

## **Below Market Rate (BMR) Program Development Standards**

- A. Development Standards approved by City Council are designed to guide the implementation and construction of the Below Market Rate (BMR) units, to ensure quality homes are built consistent with the character of the neighborhood and providing guidance for the inclusion of materials and amenities within each unit.
- B. The BMR Development Standards are generally intended to apply to development projects where proposed BMR inclusionary units will be constructed by a developer constructing a market rate project, but these BMR Development Standards would not typically apply to publicly financed 100 percent affordable housing projects.
- C. The City may consider instances where deviations from these standards may be appropriate for the provision of inclusionary or affordable units. The designated reviewing body shall make a finding to this effect prior to any approval or any issuance of permits (i.e., Community Development Director, Planning Commission, or City Council). This includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. When the deviation results in a greater number of affordable units and/or broaden affordability levels to help the City implement its Housing Element and achieve RHNA goals.
  - b. Developments in which a market rate developer is partnered with an affordable housing developer in which the market rate developer develops only the market rate units while the affordable housing developer develops the affordable units, some of the BMR Program Development Standards, such as the distribution throughout the project requirement, may not apply or may need to be adjusted.
- D. Any updates to the BMR Program Development Standards shall be approved by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee from time to time as needed and serve as amendments to the BMR Program Development Standards that will be published online and made available to the public.

This provision has been added to provide Staff, Planning Commission, and the City Council with the flexibility to approve other reasonable options as long as the required finding of consistency with Housing Element policies can be made and the project provides more community benefit than a standard dispersal. Example: A market rate builder partners with a non-profit developer to create a separate parcel for a stand-alone affordable housing development that can be financed with Tax Credits, County Measure A funds and other funding sources in order to provide more units than the inclusionary requirement and with a deeper range of income affordability to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) goals.

BMR units are subject to the following development standards:

1. Location. BMR units shall be distributed evenly throughout the project.

2. Lot Size. Lot size shall be at least the same size as the smallest lot of a market rate unit within the project;
3. Bedroom Count. Average bedroom count shall be the same as the average bedroom count in the market rate units in the project;
4. Exterior. Exterior trim entry door hardware, and finish to the same standard as the Market Rate
5. Minimum standards for equipment, fixtures, appliances and finishes have been established for the BMR units. All items installed by the developer shall be of good quality and in new condition. Good quality shall be deemed as entry level but generally not the lowest level of product offered for that application. All products shall offer durability, reliability and maintain a quality appearance and function that is standard to most other median priced homes in the area. The below listed items must be installed as a basic feature of each BMR home.
6. Minimum Interior standard finishes will be as follows
  - a. All closets shall have doors
  - b. Interior doors to be raised panel type or same as market rate
  - c. Door hardware to be brass/chrome/brush nickel finish or equivalent
  - d. Appliances shall be major brand name
  - e. Microwave with an exhaust vent shall be installed over the range
  - f. Kitchen counters shall be white ceramic tile ceramic tile; however, granite is preferred if it is standard in the market rate units
  - g. Kitchen cabinets shall be stained wood with white melamine interiors
  - h. If installation of an Air Conditioner is a standard feature for market rate units, then it is a standard for the BMR units.
  - i. If a basic alarm system is a standard feature in the market rate units, then it is a standard for the BMR units.
  - j. Carpet in bedrooms, hallways, family rooms
  - k. Linoleum or tile entry, bathroom kitchens
  - l. Laminate flooring may substitute for carpet or linoleum
  - m. Electric garage door opener
7. Timing of Construction. BMR units shall be constructed in proportion to the BMR ownership housing requirement applicable to the project per the rules established for the Residential Development Control System (RDCS). For example, for a project with 24 units, with a 15% BMR ownership housing commitment, at least one BMR unit shall be constructed before or concurrently with every 6th market rate unit constructed. The last market rate unit to be completed in the project may not receive a certificate of occupancy until the last BMR unit has received a certificate of occupancy. The Community Development Director may approve a modified schedule if the timing requirement will create unreasonable delays in the issuance of certificates of occupancy for market rate units.