



CITY OF CHICO OFFICIAL PLANNING DIRECTOR INTERPRETATION

Authority: **Chico Municipal Code Section 19.02.030 (Procedures for interpretations)**

Applicable Code Sections: **Section 19.60.060 (Fencing and Screening)**

Discussion: The municipal code establishes maximum height limits for rear and side yard fences of 6 feet; 7 feet if one foot of lattice or other 50% view permeable material is incorporated into the top one foot of the fence design. These local fence height limitations have historically matched up with the California Building Code, which requires engineered footings for taller fences and walls. Additionally, interior side yard and rear yard fencing may be increased to 8 feet with approval of an administrative use permit in compliance with Chapter 19.25 (Administrative Use Permits).

The recent 2022 update to the California Building Code (Section R105.2) has changed fence height limits for non-engineered fences from 6 feet to 7 feet maximum height.

Interpretation: The allowable height limit for rear and side yard fences shall be 7 feet. Interior side yard and rear yard fencing may be increased to 8 feet with approval of an administrative use permit in compliance with Chapter 19.25 (Administrative Use Permits). Front yard fencing height standards to remain the same. This interpretation only applies to Chapter 19.60.060 of the Chico Municipal Code.

This Official Interpretation is effective immediately and will require an amendment to Title 19 Land Use and Development Regulations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brendan Vieg", written over a horizontal line.

Date: March 21, 2023

Brendan Vieg, Community Development Director