

## Gallacher, Kirsten CD

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**From:** Gallacher, Kirsten CD  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 5, 2022 9:02 AM  
**Cc:** 2A All CD People  
**Subject:** Community Development Updates

Dear Design Professionals:

New Planning Manager – Please welcome Amber Dobson, our new Planning Manager. She is joining Russell in co-managing the Planning Division and serving as liaison to both the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. She has extensive experience in coastal issues and previously served as the District Manager of the California Coastal Commission, Long Beach Office. We are excited to have Amber as part of our team!

Administrative Design Review Time Change – Beginning June, the weekly Administrative Design Review meeting on Wednesdays will begin earlier at 3pm.

Downtown Specific Plan – In April, the Coastal Commission certified the updated Downtown Specific Plan. The key changes include simplified parking requirements, additional by-right uses, and updated design guidelines for new development in the downtown area. [Click here](#) to view the updated Downtown Specific Plan.

Planning Applications – Beginning March, the Planning Division began dedicating Mondays to address the backlog of planning applications (i.e. zoning plan checks). In two months, we were able to reduce the backlog by 26% and have significantly reduced the average review time. We will continue this trend to provide better service levels in the coming months. We appreciate your patience through this process.

### So Kim

Assistant Director of Community Development

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[Click here](#) to view Department updates.

[Click here](#) to book an in-person, over-the-counter appointment with a Plan Checker.

[Click here](#) to book a virtual or telephone appointment with a Planner.

[Click here](#) to view the projects in queue, assigned planner, and its status.