

**ORDINANCE NO. 438U**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES EXTENDING URGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 427U  
ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF CERTAIN PERMITS AND THE PROCESSING OF PLANNING  
APPROVALS AND SUSPENDING CERTAIN PREVIOUSLY ISSUED BUILDING PERMITS AND APPROVALS, IN THE PORTION  
OF THE LANDSLIDE MORATORIUM AREA OUTLINED IN BLUE ON THE LANDSLIDE MORATORIUM MAP ON FILE IN THE  
CITY'S PLANNING, BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT DEPARTMENT, WHICH INCLUDES PORTIONS OF DAUNTLESS  
DRIVE, EXULTANT DRIVE, ADMIRABLE DRIVE AND PALOS VERDES DRIVE SOUTH, AND DECLARING THE URGENCY  
THEREOF.**

WHEREAS, in September 1978, the City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 108U, which established the Landslide Moratorium Area in a portion of the City, as depicted on a map that is on file in the City's Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in February 1981, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 139U, which added the area known as Klondike Canyon to the Landslide Moratorium Area, which is described as the area outlined in red on the map that is on file in the City's Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, in September 1989, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 247, which added a new provision to the Landslide Moratorium Ordinance that provided the possibility for more intense development than previously was permitted in the Klondike Canyon Area, as outlined in blue on the map that is on file in the City's Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement ("Blue Area"); and

WHEREAS, in May 2005, following the unusual winter rains during the winter of 2004-2005, the first indications that the Blue Area may be experiencing landslide movement appeared; and

WHEREAS, in October 2005, the City received a report from the City Geologist, who was reviewing a proposed development in the Blue Area, that discussed the issue of landslide movement in the Blue Area; and

WHEREAS, based on the new evidence of landslide movement in the Blue Area, the City Council has asked the City Geologist to determine whether the more flexible development standards that had been allowed in the Blue Area since 1989 should be repealed so that the Blue Area will be subject to the same development criteria that are applicable to the other areas that are subject to the Landslide Moratorium Ordinance, as was the case from February 1981 through September 1989; and,

WHEREAS, on November 15, 2005, the City Council adopted Urgency Ordinance No. 427U, which established a 60-day moratorium on the processing and issuance of building, grading or other permits, and landslide moratorium exception permits and the processing or approval of Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Reports, Conditional Use Permits, height variation applications, tentative maps or parcel maps in the Blue Area and temporarily suspended Section 15.20.040 K of the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code pending the completion of new geological data to determine whether construction in the Blue Area is safe in light of the newly observed instability or if the proposed development could adversely impact the stability of said Area; and,

WHEREAS, because the Global Positioning System ("GPS") Data still was being collected, and the City Geologist still was in the process of completing the review of that data to assess the potential impacts of construction in the Blue Area upon the overall stability of said Area and upon the public health, safety and welfare and, accordingly, needed additional time to complete that review before determining if the moratorium imposed by Ordinance 427U should be lifted, the moratorium was extended by the City Council to March 21, 2006; and

WHEREAS, because the City Geologist's report has been completed and presented to the City Council, but the City Council and the public need additional time to review the report before determining whether to amend the Chapter 15.20 of the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The City Council of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes hereby extends Urgency Ordinance 427U for an additional thirty days, until April 20, 2006. Except as otherwise modified by this Ordinance, all provisions of Urgency Ordinance No. 427U shall remain in full force and effect through and including April 20, 2006.

**SECTION 2.** It has recently come to the attention of the City Council that the land identified in the Blue Area, which was previously thought to be stable, may in fact be experiencing current landslide movement. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, the City Geologist was to review recently collected GPS Data to determine the stability of the land in question and to whether development of new structures on undeveloped lots or parcels, substantial additions to existing homes,

or the construction of certain accessory structures on properties in the Blue Area should be allowed. The City Geologist's report has been completed and has been submitted to the City Council. However, additional time is needed for the City Council and the public to review the City Geologist's report before determining whether Chapter 15.20 of the Municipal Code should be amended to remove the more deferential development standards that were imposed on the area that is subject to the Klondike Canyon Landslide. Thus, the City Council needs additional time to review the report and determine whether additional controls on development are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and general welfare from the harmful effects associated with slope failure. The City Council finds that continued development in the Blue Area during this additional time could expose residents to undue health hazards and safety risks and pose a current and immediate threat to the public health, safety, or general welfare and approval of additional entitlements for development inconsistent with the provisions of Urgency Ordinance No. 427U would frustrate the City's ability to protect the public health, safety and welfare by minimizing the adverse effects of slope failure. This ordinance is therefore necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare and shall take effect immediately upon adoption as an urgency ordinance. This ordinance is effective until 11:59 p.m. on April 20, 2006, unless further extended by the City Council.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 21st day of March 2006.

/s/ Stefan Wolowicz  
Mayor  
Attest:

/s/ Carolyn Petru  
City Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA )  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES )ss  
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES )

I, Carolyn Petru, City Clerk of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City is five; that the foregoing Ordinance No. 438U was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of said City at a regular meeting thereof held on March 21, 2006, and that the same was passed and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Clark, Gardiner, Long, Stern, and Mayor Wolowicz

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

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City Clerk