



SPECIAL USE – LIGHT RAIL CRITERIA

Planning & Community Development

1. **Purpose:** The purpose of a special use permit is to allow a permit granted by the City to locate a regional land use on unclassified lands, unzoned lands, or when not specifically allowed by the zoning of the location, but that provides a benefit to the community and is compatible with other uses in the zone in which it is proposed. The special use permit may be granted subject to conditions placed on the proposed use to ensure compatibility with adjacent land uses. The special use permit shall not be used to preclude the siting of an essential public facility.
2. **Decision criteria (applies to All Special Uses):** A special use permit shall be granted by the City, only if the applicant demonstrates that:
 - a. The use will provide a public benefit or satisfy a public need of the neighborhood, district, City or region.
 - b. The characteristics of the special use will be compatible with the types of uses permitted in surrounding areas;
 - c. The special use will not materially endanger the health, safety and welfare of the community;
 - d. The proposed location shall not result in either the detrimental over-concentration of a particular use within the City or within the immediate area of the proposed use, unless the proposed use is deemed a public necessity;
 - e. The special use is such that pedestrian and vehicular traffic associated with the use will not be hazardous or conflict with existing and anticipated traffic in the neighborhood;
 - f. The special use will be supported by adequate public facilities or services and will not adversely affect public services to the surrounding area or conditions can be established to mitigate adverse impacts;
 - g. The location, size and height of buildings, structures, walls and fences, and screening vegetation for the special use shall not hinder or discourage the appropriate development or use of neighboring properties.
 - h. The special use is not in conflict with the basic purposes of this title.
 - i. The special use is not in conflict with the standards of the critical areas regulations, Chapter 20.80 SMC, Critical Areas, or Shoreline Master Plan, SMC Title 20, Division II.
3. **Decision Criteria (Light Rail Transit Facility/System Only):** In addition to the criteria in subsection B of this section, a special use permit for a light rail transit system/facilities located anywhere in the City may be granted by the City only if the applicant demonstrates the following standards are met:
 - a. The proposed light rail transit system/facilities uses energy efficient and environmentally sustainable architecture and site design consistent with the City's guiding principles for light rail system/facilities and Sound Transit's design criteria manual used for all light rail transit facilities throughout the system and provides equitable features for all proposed light rail transit system/facilities;
 - b. The use will not result in, or will appropriately mitigate, adverse impacts on City infrastructure (e.g., roads, sidewalks, bike lanes (as confirmed by the performance of an access assessment

report or similar assessment) to ensure that the City's transportation system (motorized and nonmotorized) will be adequate to safely support the light rail transit system/facility development proposed. If capacity or infrastructure must be increased to meet the decision criteria set forth in this subsection 3, then the applicant must identify a mitigation plan for funding or constructing its proportionate share of the improvements; and

- c. The applicant demonstrates that the design of the proposed light rail transit system/facility is generally consistent with the City's guiding principles for light rail system/facilities.