



วัดมงคลรัตนาราม

WAT MONGKOLRATANARAM

THE THAI BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA

1911 RUSSELL STREET BERKELEY, CA 94703 - 2221 U.S.A.

Tel: (510) 849-3419 Fax: (510) 845-8150 E-mail : watmongkol@hotmail.com

August 25, 2008

Zoning Adjustment Board

City of Berkeley

2120 Milvia Street

Berkeley, CA 94704

Re: Application for a Broader Land Use Permit for the Continuance of Temple Activities

Dear Board Members:

Wat Mongkolratanaram, also known as the Berkeley Thai Temple (Temple), respectfully requests your consideration of our application for a broader land use permit to augment our existing use permit # A2054, dated May 18, 1993 (Attachment A). We submit this request in conjunction with our pending application for land use permit # 07-10000040 to build a Buddha Sanctuary (Attachment B) previously proposed to the Zoning Adjustment Board at a public hearing held on April 24, 2008; and with regards to the neighborhood mediation sessions resulting from the hearing. Shortly prior to and during the course of the hearing, Temple representatives were made aware of neighborhood concerns regarding our Sunday activities. Out of the utmost respect for the neighborhood, its residents and the community at large, and the desire to continue to coexist in harmony, the Temple has cooperatively made every attempt to address the concerns voiced at the hearing and mediation sessions. We would like to take this opportunity to provide the Board with a detailed account of our efforts to alleviate these concerns and provide more information about the Temple's history, activities and community services.



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The Temple has been a nonprofit organization since 1980 and recognized as a City of Berkeley religious institution since 1993. We provide vital spiritual support to the local Thai and Southeast Asian Buddhist community and, over the years, have expanded to the larger community. We are home to the Thai Cultural Center of the San Francisco Bay Area enriching the lives of the children of the community through training in classical Thai dance and music. We offer a Sunday Thai Language and Culture program to both children and adults providing a unique opportunity for cultural preservation and exchange. The Temple deeply values the openness and receptivity offered by the City of Berkeley community that has made our cultural programs possible.

We encourage the Board to approve our application for a broader land use permit so that we may continue to contribute to the spiritual, cultural and educational richness of the City of Berkeley as we have over the past 30 years. Enclosed is a more detailed account of our history, activities can community services and our cooperative efforts to continue to be good neighbors.

Thank you for the opportunity to allow us to present our information. We look forward to continuing to make Berkeley our home.

Respectfully Submitted,

WAT MONGKOLRATANARAM

Abbot Manat Suksa-Ad

Head Abbot