



April 8, 2015

Nikki Hoelter, Senior Planner
Planning & Development Review
City of Austin
nikki.hoelter@austintexas.gov

Re: Block 188 Shoal Creek Setback

Dear Nikki,

The Kor Group presented its hotel/residential building to the Waterfront Planning Advisory Board on January 12 and March 9 for feedback on proposed design located at the northwest corner of Second and Nueces Streets. Block 188 is on the border of the Waterfront Overlay and the Downtown Creeks Overlay.

During the January 12 meeting we received comments from the board to keep the base wall within the 45 foot height limit adjacent to the creek. We revised plans to comply and on March 9 presented to the board with a new design.

The *Waterfront Overlay Ordinance* limits building height to 45 feet vertically within 60 feet horizontally of the centerline of Shoal Creek, which is also the starting point for the 70-degree setback angle away from Shoal Creek.

We are staying within the envelope but requesting a variance to permit a few minor areas of the façade exceed the 70-degree setback. These primarily occur on the very top of the building. I have included an exhibit that shows how our building envelope relates to this variance request.

This variance will allow us to maintain a great pedestrian experience on the trail next to Shoal Creek, provide an architecturally attractive and sustainable building, and work towards the density goals of the Green Water Master Plan.

A few points for consideration:

1. The shape of the building complies with the intent of the Waterfront Overlay. An alternative would be a wedge-shaped building that is inefficient and lacks the opportunity for outdoor patios and terraces.
2. The design and shape of the Building is intended to engage Shoal Creek along with the public walkways and improvements.
3. The location of the building core is driving the shape of the building. Staying within the envelope would mean moving the core eastward which

- creates an unusable floor plate for hotel/residential due to shallow bay depths, creating a hardship.
4. 40% of the revenue from property taxes collected at Green Water are diverted to the Affordable Housing Fund. Increased density is a direct public benefit.
 5. The limited number of areas penetrating the setback are very high in elevation on the Building tower and not discernable at the pedestrian level.
 6. We have created a Public Overlook at the intersection of the Shoal Creek Bridge and our future Restaurant Deck allowing Pedestrians to engage Shoal Creek and the improvements and atmosphere we plan to accomplish.

Attached you will find:

1. Green Water Redevelopment Master Plan
2. Block 188 Building Renderings
3. 3D Building Elevations showing proposed variances
4. Landscape design and renderings of the Shoal Creek Deck and Public Overlook

Regards,

Matthew Green
The Kor Group

Cc: Michael Simmons-Smith
George Adams
Fred Evins
Clayton Baca

EXHIBITS