



# VARIANCE CHECKLIST

Per Development Code section 17.20.030, variances may be granted by the Planning Commission to provide flexibility from the strict application of development standards when special circumstances pertaining to the property such as size, shape, topography, or location deprives such property of privileges enjoyed by other property in the vicinity and in the same zone (consistent with the objectives of this title). Variances may not be granted to a land use regulation, to increase the maximum allowed residential density except as allowed by state law, or to waive or modify a procedural requirement. A variance may be approved with respect to the following types of development requirements:

- Parking and Loading Space Requirements
- Street Setback Requirements
- Yard Requirements
- Area Requirements
- Height Requirements
- Landscaping
- Screening
- Lot Coverage
- Open Space
- Fence/Walls

## SECTION 1: Filing Requirements

- 1. Variance Application through our Online Permit Center at <https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter>.
- 2. Signed Property Owner Declaration Form (attached). Please upload the signed Property Owner Declaration Form to our Online Permit Center.
- 3. Signed Hazardous Waste Site Statement (attached). Please upload the signed Hazardous Waste Site Statement to our Online Permit Center.
- 4. One site plan, drawn to scale on a 8-1/2" x 11" format, indicating the subject property, surrounding land uses, and the proposed variance (See attached example). Please follow the instructions for PDF Formatting Requirements for EDR Submission (see attached PDF guidelines).
- 5. A written justification outlining the reasons for the variance and how this variance is compatible with the surrounding area. Please upload this document to our Online Permit Center.
- 6. Filing Fees (See Section 2).

## SECTION 2: Filing Fees

- Variance ..... See current fee list.
- Public Noticing (Staff Time) ..... See current fee list.
- Public Noticing (Advertising) ..... See current fee list.



### **SECTION 3: Findings – before granting a variance, the Planning Commission must make all of the following findings.**

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- a. That strict or literal interpretation and enforcement of the specified regulation would result in practical difficulty or unnecessary physical hardship inconsistent with the objectives of this code;
- b. That there are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved or to the intended use of the property that do not apply generally to other properties in the same zone;
- c. That strict or literal interpretation and enforcement of the specified regulation would deprive the applicant of privileges enjoyed by the owners of other properties in the same zone;
- d. That the granting of the variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations on other properties classified in the same zone;
- e. That the granting of the variance will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare or materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

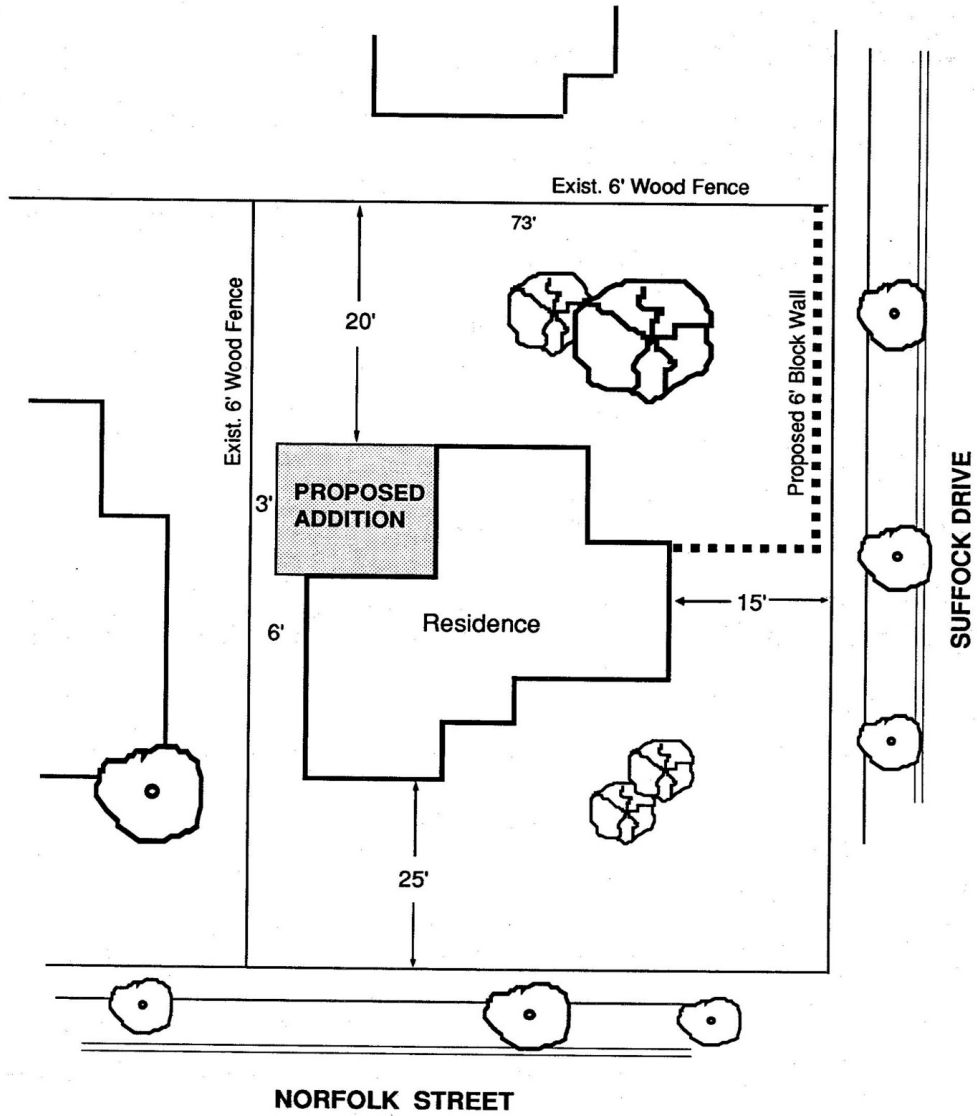
### **SECTION 4: Approval Process**

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1. Notification: Prior to consideration of a variance, the Planning Director shall cause notice to be mailed to all property owners within a 660-foot radius, and by publishing notice in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the city, at least 10 days prior to the public hearing.
2. Public Hearing: The Planning Commission shall conduct a hearing to consider the facts and to receive public testimony concerning the proposed variance.
3. Action by Planning Commission: Following conclusion of the public hearing, the Planning Commission may (1) grant approval as requested by the applicant, (2) grant approval in a modified form, (3) continue the item (usually for the purpose of further research), or (4) deny the variance. If approved, the Planning Commission may impose conditions.
4. Effective Date: The decision of the Planning Commission shall be effective after a 10-calendar day appeal period.
5. Appeals: If appealed, the matter will be scheduled for City Council public hearing and re-noticed.



# SAMPLE



Lee Clegg  
12012 Norfolk  
987-2915  
APN: 227-282-09



# PROPERTY OWNER DECLARATION FORM

## PROJECT INFORMATION

Name of Proposed Project:	
Location of Project:	
Assessor's Parcel Number:	
Applicant Name:	Phone Number:
	Email:
Address:	

### Type of Review Requested

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Appropriateness   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landmark Alteration Permit      | <input type="checkbox"/> Similar Use Determination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Economic Hardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Large Family Daycare Permit     | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Development Review   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan Amendment         | <input type="checkbox"/> Mills Act                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan Amendment   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minor/Conditional Use Permit     | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Design Review             | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Use Permit      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Major Design Review              | <input type="checkbox"/> Minor Exception                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tentative Subdivision Map |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Agreement            | <input type="checkbox"/> Plan Check/Zoning Clearance     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal Permit       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Code Amendment       | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Community               | <input type="checkbox"/> Uniform Sign Program      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment Permit             | <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Zoning                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation of Easement      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment           | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Convenience or Necessity | <input type="checkbox"/> Variance                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hillside Design Review           | <input type="checkbox"/> Reasonable Accommodation        | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Map Amendment      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home Occupation Permit           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Permit                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____              |

## OWNER DECLARATION

I declare that,  I am the owner,  I legally represent the owner, of real property involved in this application and do hereby consent to the filing of the above information. Further, by signing, I attest that all individuals and entities with financial commitments associated with the proposed development have been clearly identified as required pursuant to SB 1439. Further, by signing I attest that I can provide proof that I legally represent the owner.

Date:	Signature:	
Print Name and Title:	Phone Number:	Email:
Address:		



# HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE STATEMENT

I have been informed by the City of Rancho Cucamonga of my responsibilities pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5 (<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>) to notify the City as to whether the site for which a development application has been submitted is located within an area which has been designated as the location of a hazardous waste site (attached) by the Office of Planning and Research, State of California (OPR).

I have also been informed by the City of Rancho Cucamonga that, as the date of executing this statement, OPR has not yet compiled and distributed a list of hazardous waste site as required by said Section 65962.5.

I am informed and believe that the proposed site for which a development application has been submitted is not within an area specified in said Section 65962.5 as a hazardous waste site.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# ONLINE PERMIT CENTER ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT REVIEW (EDR) SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The City of Rancho Cucamonga Community Development Department accepts electronic plans / documents submittal via the City's [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter) at <https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter> for most permit applications.

For questions regarding the electronic submittal process, please email the Planning Department at [Planning@cityofrc.us](mailto:Planning@cityofrc.us)

## ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION PROCESS

### 1. Initiate an Application

To get started, go to the City's [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter) at <https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter> and select "Create an Account" to create a user account. For all planning applications, including Design Review (DR), Conditional Use Permits (CUP), Sign Permits, Minor Design Review (MDR), etc. please select "Planning" and then "Create an Application".

Complete the application per the required fields and follow the instructions to upload plans under "Attachments." **The plans should be submitted in a single pdf document. Plans must be scaled and oriented correctly and must not exceed 100 MB. Scanned plans will NOT be accepted. Do NOT submit individual sheets as separate multiple pdf documents.** For large plan sets due to the file size, you may provide separate pdf documents for the different portions of the plans (e.g. architectural, structural, etc.), upload a separate pdf document for each supplemental document type (e.g. calculations, specifications, reports, studies, etc.). For full PDF formatting instructions, please refer to part two of this document beginning on page 2.

Once the application has been submitted, you will receive confirmation and be given a record number. Staff will then be notified that an application has been submitted and will follow their internal workflow to review the application and invoice the applicable fees. If you have not been contacted within 2 business days, please email [Planning@cityofrc.us](mailto:Planning@cityofrc.us).

### 2. Tracking Status of Your Application

All progress on your application and associated plan review can be monitored through the City's [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter) under the "Record Info" tab. When City staff have completed their review of the plans / drawings electronically, you will receive an email informing you that the plans / drawings have corrections required or have been approved.

Checking your application online through the [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter) will provide you with the latest status of your project review. You can check the [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter) 24/7 and we recommend checking online first prior to calling City Hall.

### 3. Resubmittals

If resubmittals are required, there will be a link located in the "Attachment" section labeled "Resubmit" for you to upload your new plans to the open record in the [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter). **A complete set of any plans/ drawings that were revised must be uploaded, with all revisions clearly marked. Scanned plans will NOT be accepted. Do NOT submit individual plan sheets as separate PDF documents.** If any resubmittal fees are due, as identified in the plan review comments or noted as a fees due online, then these must be paid at the time of resubmittal and may be paid by credit card online through the [Online Permit Center](https://www.cityofrc.us/onlinepermitcenter).



#### 4. Approval

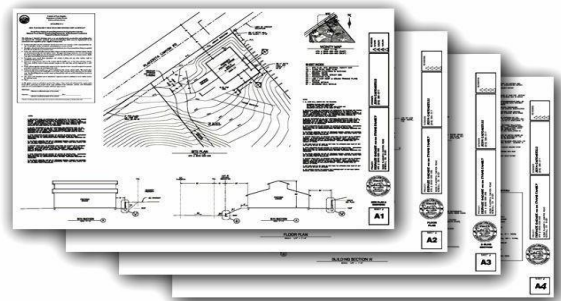
Once all review activities are completed and the project has been approved, the City-stamped permit set of plans / drawings will be available in the [Online Permit Center](#).

Applicants are responsible for printing a City-stamped set of plans for use in the field by contractors and inspectors.

#### PDF FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS

Portable Document Format (PDF) is the industry standard for electronic plans. The City of Rancho Cucamonga only accepts PDF files for plan review. PDF files must be properly formatted as described below. Please read the following instructions carefully. Improperly formatted plans can delay the plan review process for your project.

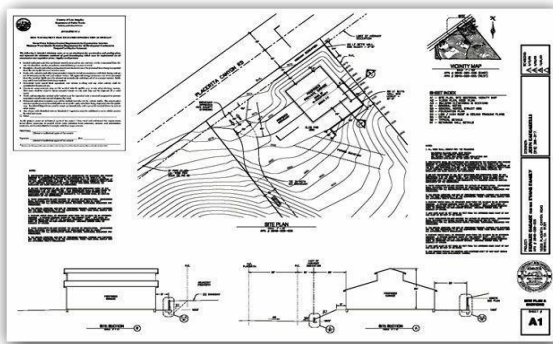
- Layers:** No multiple layers. Layers must be merged or flattened.
- Format:** Vector preferred
- Resolution:** 300 pixels per inch (PPI)
- Color Depth:** Monochrome (1-bit)
- File Size:** 1 megabyte (MB) avg. per sheet.  
100 MB total
- Grouping:** Multiple-sheet PDF (single file with multiple sheets)



plans.pdf (multiple sheets)

✓ Correct

See "Formatting Q&A" on [page 4](#) for more information on PDF file formatting and tips on how to create, convert, and merge PDF files. Each sheet of the plans must be sealed and signed by the designer of record. The signature may be applied to the drawing electronically (CCR Title 16, Div. 5, Sec. 411e).

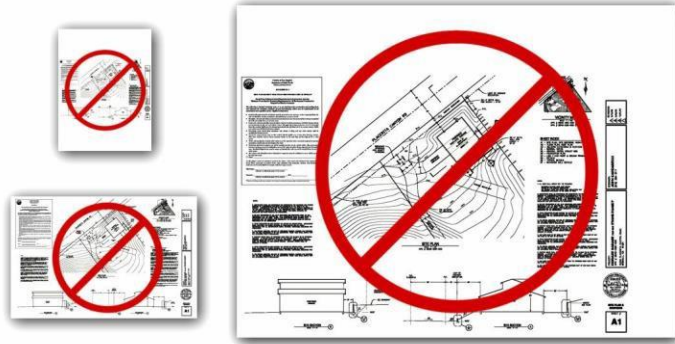


✓ Correct





All sheets must be consolidated into one plan set up to a maximum size of 100 MB whenever possible. Please consolidate plans to the fewest number of files possible.



Incorrect sheet size, scale, or margins will not be accepted.



Incorrect orientation will not be accepted.

## FORMATTING Q&A:

**Question:** *Why does Rancho Cucamonga only accept PDF plans?*

**Answer:** Rancho Cucamonga is responsible for maintaining records of plans and providing the public with access to them. Files kept in our electronic database must be compatible with a wide range of computer software for storage, viewing, and printing. In addition, the file sizes must be manageable for transfer and for use by the public and City staff.

The PDF standard is constantly evolving and Rancho Cucamonga will continue to evaluate these standards as necessary.

**Question:** *Are raster-based PDF files acceptable?*

**Answer:** Yes, assuming they meet the size limitation requirement of no more than 100 MB total. Vector-based PDF files are typically much larger than raster-based files. However, the City prefers vector-based files given the ability to scale these files.

**Question:** *How do I combine multiple PDFs into a single file?*

**Answer:** There are numerous PDF tools freely available on the Internet, which can be used to merge, rotate, and rearrange PDF files.





**Question:** *My PDF files are too big. What am I doing wrong?*

**Answer:** Properly formatted and compressed raster PDF files should not exceed 1MB per sheet. If your files are larger, you may have made one of the following errors:

- Saving the plans as 8-bit (grayscale) or 24-bit (full-color) raster files will drastically increase the file size. Even if the images contain only black and white objects, 8-bit and 24-bit files still contain all of the shade and color data. Plans must be saved as 1-bit (monochrome).
- Uncompressed files are much larger than compressed files. Construction plans contain mostly white space. The data required to store this white space can be significantly reduced. When converting your PDFs to raster images, be sure to use a form of lossless compression (such as LZW). When creating or saving PDF files, remember to specify “compressed.”

**Question:** *How do I convert a vector-based PDF to a raster-based PDF if my file size is too large?*

**Answer:** The industry standard software for working with PDF files is Adobe Acrobat; however, there are numerous PDF tools freely available on the Internet.

Step 1: Save the vector-based PDF files as raster images (TIF or PNG). The format of the raster images is important (300 ppi, monochrome). We recommend TIF files with LZW compression.

Step 2: Convert the raster images back to compressed PDF files.

Step 3: Merge the individual PDF files into a single multi-sheet PDF file.

**Question:** *Some raster images are loading slowly in the PDF reader. What am I doing wrong?*

**Answer:** Transparent raster images require considerable resources to display. Even though the source image is not transparent, your CAD software may be plotting it with transparency (white pixels plotted as see-thru). Be sure to set image transparency “off” before plotting.