



Coptic Orthodox Church
Diocese of Los Angeles, Southern California and Hawaii
Saint Verena & The Three Holy Youth Coptic Orthodox Church
Coptic Orthodox Christian Center



Date: 11/18/2025

To: Russell Bunim, Community Development Director
City of Orange
Community Development Department

Subject: Request for One-Year Extension of Land Use Entitlements – PC Resolution No. 01-24 (Conditional Use Permit No. 3215-23, Major Site Plan No. 1054-21, Design Review No. 1799-15)

Dear Mr. Bunim,

On behalf of St. Verena Coptic Orthodox Church, we respectfully request a one-year extension of the above-referenced land use entitlements pursuant to Orange Municipal Code Section 17.08.060.

The Planning Commission approved the church's multi-purpose service building on January 15, 2024 under PC Resolution No. 01-24. Shortly after approval, the church was presented with an unexpected opportunity to purchase the adjacent property currently occupied by a neighboring Christian worship center as shown in attachment 1. Because the potential acquisition offered long-term benefits—including coordinated site planning, shared facilities, and the possibility of enhanced community programming—the church temporarily paused progress on the approved project to fully evaluate that option.

The due diligence and negotiation process required significant time and attention from the church's leadership, and ultimately, the purchase opportunity did not materialize. With that process now concluded, the church is refocusing its efforts on the original, City-approved project and is

prepared to move forward with permitting and construction within the coming year.

The delay arose from a unique and unforeseen opportunity that the church explored in good faith, with the intent of achieving the most beneficial long-term outcome for both the congregation and the surrounding community. The project itself remains unchanged, continues to comply fully with all conditions of approval.

We appreciate the City's consideration of this extension request and remain committed to completing the project consistent with the approvals granted by the Planning Commission. Please let us know if any additional materials are needed as part of this request.

Respectfully,



Fr. Gregory Bishay

Attachment
1

