

# LOS SERRANOS R A N C H

July 6, 2022

Re: Proposed Changes to the Architectural Guidelines

Dear Homeowners:

The Board of Directors of the Los Serranos Ranch Community Association has recently prepared revisions to the Association's Architectural Guidelines. The revised Architectural Guidelines are enclosed.

The changes to the Architectural Guidelines have been clarified and amended to ensure the community aesthetics support a pleasant environment, cleanliness, and attractiveness with sustained and rising property values.

The proposed revisions to the Architectural Guidelines, Items 18 & 19, will be considered for formal adoption at the Los Serranos Ranch Community Association's Board of Directors meeting on August 9th at 7:00 P.M. The meeting will take place via Zoom and the link will be posted on the agenda in the agenda boxes at both entrances and on the [losserranoshoa.org](http://losserranoshoa.org) website. Association Members can choose to provide comments to the Board of Directors before the proposed Architectural Guidelines are considered for adoption. Members may do so by writing to the Board of Directors c/o Keystone, by sending an email to [gvizzini@keystonepacific.com](mailto:gvizzini@keystonepacific.com), or by attending the Board of Directors meeting. All written comments should be delivered prior to 4:00 P.M. on August 9, 2022.

Following the comment period, the Board of Directors will make a final decision and vote on the proposed Architectural Guidelines. The members will then be notified of the outcome via eblast and posting on the [losserranoshoa.org](http://losserranoshoa.org) website.

At the Direction of the Board of Directors,

Gloria Vizzini

Gloria Vizzini, CMCA, AMS, PCAM  
Director of Community Management  
[gvizzini@keystonepacific.com](mailto:gvizzini@keystonepacific.com)

*Proudly Managed By*  
Keystone Pacific Property Management, LLC

16775 Von Karman #100  
Irvine, CA 92606  
(949) 833-2600

30021 Tomas Road #160  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688  
(949) 833-2600

41593 Winchester Road #113  
Temecula, CA 92590  
(951) 491-6866

3155-D Sedona Court #150  
Ontario, CA 91764  
(909) 297-2550

[losserranoshoa.org](http://losserranoshoa.org)

ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS

LOS SERRANOS RANCH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Questions regarding the content of these guidelines should be directed to the  
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW DEPARTMENT

KEYSTONE PACIFIC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC

3155-D Sedona Court, Suite 150 | Ontario, CA 91764

Draft 6/14/22

Dear Homeowner:

Welcome to your new home in the Los Serranos Ranch community! These Architectural Guidelines are designed with the goal of maintaining the aesthetic beauty of Los Serranos Ranch. Prior to making any exterior change to your home, you must first submit a complete architectural application to the Architectural Review Committee for review and approval. After receiving approval from the Committee or "ARC", you may install your yard improvements.

Please review these "Guidelines" prior to completing your application form to ensure your submittal is complete. If at any time you have any questions regarding the review process, please contact your management representative.

## **PURPOSE AND POLICIES**

The goal of these Guidelines is to preserve and enhance the beauty of the community and to assist the Association Member in the design of plans in agreement with this goal. The ARC shall make decisions regarding any external change or alteration on behalf of and for the good of the community as a whole. Any change not specifically addressed or outlined in these Guidelines will become a matter of reasonable discretion on the part of the ARC. In the event of a conflict between this document and the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R's), the CC&R's shall control.

## **COMMITTEE ROLE**

**SCOPE:** All exterior alterations, additions, or changes to any structure or to the landscape of any Lot, must be submitted to the ARC for approval prior to any installation or commencement of construction.

The above-mentioned changes include, but are not limited to, walls, arbors, decks, gazebos, fences, pools, spas, landscaping, room additions, etc.

**FAILURE:** Work commenced before architectural plan approval is subject to removal at the cost of the homeowner if subsequently deemed unacceptable by the ARC.

**DEVIATION:** If landscape or any Improvements (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Improvements") have been constructed or installed in a manner which deviates from the plans that were approved, the ARC may make recommendations for changes. If those changes are not complete within forty-five (45) days, the matter will be turned over to the Board of Directors to take appropriate remedial action in accordance with the CC&R's.

## **SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARCHITECTURAL APPLICATION**

Your application should be sent to:

Los Serranos Ranch Architectural Review Committee  
C/O Keystone Pacific Property Management, LLC  
3155-D Sedona Court, Suite 150  
Ontario, CA 91764

### Neighbor Comment Statement

Page two of the application form is the "Neighbor Comment Statement". Both immediate neighbors must sign off on this form or your application submittal will be considered incomplete and returned to you.

### What Should My Plan Include?

Your plan should be drawn on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper, or a formal plan may be submitted. Your plan should detail what you are proposing to install. The following are examples of items your plan should include. Review the below as you are drawing your plan and detail those items as applicable to your individual Improvement desires. All submissions must be made in duplicate.

1. Type, location and size of shrubs or trees. Include the maximum height at maturity. Be sure to consider the proximity of the building structure and eaves when considering the location of proposed trees.
2. Complete dimensions, or exterior elevations, of the proposed improvements. Be sure to include maximum height of patio covers. Also type of material to be used. Show all dimensions on work to be considered. Include distances between existing and proposed work and setback of proposed work from property lines.
3. Color scheme of end product.
4. Plotted location of sprinklers, drains, trees, shrubs, patios, patio covers, barbecues, pools/spas and associated equipment, and any other structures.
5. Street address, lot number, name and day/evening phone numbers.

### When Can I Expect My Application To Be Returned?

The Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions provide for a forty-five (45) day response time. Although it is likely your application will be reviewed and returned well under forty-five days provided for in the CC&R's, it is a good idea to anticipate this time frame when planning to make your submittal.

### Submittal To The City.

Upon obtaining the written approval of the ARC, the Owner shall thereafter submit plans and specifications to the City of the proposed Improvements require the issuance of a buildings permit or other City approval. For more information, please contact the City of Chino Hills Building and Permits Department at (909) 590-1511.

### Submittal of " Notice of Completion" Form

After completing construction, submit the "Notice of Completion" form. Please attach photos of the completed work to the "Notice of Completion" form and submit to the ARC. This form must be filed with the ARC within thirty (30) days of final completion of your construction.

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES:**

1. **Building Heights.** The maximum building heights of all improvements shall be consistent with agency regulations.
2. **Setbacks.** All work performed by homeowner shall comply with local building and zoning codes and requirements.
3. **Post Tension Slabs.** The concrete slab for your home has been reinforced with grid of steel cables installed in the concrete slab and then tightened to increase extremely high tension. Homeowner agrees not to cut into, or permit anyone to cut into or otherwise tamper with, the slab.
4. **Painting of Residence-Exterior** No resident, building, fence, wall or other structure shall be painted without the prior written approval of the ARC for color. All painting requires approval from the ARC regardless of whether the color scheme to be painted is original, a color scheme from the Association paint schemes or if it is new proposed colors.
5. **Roofing.** Any roof modifications shall be identical to the existing roofing material. Color changes must be reviewed by the ARC and must also specify the material and style of the product. All changes must comply with the style of the home and applicable agency standards.
6. **Chimneys and Fireplaces.** Outdoor fireplaces are subject to review and approval by the ARC. Fireplaces that exceed the height of perimeter walls or are visible from streets or common areas shall be designed to be compatible with the main residence. Outdoor fireplaces shall be restricted to private rear yards only. Fireplaces that reflect an independent design theme as well as overly ornate designs or commercial looking designs are prohibited.

If a nuisance results from the use of a fireplace, such as smoke, odor, etc., it shall be the responsibility of the homeowner to resolve the nuisance. It is strongly encouraged that fireplaces should be designed to use natural gas.

All fireplace improvements are subject to applicable City and Fire codes.

7. **Garage Doors.** Changes to the garage door must be submitted for review by the ARC and be compatible with design and color of the home. Garage door should be simple in design and color.
8. **Landscaping.** Paving materials must be compatible with the home color and style.
9. **Drainage.** There shall be no interference with the established drainage pattern over any part of the lot unless an adequate alternative provision is submitted to and approved in writing by the ARC. For the purpose hereof, "established" drainage is defined as the drainage which exists at the time your close of escrow, which may include drainage from the Association Properties over any Lot or Association Maintenance Areas in the Properties.

Additional drainage shall tie into existing drainage whenever practical. Drain lines must be extended through the front yard area and curb cored through to the street. All improvements are to slope towards drains and drains are to be mounted flush with improvements. Improvements may settle over time and level of drains must be adjusted accordingly.

Your lot was originally graded in accordance with the requirements of local agencies for the purpose of directing the flow and drainage of surface water. If the existing drainage is altered in any way as a result of, (a) the alteration of swales or drainage courses, (b) a change in grading, or (c) any landscaping or other improvements that are installed in such a way so as to alter the drainage flow on your property, you should consult with a licensed civil engineer. This applies both to drainage from your property onto other property as well as drainage within your property. Maintenance of catch basins and drain lines located on your property are "individual homeowner" responsibility.

If your lot is located adjacent to a landscape common area lot, there may be run-off from this lot. The Developer has installed a drainage system that has been tied into the area drain system on several of the residential lots to handle the run-off. If your lot contains a drainage system designed to handle this run-off, it is your responsibility to maintain the integrity of, and to perform routine periodic maintenance on these drainage systems.

You are advised to properly maintain all irrigation systems and to promptly repair any leaks in pipe systems and valves. Water management includes the proper setting of irrigation cycle time for the season of the year. You are advised not to over-water. Over-watering can result in significant damage to the home and lot improvements and cause damage to adjoining properties. Over-watering can result in water passing through near surface soils that can impact adjacent improvements and lots.

10. **Shrubs, Ground Cover and Turf.** Submit botanical and common names of the proposed plant material consistent with the approved plant palette. Show plant sizes and locations on the plans. Plant material must be appropriate selection based upon ground space, horizontal and vertical clearance at reasonable level of maturity. Plant material does not consist of exotics such as cactus, etc. Corner lot side yard area between fence/wall and walk to be planted with lawn, ground cover, shrubs and/or vines, if applicable.
11. **Patio Covers, Gazebos, Trellis and Sundecks.** Provide exterior elevations of all proposed structures including trellises, gazebos and shade structures. When proposed improvement is attached to the existing home, show the existing elevation in relation to the proposed improvement. Square footage is in proportion to the yard. Design, color, finish and detailing must be consistent with the

existing house. Any design features incorporated into the patio cover, gazebo, trellis and/or sundeck must be compatible in appearance with the existing home and the surrounding community. Side elevation not enclosed, except for a portion of existing dwelling. All wood is to be painted to match the house trim, fascia or white. Stucco finishes are to match the home in color and finish texture.

The material which is acceptable for patio covers is wood. Consideration will be given to wood colored aluminum. Ignition resistance, fire retardant or treated wood material is required. Thermo Gel is a good product to use. Trellis and beam construction shall be so designed as to provide a minimum of fifty percent (50%) of the total trellis area to open space for the penetration of light and air to areas which it corners. The structure must be consistent and complement the existing architectural features of the home. No plastic, fiberglass, cloth, composition shingle or screens may be used.

12. **Garden Wall and Planters.** In yards visible to the street, the material, color and texture of new garden walls, planters and retaining walls must be compatible with the existing walls and architecture of the home. Stucco finishes to match the home in color and finish texture. Fences, walls and gates are to be six feet or less in height.

Soil shall not be retained against any existing wall unless the wall is design for that purpose. Waterproof subwalls must be provided between raised planter areas and existing walls and fences.

13. **Construction of Walls** No Owner shall install or construct any walls or fences on or along the property lines between Lots or between Lots and the Association Property without first having submitted plans and specifications therefore for review and approval by the ARC. No wall or fence shall exceed six feet (6') in height, measured from the established finish grade of the Lot as reflected on approved grading plans. Permitted fencing materials include fire retardant or treated wood which has been stained, varnished or sealed with a clear finish, natural colored slumpstone or wrought iron, or combination slumpstone and wrought iron. The installation of chain link or other metallic fencing (excepting wrought iron) materials is prohibited.

14. **Alteration of Walls and Fences** No Owner shall be permitted to alter, modify, relocate or remove any wall, retaining wall or fence, including the footings thereof, originally constructed by Declarant without the prior review and approval of the ARC and the City, if required.

15. **Party Walls and Fences** Each wall or fence which is placed on the property line between two (2) Lots shall constitute a party wall and the general rules of law regarding party walls and liability for property damage due to negligence or willful acts or omissions shall apply. A party wall shall be considered to adjoin and abut against a property line dividing the Lots from the bottom of the foundation over the full length and height of any such wall. Neither Owner shall drive nails, screws, bolts or other objects more than half way through any party wall, interfere with the adjacent Owner's use and enjoyment of the party wall, or impair, in any way, the structural integrity of the party wall. In the event that any portion of such party wall, except the interior surface of one (1) side, is damaged or destroyed from any cause, other than the act or negligence of either party, it shall be repaired or rebuilt at their joint expense.

16. **Irrigation Installation Standards.** All irrigation systems should be designed by a licensed landscape architect or an irrigation designer to ensure efficient water management and plant growth. Irrigation systems shall be designed to prevent water from spraying across property lines.

17. **Pools and Spas and Hot Tubs.** Noise during construction should be controlled to minimize the impact on neighbors and to comply with the agency's noise regulations. Installation must not damage existing walls or fences. All equipment must be screened from offsite view. All equipment noise impact on neighbors must be minimized with sound screening (i.e., masonry walls, metal enclosures, etc.) and reasonable hours of duration. All solar collectors must be designed and located to be unobtrusive. Colors must be compatible with the home. All supports and piping must be enclosed or screened from view. Construction must not disturb the neighbors' yards, property or improvements. Construction must not disturb the Homeowner's Association property or improvements. All applicable permits by homeowner.

Accessory Equipment:

(a) Shall be screened from the view of any Lot, and from the public view from any public right-of-way, with acceptable fence or wall material.

(b) Shall be located where it will not disturb neighboring Lot Owners and sound levels shall meet with local ordinances.

(c) Shall conform to governing laws and agency regulations.

Heaters:

(a) Gas fired heaters shall be stackless or low profile in configuration.

(b) Solar heating systems shall be subject to ARC approval as to the location and exposure to the view from other Lots or public right-of-way.

Permits must be obtained for pools, spas and hot tubs. Contact the City of Chino Hills Building and Permit Department between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information at (909) 590-1511.

18. **Window Tinting.** Window tinting requests will be considered by the ARC. However, mirror finishes will not be approved. NOTE: Most failures of dual-glazed units are due to "moisture" condensation that can be traced to the presence of tinted film on the inside of the glass. The deflection caused by the tinted film creates heat build-up and consequent expansion within the airspace of the dual unit and destroys the butyl seal. Water vapor is thus admitted and condenses between the planes. In addition, cracking of the windowpanes may occur.

#### 19. **Screen Doors**

Any homeowner interested in installing a screen door onto the front door of their home must submit to the Architectural Review Committee and receive approval prior to this work being completed. Submittal should include a completed Homeowner Improvement form with plans, pictures, manufacturer brochure, sample of color, or any other information that could assist the Architectural Review Committee in determining if the proposed screen door installation is consistent with existing architectural style and colors.

1. All screen doors must be installed within the existing door jam and painted to match the door color.
2. Screen doors must be of high-quality construction. Wire mesh screen doors are prohibited.
3. Screen doors must be kept in a maintained condition.

20. **House Numbers** House numbers shall be uniform. House numbers other than those originally installed by the Developer, or those approved for the entire association by the Board of Directors, will not be permitted.

21. **Lighting.** Exterior lighting must be low voltage (12v). Higher voltage lighting will be approved if it is not directed or if it is placed so that it does not create an annoyance to the neighbors as determined by the ARC.

22. **Window Coverings** No window in any Residence shall be covered in whole or in part, inside or outside, with aluminum foil, newspaper, paint, reflective tint or any other material reasonably deemed inappropriate for such use by the ARC; provided, however, an Owner may use plain white or other neutral colored sheets to cover windows for a period not to exceed six (6) months after the close of escrow pending the installation of drapes, curtains, shutters or other appropriate interior window coverings.
23. **Basketball Backboards.** The following applies to all backboards, including, but not limited to, permanent and portable basketball backboards to preserve the visual appearance of the neighborhood, and to minimize the impact on neighbors. No permanent basketball backboards, including, but not limited to, free-standing basketball backboards on poles and backboards affixed to other structures may be installed or erected. Portable basketball backboards are not permitted on any streets or sidewalks in order to be compliant with ADA (American Disabilities Act) as well as City codes in regards to right of ways.
24. **Flags of the United States.** Display of the flag of the United States is permitted on the Owner's Lot pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1353.5, so long as the flag and flag pole are located solely within, on and over the Owner's Lot. However, no Owner is permitted to display the flag of the United States where (a) any portion of the flag or flag pole extends onto or over the Common Area owned in fee by the Association, without the permission of the ARC, or (b) the flag or flag pole creates an unsafe condition, including without limitation, obstructing the vision or pathway of any pedestrian or motorist. No flags are allowed to be hanging if they are torn or tattered, flag must be in good condition.

Owners are required to submit the proposed location of any flag and flagpole to the ARC to determine compliance with the foregoing requirements. The Owner shall be solely responsible for any damage or injury to persons or property resulting from the placement of the flag or flagpole.

25. **Decorative Flags.** Decorative flags, including seasonal flags, are permitted on an Owner's Lot, subject to ARC approval. Owner must submit drawings or plans showing the proposed location of the flagpole to the ARC. Owner may not install any flagpole until Owner receives written approval of such drawings or plans.

The Owner shall be solely responsible for any damage or injury to persons or property resulting from the placement of the flag or flagpole. No flags are allowed to be hanging if they are torn or tattered, all flags must be in good condition.

26. **Seasonal Decorations.** The temporary display of seasonal decorations, other than decorative flags, is permitted on Owner's Lot and Residence. No prior approval from the ARC is required; provided, however, that seasonal decorations (a) must not be placed in Common Areas in a manner that would interfere with the landscape maintenance performed by the Association, and (b) are only permitted during the time period designated by the Association. The Association will inform Owner of the acceptable time period for display of seasonal decorations in an Association newsletter. No seasonal decorations are permitted before or after the time period designated by the Association. The Owner shall be solely responsible for any damage or injury to persons or property resulting from the placement of any seasonal decorations.
27. **Potted Plants.** Potted plants are only permitted on Owner's Homesite. Owner may not place any potted plants in the Common Area and the ARC may require the removal of any potted plant that it determines is a nuisance (for example, plants with diseases or insect infestation).

28. **Signs.** Without the prior written consent of the ARC, no signs, posters or displays shall be shown or displayed on a Lot excepting one sign of customary and reasonable dimensions which states that the premises are "for sale" or "for rent". No signs may be located in the Common Area of the Association.
29. **Awnings.** Awnings must be compatible in color and design with the home. Designs should be simple and size, location and form in scale with the window.
30. **Temporary Structures.** No structure of a temporary character, trailer, tent, shack, garage, ~~shed~~, barn or other out-building shall hereafter be used on any Lot at any time, either temporarily or permanently. The ARC will review sheds on a case by case basis.
31. **Outdoor Storage.** All items stored outside (such as garden hoses, yard equipment, trash cans and recycling bins) must be behind the side fences and should maintained in decent condition. The appearance of the items as seen from second floors should be considered.
32. **Antennas.** All satellite dishes are subject to review and approval by the ARC. All exterior antennae that are visible from any common area or other lot, or that have a diameter exceeding the measure allowed by California and federal laws must be approved by the ARC. Please refer to your CC&R's for specific requirements for your community.
33. **Mechanical and Solar Energy Plans.** Show all mechanical devices exposed to the exterior including solar collectors, storage tanks, piping and other distribution and collection components. Ensure devices are integrated into the roof design and flush with existing roof slope. Frames must be colored to complement roof (no unfinished aluminum frames). All mechanical equipment must be screened.
34. **Play Structures.** Swings, playhouses and other playground equipment will be considered on an individual basis and permitted if located unobtrusively, as determined by the ARC. Bright colored elements, including primary colors, will be prohibited if they are above the height of the perimeter wall and not compatible with the existing colors of the house.
35. **Gutters and Downspouts.** Gutters and downspouts to be painted to match the house color or trim.
36. **Mailboxes.** Modifications to existing mailbox are allowed with approval of the ARC only. Mailboxes are Association responsibility. If you choose to install the pre-approved locking mailbox you then take on the maintenance of that mailbox.
37. **Exterior Lighting.** New exterior light fixtures must be compatible with the design of the home. They must be simple in design and color.
38. **Drainage** Each Owner agrees for himself and his successors in interest that he will not in any way interfere with the established drainage pattern over his Lot, or that he will make adequate provisions for proper drainage in the event it is necessary to change the established drainage over his Lot. For the purposes hereof, "established drainage" is defined as the drainage which occurred at the time the overall grading of the Covered Property was completed by the home builder. Alteration of said established drainage can cause trapped water, which may result in the shifting of and damage to the

foundation of an Owner's Residence and neighboring Residences. Homeowner's are strongly advised to consult landscape architects and/or qualified civil engineers or contractors for advice prior to the installation of yard landscaping or any alteration to the drainage pattern.

39. **Non-liability for Approval** Plans and specifications are not approved for (a) engineering design, (b) compliance with zoning and building ordinances, and other applicable statutes, ordinances or governmental rules or regulations, (c) compliance with the requirements of any public utility, (d) any easements or other agreement, or (e) preservation of any view and by approving such plans and specifications neither the Architectural Committee, the members thereof, the Association, the Owner, the Board nor Declarant, nor agents, employees, attorneys or consultants of any of the foregoing, assume liability or responsibility therefor, or for any defect in any Improvements constructed from such plans and specifications for any obstruction or impairment of view caused or created as the result of any Improvements approved by the Architectural Committee.
40. **Artificial Turf Guidelines** Being in a desert environment, water conservation is an important priority. Because of this, the Architectural Review Committee and the Board of Director's will consider request to install artificial turf for front yards under the following guidelines:

The ARC and/or Board of Directors reserves the right to require removal/replacement of any area of artificial turf which does not meet the standards set forth by these guidelines.

Artificial turf must be professionally installed by a licensed representative of the manufacturer and covered by a manufacture's warranty of at least an eight (8) year warranty. After installation the turf must be maintained according to the manufacturer's guidelines and warranty requirements.

Any request for installation of artificial turf must include a minimum of a one square foot box sample of the exact finished turf product, along with the manufacture's product specifications. Allowable face weight (pile weight) range is between 38 to 78 ounces per square yard without backing. The maximum width of the stitch gage is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. Primary backing shall be a Duraflo and/or Urethane backing to provide a good water flow.

A sub-base of three (3) to four (4) inches of compacted aggregate material shall be installed under the artificial turf surface, using at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " minus which is the industry standard.

Artificial turf must be installed in such a way as to appear seamless and uniform. Only natural colors are acceptable, to remain unchanged from the natural green lawn appearance, and subject to approval by the reviewer.

The pile height of the artificial turf shall be minimum of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, not to exceed  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. 100% poly grasses without nylon are the acceptable choice as nylon retains pet odors and has been known to contain lead.

Only turf requiring infill installation will be allowed. Infill material installation shall be according to turf manufacturer specifications or based upon standard industry guidelines. Minimum infill of two (2) pounds per square feet.

Artificial turf must be maintained in like new condition, color, and uniformity with no tears or seams visible. Seams must be glued together not nailed. Pile must be maintained with regular raking as necessary for natural looking pile; not flat or lying horizontal.

**CONDITIONS:**

When artificial turf reaches the end of its lifespan and no longer appears natural in color and appearance, or has suffered irreparable damage or wear, the turf must be replaced, as conditioned by this approval.

LOS SERRANOS RANCH  
ATTACHMENT TO ARCHITECTURAL STANDARDS  
HOMEOWNER MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

As homeowners, you are accustomed to maintaining your home; that is, you expect to paint your house periodically, clean out clogged plumbing, repair roofs, etc. Maintenance of a hillside homesite must be considered on an even more serious basis because neglect can result in serious consequences. In most cases, lot and site maintenance are far cheaper to you than repair after neglect.

Most hillside lot problems are associated with water. Uncontrolled water from a broken pipe, septic tank, excess landscape watering, or unusually wet weather causes most damage. Slope problems in California most commonly occur during the rainy winter season. Rainfall can be quite variable and may be torrential or prolonged. Therefore, drainage and erosion control are important aspects of homesite stability.

Facilities built into the developed lot must not be altered without competent professional advice. Maintenance of the facilities must be carried out to assure their continued operation. Therefore, we offer the following list of "Do's" and "Don'ts" as a guide to you:

**DO'S**

1. If applicable, check roof drains, gutters and downspouts to be sure they are clear. Although gutters and downspouts are not a geotechnical requirement, they may be suggested to possibly enhance other acceptable systems or drainage schemes devised by the architect or civil engineer. If you do not have roof gutters and downspouts, you may wish to install them because roofs and their large surfaces can shed tremendous quantities of water. Without gutters or other adequate drainage provisions, water falling from eaves can collect against the structure's foundation, which is undesirable.
2. Clear drainage ditches and check them frequently during the rainy season.
3. Check all paved interceptor ditches ("V" ditches) to be sure that they are clear and functioning properly, if applicable to your lot. These drainage devices may be located at the tops of slopes (brow ditch), within a slope (interceptor terrace), or at the bottom of slopes. Malfunctioning (overflow) of such drains can result in serious erosion problems within slopes, and when left malfunctioning, may cause slope instability.
4. Be sure that all drain outlets and weep-holes (in retaining walls) are open and clear of debris, vegetation and other material which could block them in a storm. If blockage is evident, have it cleared.
5. Limit or stop landscape irrigation altogether during the rainy season when little irrigation is required. Over-saturation of the ground can cause subsurface changes that may lead to damage of the surface.
6. If you change landscaping on the slopes, disturb the soil as little as possible and use drought resistance and deep-rooting type plants that require a minimum amount of landscape irrigation.
7. Watch for water backup inside the house at sump drains and toilets, since this indicates drain or sewer blockage.
8. Watch for wet spots on your property. These may be natural seeps or an indication of broken water or sewer lines. In either case, obtain competent advice regarding the problem and its correction,

**DON'Ts**

1. DON'T over-irrigate or leave a hose or sprinkler running unattended. This is particularly important on or near a slope. Ground cover and other vegetation will require moisture during the hot

summer months, but during the wet season irrigation can cause ground cover to pull loose. This not only destroys the cover, but also starts serious erosion. Ten to fifteen minutes of watering per day is considered maximum necessary to develop and maintain good plant growth in Southern California.

2. DON'T alter lot grading configuration without competent advice. The man-made slopes and grades on your lot were designed to carry away water runoff to a place where it can be safely distributed or discharged.
3. DON'T block or alter ditches which have been graded around the house or lot pad. These shallow ditches have been put there for the purpose of positive drainage so that water is quickly directed toward the driveway, street or other suitable outlet.
4. DON'T block or alter ditches or drains. Water backed up in surface drains will overflow and may infiltrate slopes which in turn will lead to instability. Maintain the ground surface upslope of lined or paved ditches to ensure that surface water is collected in the ditch and is not permitted to collect behind or flow under the lining.
5. DON'T permit water to collect or pond anywhere on your lot. Such water will either seep into the ground, causing unwanted saturation, or will overflow onto slopes and begin erosion. Once erosion is started, it is difficult to control, and severe damage may result rather quickly.
6. DON'T direct water over slope, even where this may seem a good way to prevent ponding. This tends to cause erosion and slope instability.
7. DON'T let water pond against foundations or retaining walls. These walls are built to withstand the ordinary moisture in the ground and, where necessary, are accompanied by subdrains to carry off excess subsurface water. However, excess surface water must be directed away from these structures.
8. DON'T connect roof drains, gutters, or downspouts to existing subsurface drains which may not have been designed for that purpose. Instead, collect the water in lined ditches or separate, non-perforated pipe drain systems and conduct it to the nearest street or other approved area. Such flow should not be directed onto natural ground, unless approved by competent professionals.
9. DON'T try to compact earth in trenches (e.g., irrigation line trenches) or flooding with water. Not only is flooding the least efficient way of compacting fine-grained soil, but this could saturate and reduce the bearing capacity of supporting soils, potentially causing damage.
10. DON'T change surface elevation grade behind retaining walls or against building walls because this would increase the lateral loading on the walls, which could result in damage to such walls.

In conclusion, the slope, above or below your property, is as important to you as the slope that is within your property lines. For this reason, it is desirable to develop a cooperative attitude regarding hillside maintenance, and we recommend developing a "good neighbor" policy. Should conditions develop off your property which are undesirable from indications given above, necessary action should be taken by you to ensure that prompt remedial measures are taken.

There are a number of subsurface drain outlets which are located throughout the project. These drain outlets serve to provide drainage of accumulated subsurface water from specific areas encountered during earthwork construction. These outlets generally consist of 4- to 8-inch diameter plastic pipe and may or may not transmit water from time-to-time as seasonal rainfall and/or irrigation increases or decreases throughout the year. These drain systems/outlets should be maintained so that they remain open and functional. Blocking, plugging, and/or altering of these outlets could have a significant effect on site stability or performance. Periodic inspections/maintenance of these facilities should be incorporated into the Homeowners Association and lot owners' practices.

### Natural Slopes

In addition to the drainage system outlets discussed above, special note is made here regarding the maintenance of descending natural hillside areas. Alterations to the slope configuration, vegetation, or surface drainage in and around these slope areas should not be undertaken without competent professional advice.

Due to the steep nature of these slope areas, the potential for continued minor erosion and/or sloughing exists and may be anticipated. In order to minimize this potential, efforts should be made to maintain positive surface drainage away from the top of the slope. It is important that water not be allowed to accumulate, pond, or flow over the top of this slope area. Landscape irrigation of upslope areas should be minimized so as to just support a drought tolerant type of vegetation. It is also important that the area at the base of the slope not be altered from its present configuration. Removal of any material along the base of the slope could seriously affect the stability and performance of this slope, resulting in damage.

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following general guidelines for project maintenance apply to all areas of Los Serranos Ranch Community Association homeowners:

### Landscape Maintenance and Planting

Water has been shown to weaken the inherent strength of soil materials and can cause expansion in susceptible soil materials. Slope stability is significantly reduced by overly "wet" conditions. Positive surface drainage away from graded slopes should be maintained and only the amount of irrigation necessary to sustain plant life should be provided for planted slopes and yards. Overwatering the landscaped areas could adversely affect proposed site improvements. From a geotechnical standpoint, leaching is not recommended for establishing landscape. If the surface soils are processed for the purpose of adding amendments, they should be recompact to 90 percent relative compaction.

Graded slopes constructed within the development are considered erosive. Eroded debris may be minimized and surficial slope stability enhanced by establishing and maintaining a suitable vegetation cover soon after construction. Regrading of slopes should only be performed under the direct supervision of qualified professions (i.e. civil engineers, geotechnical engineers, engineering geologists). Jute matting and/or similar synthetic products may be considered in order to promote vegetation and retard erosion.

Plant selected for landscaping should be lightweight, deep-rooted types which require little water and are capable of surviving the prevailing soil conditions and climate. Consideration should be given to the type of vegetation chosen and their potential effect upon surface improvements (i.e., some trees will have an effect on concrete flatwork with their extensive root systems).

We recommend that any proposed open bottom planters adjacent to proposed structures be eliminated and/or minimally irrigated for a minimum distance of 10 feet. As an alternative, closed bottom type planters could be utilized. An outlet placed in the bottom of the planter could be installed to direct drainage away from structures or any exterior concrete flatwork.

### Drainage

Positive site drainage should be maintained at all times. Drainage should not flow uncontrolled down any descending slope. Water should be directed away from foundation system at a minimum of 1% to 2% for a distance of 5 to 3 feet, respectively, and not allowed to pond and/or seep into the ground. Pad drainage should be directed toward the street or other approved areas. Roof gutters and downspouts may be a

consideration to control roof drainage. Areas of seepage can develop due to irrigation or heavy rainfall. Minimizing irrigation will lessen this potential. If areas of seepage develop, recommendations for mitigating the condition should be obtained from qualified professionals.

#### FLATWORK RECOMMENDATION FOR EXPANSIVE SOILS.

1. Planters and walls should not be tied to the house.
2. Driveways, sidewalks, and patios adjacent to the house should be separated from the house with thick expansion joint filler material. In addition, all sidewalks and driveways should be quartered and poured with expansion joints no farther than 8 to 10 feet apart.
3. Overhang structures should be supported on the post-tensioned slabs or structurally designed continuous footings tied in at least two directions.
4. Any masonry landscape walls that are to be constructed throughout the property should be fully grouted and articulated in segments no more than two, 20 feet long.
5. Utilities should be enclosed within a closed utility door or designed with flexible connections to accommodate differential settlement and expansive soils conditions.
6. Finish grade on the lots should provide a minimum or 1-2 percent fall to the street as previously indicated. It should be kept in mind that drainage reversals could occur if relatively flat yard drainage gradients are not maintained.

#### TILE FLOORING

Tile flooring can crack, reflecting cracks in the concrete slab below the tile, although small cracks in a post-tensioned slab may not be significant. Therefore, when installing tile, the tile installer should consider installation methods that reduce possible cracking of the tile such as slipsheets. Slipsheets or a vinyl crack isolation membrane (approved by the Tile Council of American Ceramic Tile Institute) is recommended between tile and concrete slabs on grade.

#### GUTTERS AND DOWNSPOUTS

The installation of gutters and downspouts are recommended for collecting roof water that may otherwise infiltrate the soils adjacent to the structures. The downspouts should be drained away from the foundation and collected in drainage swales or other approved drainage systems designed by a registered civil engineer to convey the water away from the foundation.

#### EXTERIOR SLABS AND WALKWAYS

Exterior concrete slabs-on-grade (walkways, patios, etc.) should be constructed with a minimum four inch thick slab, and reinforced with steel rebar or welded mesh. The reinforcement should consist of No. 3 rebar placed at 18 inches on center in two horizontally perpendicular directions (long axis and short axis), or 6x6-6/6 welded wire mesh. It is important for the performance of the slab that the reinforcing be located near mid-slab thickness using charis, supports, etc. Hooking is not an acceptable method of reinforcement placement, and is not recommended.

Distortions on the exterior slab-on-grade due to expansive soils and proximity to slopes may warrant additional mitigation. This may include crack control joints (4 to 6 feet spacing in horizontally

perpendicular directions (long axis and short axis), and expansion control joints at intervals 10 feet or less. Other considerations for mitigation may include the use of thickened edges for slabs at the top of slopes, fiber mesh mixed into the concrete, or pre-saturation of subgrade soils to 130 percent of optimum moisture content, to a depth of 18 inches.

Due to expansive soils, air conditioning (A/C) units should be supported by slabs that are incorporated into the building foundation (PT slab) or constructed on a rigid slab with flexible couplings for plumbing and electrical lines. A/C waste water lines should be drained to a suitable outlet (see above).

#### SOLUBLE SULFATES

Typical samples of the site materials were analyzed for soluble sulfates. Please refer to the compaction report for grading for your individual lot. Due to sulfate levels in the soils, sulfate-resistant concrete should be utilized for all patios, walkways, and any concrete improvements.