

Menlo Park El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan
Standards and Guidelines: **Project** Compliance Worksheet

<u>Section</u>	<u>Standard or Guideline</u>	<u>Requirement</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
E.3.1 Development Intensity			
E.3.1.01	Standard	Business and Professional office (inclusive of medical and dental office) shall not exceed one half of the base FAR or public benefit bonus FAR, whichever is applicable.	
E.3.1.02	Standard	Medical and Dental office shall not exceed one third of the base FAR or public benefit bonus FAR, whichever is applicable.	
E.3.2 Height			
E.3.2.01	Standard	Roof-mounted mechanical equipment, solar panels, and similar equipment may exceed the maximum building height, but shall be screened from view from publicly-accessible spaces.	
E.3.2.02	Standard	Vertical building projections such as parapets and balcony railings may extend up to 4 feet beyond the maximum façade height or the maximum building height, and shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
E.3.2.03	Standard	Rooftop elements that may need to exceed the maximum building height due to their function, such as stair and elevator towers, shall not exceed 14 feet beyond the maximum building height. Such rooftop elements shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
E.3.3 Setbacks and Projections within Setbacks			
E.3.3.01	Standard	Front setback areas shall be developed with sidewalks, plazas, and/or landscaping as appropriate.	
E.3.3.02	Standard	Parking shall not be permitted in front setback areas.	
E.3.3.03	Standard	In areas where no or a minimal setback is required, limited setback for store or lobby entry recesses shall not exceed a maximum of 4-foot depth and a maximum of 6-foot width.	
E.3.3.04	Standard	In areas where no or a minimal setback is required, building projections, such as balconies, bay windows and dormer windows, shall not project beyond a maximum of 3 feet from the building face into the sidewalk clear walking zone, public right-of-way or public spaces, provided they have a minimum 8-foot vertical clearance above the sidewalk clear walking zone, public right-of-way or public space.	
E.3.3.05	Standard	In areas where setbacks are required, building projections, such as balconies, bay windows and dormer windows, at or above the second habitable floor shall not project beyond a maximum of 5 feet from the building face into the setback area.	

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E.3.3.06	Standard	The total area of all building projections shall not exceed 35% of the primary building façade area. Primary building façade is the façade built at the property or setback line.	
E.3.3.07	Standard	Architectural projections like canopies, awnings and signage shall not project beyond a maximum of 6 feet horizontally from the building face at the property line or at the minimum setback line. There shall be a minimum of 8-foot vertical clearance above the sidewalk, public right-of-way or public space.	
E.3.3.08	Standard	No development activities may take place within the San Francisquito Creek bed, below the creek bank, or in the riparian corridor.	
E.3.4 Massing and Modulation			
E.3.4.1 Building Breaks			
E.3.4.1.01	Standard	The total of all building breaks shall not exceed 25 percent of the primary façade plane in a development.	
E.3.4.1.02	Standard	Building breaks shall be located at ground level and extend the entire building height.	
E.3.4.1.03	Standard	In all districts except the ECR-SE zoning district, recesses that function as building breaks shall have minimum dimensions of 20 feet in width and depth and a maximum dimension of 50 feet in width. For the ECR-SE zoning district, recesses that function as building breaks shall have a minimum dimension of 60 feet in width and 40 feet in depth.	
E.3.4.1.04	Standard	Building breaks shall be accompanied with a major change in fenestration pattern, material and color to have a distinct treatment for each volume.	
E.3.4.1.05	Standard	In all districts except the ECR-SE zoning district, building breaks shall be required as shown in Table E3.	

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E.3.4.1.06	Standard	<p>In the ECR-SE zoning district, and consistent with Table E4 the building breaks shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with Figure E9; • Be a minimum of 60 feet in width, except where noted on Figure E9; • Be a minimum of 120 feet in width at Middle Avenue; • Align with intersecting streets, except for the area between Roble Avenue and Middle Avenue; • Be provided at least every 350 feet in the area between Roble Avenue and Middle Avenue; where properties under different ownership coincide with this measurement, the standard side setbacks (10 to 25 feet) shall be applied, resulting in an effective break of between 20 to 50 feet. • Extend through the entire building height and depth at Live Oak Avenue, Roble Avenue, Middle Avenue, Partridge Avenue and Harvard Avenue; and • Include two publicly-accessible building breaks at Middle Avenue and Roble Avenue. 	
E.3.4.1.07	Standard	<p>In the ECR-SE zoning district, the Middle Avenue break shall include vehicular access; publicly-accessible open space with seating, landscaping and shade; retail and restaurant uses activating the open space; and a pedestrian/bicycle connection to Alma Street and Burgess Park. The Roble Avenue break shall include publicly-accessible open space with seating, landscaping and shade.</p>	
E.3.4.1.08	Guideline	<p>In the ECR-SE zoning district, the breaks at Live Oak, Roble, Middle, Partridge and Harvard Avenues may provide vehicular access.</p>	
E.3.4.2 Façade Modulation and Treatment			
E.3.4.2.01	Standard	<p>Building façades facing public rights-of-way or public open spaces shall not exceed 50 feet in length without a minor building façade modulation. At a minimum of every 50' façade length, the minor vertical façade modulation shall be a minimum 2 feet deep by 5 feet wide recess or a minimum 2 foot setback of the building plane from the primary building façade.</p>	

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E.3.4.2.02	Standard	Building façades facing public rights-of-way or public open spaces shall not exceed 100 feet in length without a major building modulation. At a minimum of every 100 feet of façade length, a major vertical façade modulation shall be a minimum of 6 feet deep by 20 feet wide recess or a minimum of 6 feet setback of building plane from primary building façade for the full height of the building. This standard applies to all districts except ECR NE-L and ECR SW since those two districts are required to provide a building break at every 100 feet.	
E.3.4.2.03	Standard	In addition, the major building façade modulation shall be accompanied with a 4-foot minimum height modulation and a major change in fenestration pattern, material and/or color.	
E.3.4.2.04	Guideline	Minor façade modulation may be accompanied with a change in fenestration pattern, and/or material, and/or color, and/or height.	
E.3.4.2.05	Guideline	Buildings should consider sun shading mechanisms, like overhangs, <i>bris soleils</i> and clerestory lighting, as façade articulation strategies.	
E.3.4.3 Building Profile			
E.3.4.3.01	Standard	The 45-degree building profile shall be set at the minimum setback line to allow for flexibility and variation in building façade height within a district.	
E.3.4.3.02	Standard	Horizontal building and architectural projections, like balconies, bay windows, dormer windows, canopies, awnings, and signage, beyond the 45-degree building profile shall comply with the standards for Building Setbacks & Projection within Setbacks (E.3.3.04 to E.3.3.07) and shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
E.3.4.3.03	Standard	Vertical building projections like parapets and balcony railings shall not extend 4 feet beyond the 45-degree building profile and shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
E.3.4.3.04	Standard	Rooftop elements that may need to extend beyond the 45-degree building profile due to their function, such as stair and elevator towers, shall be integrated into the design of the building.	
E.3.4.4 Upper Story Façade Length			
E.3.4.4.01	Standard	Building stories above the 38-foot façade height shall have a maximum allowable façade length of 175 feet along a public right-of-way or public open space.	
E.3.5 Ground Floor Treatment, Entry and Commercial Frontage			
Ground Floor Treatment			

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E.3.5.01	Standard	The retail or commercial ground floor shall be a minimum 15-foot floor-to-floor height to allow natural light into the space.	
E.3.5.02	Standard	Ground floor commercial buildings shall have a minimum of 50% transparency (i.e., clear-glass windows) for retail uses, office uses and lobbies to enhance the visual experience from the sidewalk and street. Heavily tinted or mirrored glass shall not be permitted.	
E.3.5.03	Guideline	Buildings should orient ground-floor retail uses, entries and direct-access residential units to the street.	
E.3.5.04	Guideline	Buildings should activate the street by providing visually interesting and active uses, such as retail and personal service uses, in ground floors that face the street. If office and residential uses are provided, they should be enhanced with landscaping and interesting building design and materials.	
E.3.5.05	Guideline	For buildings where ground floor retail, commercial or residential uses are not desired or viable, other project-related uses, such as a community room, fitness center, daycare facility or sales center, should be located at the ground floor to activate the street.	
E.3.5.06	Guideline	Blank walls at ground floor are discouraged and should be minimized. When unavoidable, continuous lengths of blank wall at the street should use other appropriate measures such as landscaping or artistic intervention, such as murals.	
E.3.5.07	Guideline	Residential units located at ground level should have their floors elevated a minimum of 2 feet to a maximum of 4 feet above the finished grade sidewalk for better transition and privacy, provided that accessibility codes are met.	
E.3.5.08	Guideline	Architectural projections like canopies and awnings should be integrated with the ground floor and overall building design to break up building mass, to add visual interest to the building and provide shelter and shade.	
Building Entries			
E.3.5.09	Standard	Building entries shall be oriented to a public street or other public space. For larger residential buildings with shared entries, the main entry shall be through prominent entry lobbies or central courtyards facing the street. From the street, these entries and courtyards provide additional visual interest, orientation and a sense of invitation.	

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E.3.5.10	Guideline	Entries should be prominent and visually distinctive from the rest of the façade with creative use of scale, materials, glazing, projecting or recessed forms, architectural details, color, and/or awnings.	
E.3.5.11	Guideline	Multiple entries at street level are encouraged where appropriate.	
E.3.5.12	Guideline	Ground floor residential units are encouraged to have their entrance from the street.	
E.3.5.13	Guideline	Stoops and entry steps from the street are encouraged for individual unit entries when compliant with applicable accessibility codes. Stoops associated with landscaping create inviting, usable and visually attractive transitions from private spaces to the street.	
E.3.5.14	Guideline	Building entries are allowed to be recessed from the primary building façade.	
Commercial Frontage			
E.3.5.15	Standard	Commercial windows/storefronts shall be recessed from the primary building façade a minimum of 6 inches	
E.3.5.16	Standard	Retail frontage, whether ground floor or upper floor, shall have a minimum 50% of the façade area transparent with clear vision glass, not heavily tinted or highly mirrored glass.	
E.3.5.17	Guideline	Storefront design should be consistent with the building's overall design and contribute to establishing a well-defined ground floor for the façade along streets.	
E.3.5.18	Guideline	The distinction between individual storefronts, entire building façades and adjacent properties should be maintained.	
E.3.5.19	Guideline	Storefront elements such as windows, entrances and signage should provide clarity and lend interest to the façade.	
E.3.5.20	Guideline	Individual storefronts should have clearly defined bays. These bays should be no greater than 20 feet in length. Architectural elements, such as piers, recesses and projections help articulate bays.	
E.3.5.21	Guideline	All individual retail uses should have direct access from the public sidewalk. For larger retail tenants, entries should occur at lengths at a maximum at every 50 feet, consistent with the typical lot size in downtown.	
E.3.5.22	Guideline	Recessed doorways for retail uses should be a minimum of two feet in depth. Recessed doorways provide cover or shade, help identify the location of store entrances, provide a clear area for out-swinging doors and offer the opportunity for interesting paving patterns, signage and displays.	

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E.3.5.23	Guideline	Storefronts should remain un-shuttered at night and provide clear views of interior spaces lit from within. If storefronts must be shuttered for security reasons, the shutters should be located on the inside of the store windows and allow for maximum visibility of the interior.	
E.3.5.24	Guideline	Storefronts should not be completely obscured with display cases that prevent customers and pedestrians from seeing inside.	
E.3.5.25	Guideline	Signage should not be attached to storefront windows.	
E.3.6 Open Space			
E.3.6.01	Standard	Residential developments or Mixed Use developments with residential use shall have a minimum of 100 square feet of open space per unit created as common open space or a minimum of 80 square feet of open space per unit created as private open space, where private open space shall have a minimum dimension of 6 feet by 6 feet. In case of a mix of private and common open space, such common open space shall be provided at a ratio equal to 1.25 square feet for each one square foot of private open space that is not provided.	
E.3.6.02	Standard	Residential open space (whether in common or private areas) and accessible open space above parking podiums up to 16 feet high shall count towards the minimum open space requirement for the development.	
E.3.6.03	Guideline	Private and/or common open spaces are encouraged in all developments as part of building modulation and articulation to enhance building façade.	
E.3.6.04	Guideline	Private development should provide accessible and usable common open space for building occupants and/or the general public.	
E.3.6.05	Guideline	For residential developments, private open space should be designed as an extension of the indoor living area, providing an area that is usable and has some degree of privacy.	
E.3.6.06	Guideline	Landscaping in setback areas should define and enhance pedestrian and open space areas. It should provide visual interest to streets and sidewalks, particularly where building façades are long.	
E.3.6.07	Guideline	Landscaping of private open spaces should be attractive, durable and drought-resistant.	
E.3.7 Parking, Service and Utilities			
General Parking and Service Access			

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E.3.7.01	Guideline	The location, number and width of parking and service entrances should be limited to minimize breaks in building design, sidewalk curb cuts and potential conflicts with streetscape elements.	
E.3.7.02	Guideline	In order to minimize curb cuts, shared entrances for both retail and residential use are encouraged. In shared entrance conditions, secure access for residential parking should be provided.	
E.3.7.03	Guideline	When feasible, service access and loading docks should be located on secondary streets or alleys and to the rear of the building.	
E.3.7.04	Guideline	The size and pattern of loading dock entrances and doors should be integrated with the overall building design.	
E.3.7.05	Guideline	Loading docks should be screened from public ways and adjacent properties to the greatest extent possible. In particular, buildings that directly adjoin residential properties should limit the potential for loading-related impacts, such as noise. Where possible, loading docks should be internal to the building envelope and equipped with closable doors. For all locations, loading areas should be kept clean.	
E.3.7.06	Guideline	Surface parking should be visually attractive, address security and safety concerns, retain existing mature trees and incorporate canopy trees for shade. See Section D.5 for more complete guidelines regarding landscaping in parking areas.	
Utilities			
E.3.7.07	Guideline	All utilities in conjunction with new residential and commercial development should be placed underground.	
E.3.7.08	Guideline	Above ground meters, boxes and other utility equipment should be screened from public view through use of landscaping or by integrating into the overall building design.	
Parking Garages			
E.3.7.09	Standard	To promote the use of bicycles, secure bicycle parking shall be provided at the street level of public parking garages. Bicycle parking is also discussed in more detail in Section F.5 "Bicycle Storage Standards and Guidelines."	
E.3.7.10	Guideline	Parking garages on downtown parking plazas should avoid monolithic massing by employing change in façade rhythm, materials and/or color.	

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E.3.7.11	Guideline	To minimize or eliminate their visibility and impact from the street and other significant public spaces, parking garages should be underground, wrapped by other uses (i.e. parking podium within a development) and/or screened from view through architectural and/or landscape treatment.	
E.3.7.12	Guideline	Whether free-standing or incorporated into overall building design, garage façades should be designed with a modulated system of vertical openings and pilasters, with design attention to an overall building façade that fits comfortably and compatibly into the pattern, articulation, scale and massing of surrounding building character.	
E.3.7.13	Guideline	Shared parking is encouraged where feasible to minimize space needs, and it is effectively codified through the plan's off-street parking standards and allowance for shared parking studies.	
E.3.7.14	Guideline	A parking garage roof should be approached as a usable surface and an opportunity for sustainable strategies, such as installment of a green roof, solar panels or other measures that minimize the heat island effect.	
E.3.8 Sustainable Practices			
Overall Standards			
E.3.8.01	Standard	Unless the Specific Plan area is explicitly exempted, all citywide sustainability codes or requirements shall apply.	
Overall Guidelines			
E.3.8.02	Guideline	Because green building standards are constantly evolving, the requirements in this section should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis of at least every two years.	
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Standards			

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E.3.8.03	Standard	<p>Development shall achieve LEED certification, at Silver level or higher, or a LEED Silver equivalent standard for the project types listed below. For LEED certification, the applicable standards include LEED New Construction; LEED Core and Shell; LEED New Homes; LEED Schools; and LEED Commercial Interiors. Attainment shall be achieved through LEED certification or through a City-approved outside auditor for those projects pursuing a LEED equivalent standard. The requirements, process and applicable fees for an outside auditor program shall be established by the City and shall be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. LEED certification or equivalent standard, at a Silver level or higher, shall be required for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newly constructed residential buildings of Group R (single-family, duplex and multi-family); • Newly constructed commercial buildings of Group B (occupancies including among others office, professional and service type transactions) and Group M (occupancies including among others display or sale of merchandise such as department stores, retail stores, wholesale stores, markets and sales rooms) that are 5,000 gross square feet or more; • New first-time build-outs of commercial interiors that are 20,000 gross square feet or more in buildings of Group B and M occupancies; and • Major alterations that are 20,000 gross square feet or more in existing buildings of Group B, M and R occupancies, where interior finishes are removed and significant upgrades to structural and mechanical, electrical and/or plumbing systems are proposed. <p>All residential and/or mixed use developments of sufficient size to require LEED certification or equivalent standard under the Specific Plan shall install one dedicated electric vehicle/plug-in hybrid electric vehicle recharging station for every 20 residential parking spaces provided. Per the Climate Action Plan the complying applicant could receive incentives, such as streamlined permit processing, fee discounts, or design templates.</p>	
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E.3.8.04	Guideline	<p>The development of larger projects allows for more comprehensive sustainability planning and design, such as efficiency in water use, stormwater management, renewable energy sources and carbon reduction features. A larger development project is defined as one with two or more buildings on a lot one acre or larger in size. Such development projects should have sustainability requirements and GHG reduction targets that address neighborhood planning, in addition to the sustainability requirements for individual buildings (See Standard E.3.8.03 above). These should include being certified or equivalently verified at a LEED-ND (neighborhood development), Silver level or higher, and mandating a phased reduction of GHG emissions over a period of time as prescribed in the 2030 Challenge.</p> <p>The sustainable guidelines listed below are also relevant to the project area. They relate to but do not replace LEED certification or equivalent standard rating requirements.</p>	
Building Design Guidelines			
E.3.8.05	Guideline	Buildings should incorporate narrow floor plates to allow natural light deeper into the interior.	
E.3.8.06	Guideline	Buildings should reduce use of daytime artificial lighting through design elements, such as bigger wall openings, light shelves, clerestory lighting, skylights, and translucent wall materials.	
E.3.8.07	Guideline	Buildings should allow for flexibility to regulate the amount of direct sunlight into the interiors. Louvered wall openings or shading devices like <i>bris soleils</i> help control solar gain and check overheating. <i>Bris soleils</i> , which are permanent sun-shading elements, extend from the sun-facing façade of a building, in the form of horizontal or vertical projections depending on sun orientation, to cut out the sun's direct rays, help protect windows from excessive solar light and heat and reduce glare within.	
E.3.8.08	Guideline	Where appropriate, buildings should incorporate arcades, trellis and appropriate tree planting to screen and mitigate south and west sun exposure during summer. This guideline would not apply to downtown, the station area and the west side of El Camino Real where buildings have a narrower setback and street trees provide shade.	
E.3.8.09	Guideline	Operable windows are encouraged in new buildings for natural ventilation.	

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E.3.8.10	Guideline	To maximize use of solar energy, buildings should consider integrating photovoltaic panels on roofs.	
E.3.8.11	Guideline	Inclusion of recycling centers in kitchen facilities of commercial and residential buildings shall be encouraged. The minimum size of recycling centers in commercial buildings should be 20 cubic feet (48 inches wide x 30 inches deep x 24 inches high) to provide for garbage and recyclable materials.	
Stormwater and Wastewater Management Guidelines			
E.3.8.12	Guideline	Buildings should incorporate intensive or extensive green roofs in their design. Green roofs harvest rain water that can be recycled for plant irrigation or for some domestic uses. Green roofs are also effective in cutting-back on the cooling load of the air-conditioning system of the building and reducing the heat island effect from the roof surface.	
E.3.8.13	Guideline	Projects should use porous material on driveways and parking lots to minimize stormwater run-off from paved surfaces.	
Landscaping Guidelines			
E.3.8.14	Guideline	Planting plans should support passive heating and cooling of buildings and outdoor spaces.	
E.3.8.15	Guideline	Regional native and drought resistant plant species are encouraged as planting material.	
E.3.8.16	Guideline	Provision of efficient irrigation system is recommended, consistent with the City's Municipal Code Chapter 12.44 "Water-Efficient Landscaping".	
Lighting Standards			
E.3.8.17	Standard	Exterior lighting fixtures shall use fixtures with low cut-off angles, appropriately positioned, to minimize glare into dwelling units and light pollution into the night sky.	
E.3.8.18	Standard	Lighting in parking garages shall be screened and controlled so as not to disturb surrounding properties, but shall ensure adequate public security.	
Lighting Guidelines			
E.3.8.19	Guideline	Energy-efficient and color-balanced outdoor lighting, at the lowest lighting levels possible, are encouraged to provide for safe pedestrian and auto circulation.	
E.3.8.20	Guideline	Improvements should use ENERGY STAR-qualified fixtures to reduce a building's energy consumption.	
E.3.8.21	Guideline	Installation of high-efficiency lighting systems with advanced lighting control, including motion sensors tied to dimmable lighting controls or lighting controlled by timers set to turn off at the earliest practicable hour, are recommended.	
Green Building Material Guidelines			

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E.3.8.22	Guideline	The reuse and recycle of construction and demolition materials is recommended. The use of demolition materials as a base course for a parking lot keeps materials out of landfills and reduces costs.	
E.3.8.23	Guideline	The use of products with identifiable recycled content, including post-industrial content with a preference for post-consumer content, are encouraged.	
E.3.8.24	Guideline	Building materials, components, and systems found locally or regionally should be used, thereby saving energy and resources in transportation.	
E.3.8.25	Guideline	A design with adequate space to facilitate recycling collection and to incorporate a solid waste management program, preventing waste generation, is recommended.	
E.3.8.26	Guideline	The use of material from renewable sources is encouraged.	