

**ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 18 [ZONING] OF THE PORTOLA VALLEY  
MUNICIPAL CODE RELATIVE TO SECOND UNITS**

**WHEREAS**, on January 14, 2015, the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley ("Town") adopted its current Housing Element;

**WHEREAS**, second units appear to be a very effective way of providing affordable housing in Portola Valley;

**WHEREAS**, the Housing Element includes provisions to encourage increased production of second units, including allowing staff-level review of second units up to 750 square feet in size, allowing two second units on parcels that are over 3.5 acres in size, and allowing larger second units up to 1,000 square feet on lots that are two acres or more; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council identified amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to encourage the production of second units as a priority.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Town Council of the Town of Portola Valley does **ORDAIN** as follows:

1. AMENDMENT OF CODE. Section 18.04.422 [Second Units] of Chapter 18.04 [Definitions] of Title 18 [Zoning] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

"An attached or detached residential dwelling unit located on the same parcel as a main dwelling unit and which provides complete independent living facilities, including those for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation, for one household."

2. AMENDMENT OF CODE. Subsection (B) of Section 18.12.040 [Accessory Uses Permitted] of Chapter 18.12 [R-E (Residential Estate) District Regulations] of Title 18 [Zoning] of the Portola Valley Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

"B. Second units subject to the following provisions:

1. A second unit up to seven hundred and fifty (750) square feet may be permitted on a parcel which is one acre or larger.
2. A second unit up to one thousand (1,000) square feet may be allowed on a parcel which is two acres or larger.
3. Two second units each up to one thousand (1,000) square feet may be allowed on a parcel of 3.5 acres or larger. Only one of the second units may be detached from the main house, except that both second units may be detached if both are created by converting existing floor area in legal accessory structures into second units.

4. Second unit floor area is inclusive of any basement area, but exclusive of garage or carport area.
5. The second unit shall have the same address as the principal dwelling.
6. The second unit is served by the same vehicular access to the street as the principal dwelling.
7. One dedicated parking space shall be provided for each second unit with one bedroom or less, and two dedicated parking spaces shall be provided for each second unit with two or more bedrooms.
8. Parking spaces in garages or carports shall be at least ten feet by twenty feet. Uncovered parking spaces shall be at least nine feet by eighteen feet.
9. Parking spaces do not have to be covered, guest spaces are not required and tandem parking is permitted.
10. Color reflectivity values shall not exceed forty percent except that trim colors shall not exceed fifty percent. Roofs shall not exceed fifty percent reflectivity.
11. Exterior lighting on the structure shall not exceed one light fixture per entry door. Each fixture shall be fitted with only one bulb and the bulb wattage shall not exceed seventy-five watts incandescent light if frosted or otherwise diffused, or twenty-five watts if clear. Each fixture shall be manually switched and not on a motion sensor or timer. Path lights, if any, shall be the minimum needed for safe access to the second unit and shaded by fixtures that direct light to the path surface and away from the sky.
12. Landscape plantings shall be selected from the town's list of approved native plants and shall adhere to the town's landscaping guidelines.
13. An application for a second unit shall be referred to the town geologist, director of public works, fire chief and, if dependent on a septic tank and drain field, to the county health officer in accordance with town policies.
14. An application for a second unit shall supply all information required by Section 18.64.040A.1 through 13.
15. Staff may approve an application for a second unit, either attached or detached, which meets all of the conditions below:
  - a) The second unit shall not exceed seven hundred and fifty (750) square feet of floor area.
  - b) The second unit shall conform to the Town's General Plan, Zoning and Site Development Codes, and Design Guidelines.
  - c) The second unit shall not exceed a vertical building height, of eighteen (18) feet with and a maximum building height of twenty-four (24) feet, as defined in Section 18.54.020.A. A second unit may be permitted to a vertical building

height of twenty-eight (28) feet and a maximum building height of thirty-four (34) feet subject to ASCC approval.

- d) The second unit shall have colors, materials and architecture similar to the principal dwelling. Architecture not similar to the architecture of the principal dwelling is subject to ASCC approval.
- e) The second unit is not visible from a local scenic corridor as identified in the General Plan.
- f) Written notification of a second unit permit application shall be given to owner(s) of adjoining properties at least six days prior to action by planning staff. Town planning staff shall consider comments from owner(s) of adjoining properties and may take action on a permit or refer it to the ASCC.

3. SEVERABILITY. If any part of this ordinance is held to be invalid or inapplicable to any situation by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance or the applicability of this ordinance to other situations.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.17, an ordinance providing for the creation of second units in single family residential zones is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act.

5. EFFECTIVE DATE; POSTING. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after the date of its adoption and shall be posted within the Town in three public places.

INTRODUCED: August 26, 2015

PASSED: September 9, 2015

AYES: Councilmember Wengert, Councilmember Richards,  
Councilmember Hughes, Vice Mayor Derwin and Mayor Aalfs

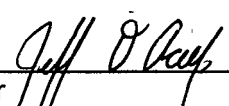
NOES: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

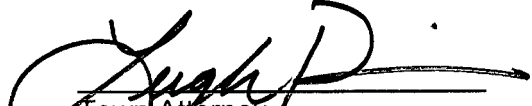
ABSENT: None

ATTEST:

  
Town Clerk

By:   
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
Town Attorney