

## Kimberly Rodrigues

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**From:** Arvind Aurora <aaurora99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:19 PM  
**To:** Comments; Katrina Garcia; Allison Cook; Ramiro Adeva  
**Subject:** Item #2 Comments to be presented at June 18 PC meeting  
**Attachments:** PC comments June 18.docx

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Arvind Aurora

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## COMMENTS TO PC RE: ITEM #2

I would like to make four important points that the Planning Commission (“PC”) is ignoring in determining to not approve our project to construct our single-family home where we hope to retire, and they are as follows:

1. In denying the approval of our single-family home, PC noted that the home design was out of character to the neighborhood. I would like to draw your attention to two official bodies, which are tasked with making that determination and they are the ARP and HOA – after making *all* of the recommended changes in April 2019, ARP approved the project. From July through September of 2019, HOA made several iterations of changes to the plan, including the elevation and the design/appearance of the home. Often times with unease, we finally agreed to 100% of the changes proposed by the HOA. Now if both the ARP and HOA are not the bodies tasked with assuring the compliance of the home design with the character of homes in the Old Agoura neighborhood, then why is it a requirement that we must seek their approval prior to the PC vote? This discredits the homeowner, as well as these two entities, whose efforts, involvement, decisions, and alterations to achieve compliance with the Old Agoura neighborhood homes, are disregarded and overruled arbitrarily by the PC.
2. It is equally appalling that the neighbors are allowed to influence PC by “throwing the kitchen-basin” at the home owner when they originally had the right to go to the Old Agoura HOA that represents them, but did not make these complaints to HOA when appropriate. It is unfair for a prospective homeowner to be put through 20 months of back and forth, with more than \$100,000 in expenses by going through all of the various city departments and consultants including geology/geotech review, landscape review, septic review, oak tree review, architectural plan review, engineering review, building and safety review, structural engineering review, ARP and HOA review, only to come to a point where the PC arbitrarily denies the approval with the provided reason that *has already been addressed by HOA and ARP*.
3. After the June 4, PC meeting, I reached out to every one of the neighbors who objected to our home project, and several of them who responded agreed that the issue *was not with this home but with other problems in the neighborhood*, such as one home sold to a Rehab company, another leased or sold to Sobriety home, and yet another running an event center from their property. I am told that they are afraid that we may sell our home to one of those organizations that are moving from Malibu to Old Agoura for lower costs. If we wanted to do that, we would not be spending significant extra costs on making it a fireproof home or making it a nice home in appearance or character. The PC should attempt to stay objective rather than denying approval based on fear of a potential future event, for which there is no evidence pertaining to this property or in our history of actions with the

numerous regulatory bodies that we have appeased. This project has been approved by every city department and consultant, and does not deserve to be blocked.

4. Lastly, our home is set back 29 feet from the street (26 foot garage setback), our home is staggered (garage and porch pulled forward), incorporates a roof line between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, upper story sits at different setbacks (living room pushed back with 2 foot balcony, bedroom above garage pushed back 1.5 feet behind the garage wall, dining room wall stepped out from living room wall, rear south east corner has L shaped cut-out, site plan length is at 76 feet and depth at 31 feet); so that the home is not a “**boxy two story home**” and is unlike our two neighbors within 200 feet (28354 Balkins of 5470 SF size, and 5850 Lapworth of 5636 SF size) that are straight two story stucco box homes, and both needed setback exceptions. Our Home is 4170 SF and staggered appearing with no variance requested. With these two neighbors, how can PC claim our family home to be “out of character?” These claims are unfounded and illegitimate?

I rest respectfully for your kindness and your kind cooperation in restoring dignity to every department of the City and County that are being undermined by the PC, and instead return to a fair and rational process for evaluating our compliant home.