



July 18, 2024

(By electronic transmission)
Historical Advisory Board
City of Alameda
2263 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Subject: PLN 24-0256-Certificate of Approval to replace gutters and downspouts on the "Big Whites".

Dear Boardmembers:

The copper gutters and downspouts are among the most important character defining features of the 'Big Whites. It is therefore highly unfortunate that the gutters and downspouts have been the targets of ongoing theft, despite the efforts to improve security. Given these circumstances and assuming it is not possible to adequately better the existing gutters and downspouts to prevent theft, the Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS), with some reluctance, does not oppose the proposal to replace remaining gutters and downspouts with a different material, subject to provision of:

1. Vertical section details of the existing and proposed gutters and downspouts to verify that the proposed gutter and downspout configurations visually match the existing; and
2. Samples of the actual dark jade or other potentially appropriate colors that visually match the patinaed copper, including samples painted on the Big Whites.

The staff report mentions white as a color alternative to dark jade apparently because some of the gutters and downspouts have already been replaced by white gutters and downspouts. In addition, the draft resolution states that the "Final design shall incorporate a white finish and square profile to closely match the other existing gutters and downspouts in the neighborhood". But white has no visual resemblance to patinaed copper and the approved color should visually match the patinaed copper. Regarding gutter and downspout configuration, the resolution should reference the vertical section detail that we recommend above. **The resolution needs to be modified to reflect these changes.** Hopefully the existing white gutters and downspouts can be repainted or replaced at some point in the future so that they visually match copper gutters and downspouts.

Note that the staff report and resolution sometimes incorrectly identify the project as replacing only the gutters and at other points mentions the project consists of replacement of both the gutters and downspouts. The resolution needs to be corrected to consistently identify the project as replacing both the gutters and the downspouts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (510) 523-0411 or cbuckleyAICP@att.net if you would like to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,

Christopher Buckley, Chair
Preservation Action Committee
Alameda Architectural Preservation Society

cc: Allen Tai, Steven Buckley and Annie Cox (by electronic transmission)
AAPS Board and Preservation Action Committee (by electronic transmission)