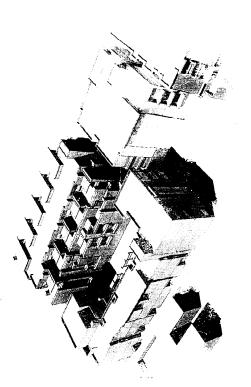




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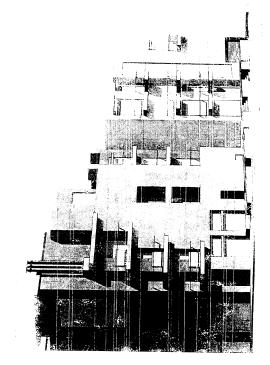
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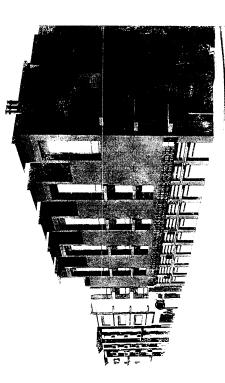




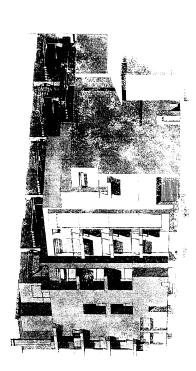
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Walnut Looking East





El Molino Looking South

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