

CITY OF CARSON

PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

PUBLIC HEARING:	November 24, 2008			
SUBJECT:	Case No. 74-08: Appeal of Director's Determination of Termination Date of Existing Non-Conforming Use			
APPLICANT:	TST Metals, Inc. 2032 E. 220 th Street Carson, CA 90810			
REPRESENTATIVE:	Michael C. Baum, Esq. Resch, Polster, Alpert & Berger, LLP 9200 Sunset Blvd., 9 th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067			
REQUEST:	An appeal of the Director's determination relating to the termination date for an existing, non-conforming scrap metal yard and processing facility.			
PROPERTY INVOLVED:	2020-2032 E. 220 th Street			
COMMISSION ACTION				
Concurred with staff				
Did not concur with staff				
Other				
COI	MMISSIONERS' VOTE			

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I. Introduction

The applicant wishes to appeal the Director's determination of the termination date specified for TST Metals, an existing, non-conforming scrap metal yard and processing facility ("Facility"), currently operating on approximately 4.5 acres located at 2020-2032 E. 220th Street, on the south side of 220th Street, just west of Wilmington Avenue. The Director's determination was received by the applicant on October 8, 2008. An appeal request was submitted to the City Clerk on October 22, 2008, within 15 days of receiving the Director's determination, consistent with requirements found in Section 9173.4 of the Carson Municipal Code (Exhibit No. 1).

The applicant has also requested a continuance of this case until the January 13, 2009 Planning Commission public hearing, as lead counsel on this matter is currently out of the country (Exhibit No. 2).

II. <u>Background</u>

Facility Description

The facility occupies a 4.5 acre property and the use is classified as a scrap metal salvage yard and scrap metal processor. The facility is designed to provide for the collection, dismantling, sorting, packing and wholesale distribution of scrap metal. The scrap metal involved in this process is collected from various sources, including automobiles, demolition materials from buildings and other structures, packing materials and materials generated from the fabricating and disposal of durable metal goods, consumer products, and computer equipment. The materials collected from these sources is then sorted, sheared, baled, shredded, or otherwise packed in a manner, or processed into a product that meets the needs of the wholesale consumer market.

There are a multitude of structures on the subject site that facilitate the processes described above, including an office and administration building, machine and welding shop building, auto dismantling building, storage building and metal canopies used for storage, above-ground water holding tank, scale pit, and a processing pit for melting aluminum.

Based upon a field inspection of the property conducted by staff from the Planning and the Building and Safety Divisions on April 29, 2008, it appears as though most processing activities are conducted under-cover, whether within a canopy or fully enclosed building. Between the buildings and within open areas of the property, there is an abundance of stored materials in various stages of processing, from scrap piles to bales of end-product awaiting distribution. The stacks of outdoor storage are visible from the freeway adjacent to the south side of the property, and from the private road adjacent to the east side of the property.

Trucks enter and exit the facility from 220th Street. There is a dock-high loading platform facing 220th Street with one large roll-up door and approximately 5 truck (rear) loading spaces. Trucks accessing these spaces have to back up from 220th Street. Employees and visitors can park along the northeast side of the property, or adjacent to the office and administration building on the south side of the property.



The parking lot area on the south side of the subject property is accessed by a private street stemming southbound from 220th Street.

Facility Location and Surrounding Uses

The subject property is located at 2022-2032 E. 220th Street, west of Wilmington Avenue and on the south side of 220th Street (Exhibit 3). The property is designated in the General Plan Land Use Element as Light Industrial, zoned ML (Manufacturing, Light), and located within the Merged and Amended Redevelopment Project Area.

The surrounding uses are listed as follows:

North: Vacant light industrial property, (formerly Alpert & Alpert Iron & Metal

Company.

South: 405 Freeway.

East: Light industrial and warehouse uses.

West: Light industrial and office uses.

The property is located within the Merged and Amended Redevelopment Project Area. The goals and objectives for the project area include the elimination of nonconforming and/or incompatible uses, blighting and blighted conditions, and encouraging the construction of new, high quality, light industrial office and business parks. In a 1989 redevelopment implementation report, the applicant's heavy industrial facility is identified, along with other nearby heavy industrial uses, as incompatible with these goals and objectives.

III. Analysis

In 1990, the city amended the Land Use Element of the General Plan which changed the subject property's designation from Heavy Industrial to Light Industrial (Land Use Element Amendment No. 44-90). Other properties in the general area were similarly affected by this change. To be consistent with the new General Plan land use designation, zoning for the property was changed from MH (Manufacturing, Heavy) to ML (Manufacturing, Light) (Zone Change Case No. 111-90). These changes were recommended actions in a 1989 Redevelopment Implementation Strategies, Phase II report that was prepared to evaluate the Amended Redevelopment Project No. 1 and Redevelopment Project Area No. 3 – both of which were created in July, 1984. The purpose of the land use designation and zone change was to be consistent with stated redevelopment goals for these Project Areas, including protecting and promoting light industrial and office park development opportunities and eliminating existing heavy industrial uses deemed incompatible with the predominately light industrial and office character of the area.

In 1977, the city adopted the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance (Carson Municipal Code), which included Section 9141.1, Permitted Uses, citing a conditional use requirement for salvage and scrap metal yards in the MH zone, and a prohibition of salvage and scrap metal yards in the ML zone. Special Use Permit (SUP) No. 52-71 was issued to the Torrance Iron and Metal Company (TIMCO) to operate and maintain a scrap metal and salvage yard in 1971. Therefore, at the time of CMC



adoption in 1977, the scrap metal and salvage yard was considered a legal, conforming use. However, in 1990 the subject property zoning was changed from MH to ML, which caused the existing scrap metal yard and processing facility in use on the subject property to become legal, nonconforming and subject to the abatement and amortization period found in Section 9182.22 of the Carson Municipal Code. Pursuant to this section, any lawfully established use which becomes a nonconforming use, including any building, structures, or facilities designed or intended for such uses which are nonconforming, shall be terminated and such buildings, structures, or facilities shall be removed or made conforming in all respects within the time period specified in Subsection A or B of this Section, whichever is applicable and results in the later termination date.

The applicant acknowledges the fact that the use is legal, nonconforming, but disputes the Director's determination of the applicable termination date prescribed pursuant to Section 9182.22. In their letter dated August 23, 2007 (Exhibit 4), the applicant identified a total of eight (8) buildings and other structures currently on the subject site, which they believe extend the business' amortization period beyond an expiration date determined by the Planning Division. The latest amortization date identified in this list is February 2, 2027. These dates were presumably based upon the applicant's interpretation of Section 9182.41(B), of the Carson Municipal Code (Exhibit 5).

Staff sent a response dated September 30, 2008 which included the Director's determination of January 1, 2011 as the latest possible amortization for the existing non-conforming use (Exhibit 6). This date is 20 years from the codification date of the zone change from MH (Manufacturing, Heavy) to ML (Manufacturing, Light) which caused the use to become non-conforming.

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission continue the case until the January 13, 2008 public hearing, consistent with the applicant's request. However, barring any new information lending support to the contrary, staff will recommend that the Planning Commission deny the appeal request and affirm the Director's determination of the January 1, 2011 amortization expiration date.

IV. <u>Environmental Review</u>

Pursuant to Section 15321(a)(2), of Article 19, of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this project has been deemed as an Enforcement Action by a Regulatory Agency and determined to be Categorically Exempt from further environmental review.

V. Recommendation

That the Planning Commission:

• CONTINUE the Public Hearing until January 13, 2009.

VI. Exhibits

1. Appeal of Director's Determination, Dated October 22, 2008.



- 2. Applicant's Request for Continuance, Dated November 7, 2008.
- 3. Land Use Map.
- 4. Letter Submitted by Applicant, Dated August 23, 2007
- 5. Carson Municipal Zoning Code Excerpt: Section 9182.22.
- 6. Director's Determination Letter, Dated September 30, 2008.

Prepared by:

Steven C. Newberg, AICP, Associate Planner

Reviewed and Approved by:

Sheri Repp, Planning Manager

sn: AofDD7408



CITY OF CARSON

Development Application

Development Services Group

Planning Division
701 East Carson Street
Carson, CA 90745
(310) 952-1761
http://www.ci.carson.ca.us

http://www.ci.carson.ca.us **Property Information** Address 2020 and 2032 East 220th Street and/or APN: Existing Use: Existing Zoning: **Proposed Project** Describe Project and Potential Use (Attach additional sheets if necessary): __This is an appeal of the staff decision reflected in the letter dated September 30, 2008 from Sheri Repp Loadsman, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit "A". The basis of the Appeal is set forth in Exhibit "B". Is the Project in a Redevelopment Project Area? Yes ☐ No If so, which?____ **Applicant Information** Main Contact Person (Applicant/Representative): Michael C. Baum 9200 Sunset Boulevard, Ninth Floor Address: City/State/Zip Code: Los Angeles, California 90069 Phone Number: (Day) (310) 277-8300 (Mobile) (310) 552-3209 Fax Number: E-Mail Address: mbaum@rpblaw.com City Staff Use Only Received By: Date: Amount Paid: Case Planner: Case No(s): Related Case No(s):

Database: 🗀

Counter Map:

Property Owner: TST Me	tals, Inc., c/o Resch P	olster & Berger LLP
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	Angeles, California 9006	9-3604
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General Plan Amendment Owner Signatures and Cer	tification	* Additional materials required
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Owner(s) Signature		Date
Andrew V. Jakon Owner(s) (Please print)	for TST, Inc.	

A

Exhibit "B"

TST, Inc. ("Owner"), the owner of 2020 and 2032 E. 220th Street, Carson, California 900745 (the "Property") appeals the staff decision regarding the non-conforming "allowable life" and amortization date of the existing use of the Property.

It remains the position of the Owner that each of the permitted structures at the Premises should each be classified with a 50 year amortization under Carson Municipal Code section 9182.22(b). Specifically, based on the building permits (copies of which are attached) and an inspection of the structures, Owner believes the proper amortization dates are as follows:

1.	Permit for shop (machine and welding)	Final Inspection 02/01/1966	Amortization Date 02/01/2016
2.	Factory for auto dismantling	05/03/1972	05/03/2022
3.	Building for storage of incombustible Materials	12/07/1973	12/07/2023
4.	Administration offices	02/01/1966	12/01/2016
5.	Tank for holding water	10/01/1976	10/01/2026
6.	Processing pit for melting aluminum	02/03/1977	02/03/2027
7.	Metal canopies	06/07/1974	06/07/2024
8.	Fire separation block wall	01/23/1970	01/23/2020

Accordingly, Owner's position is that, pursuant to the Carson Municipal Code, the expiration date of the legal, non-conforming status for the use at the Property is no earlier than June 7, 2024.

Owner reserves the right to submit additional materials in support of its position at or in advance of the public hearing.

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November 7, 2008

VIA FACSIMILE 310-835-5749

Steve Newberg Planning Division City of Carson 701 E. Carson Carson CA 90745

Re: TST, Inc.

Dear Mr. Newberg:

As discussed on the telephone yesterday, this letter is to formally request a continuance of the Public Hearing set for November 24, 2008 with respect to TST, Inc.'s pending appeal. Lead counsel on this matter, Michael C. Baum, will be out of the country on that date.

Sincerely,

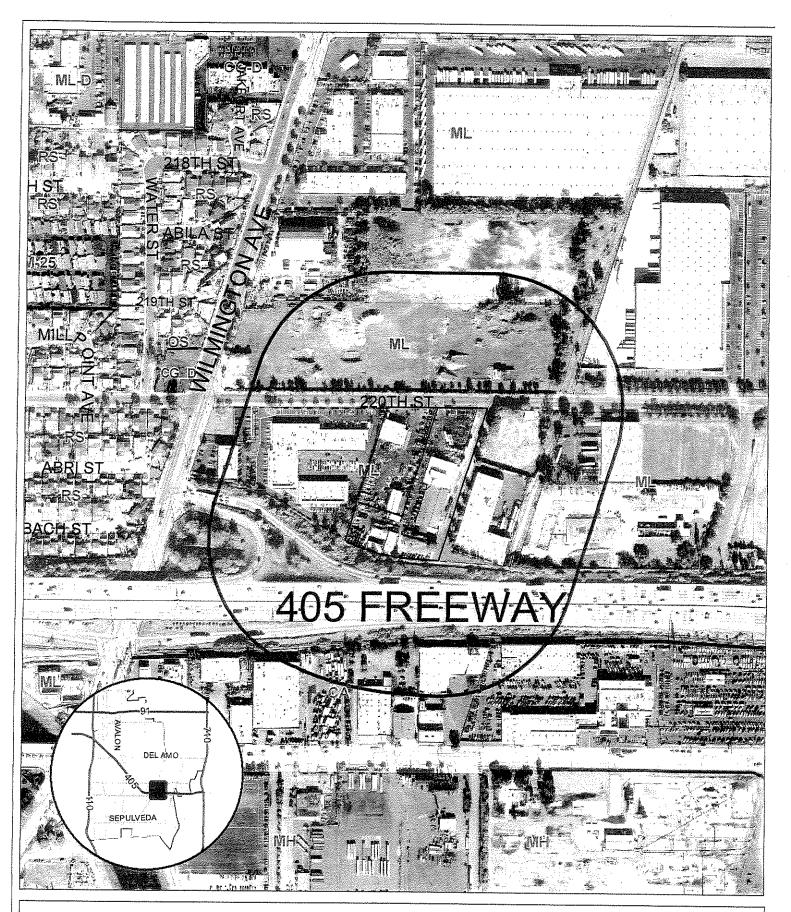
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LAWYERS a limited liability partnership including professional corporations 9200 SUNSET BLVD., NINTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90069-3604 T 310.277.8300 F 310.552,3209

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City of Carson 500 Foot Radius Map 2020 - 2032 E 220th St

Exhibit 3





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ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPT.

August 23, 2007

Sheri Repp Loadsman City of Carson Planning Division 701 East Carson Street Carson, CA 90745-2224

Re:

2020 East 220th Street, Long Beach, California

and

2032 East 220th Street, Long Beach, California

Dear Ms. Repp:

Per our prior telephone conversation, enclosed you will find copies of the building permits which we believe extend our client's amortization period beyond the January 2011 date you had suggested:

		Final Inspection	Amortization Date
1.	Permit for shop (machine and welding)	02/01/1966	02/01/2016
2.	Factory for auto dismantling	05/03/1972	05/03/2022
3.	Building for storage of incombustible Materials	12/07/1973	12/07/2023
4.	Administration offices	02/01/1966	12/01/2016
5.	Tank for holding water	10/01/1976	10/01/2026
6.	Processing pit for melting aluminum	02/03/1977	02/03/2027
7.	Metal canopies	06/07/1974	06/07/2024
8.	Fire separation block wall	01/23/1970	01/23/2020

a limited liability partnership including professional corporations



Sheri Repp Loadsman City of Carson / Planning Division August 23, 2007 Page 2

Please give me a call after you have had a chance to review the enclosed so that we can discuss any questions you may have.

Very truly yours

Michael C. Baum

MCB:FY #361618 Enclosures



Termination of Existing Nonconforming Use

A lawfully established use which becomes a nonconforming use, including any building, structures or facilities designed or intended only for uses which are nonconforming, shall be terminated and such buildings, structures or facilities shall be removed or made conforming in all respects within the time period specified in Subsection A or B of this Section, whichever is applicable and results in the later termination date.

If multiple termination periods exist, apply the longest time as per int. No. 2-79

As Amended By

A. The time period indicated in the following table measured from the date of becoming a nonconforming use:

coming a nonconforming use:	As Amended By Ord. No. 81-550	
Use	Allowable Life	
Use of land without building or structures.	1 year	
Use involving only buildings or structures which would not require a building permit to replace such building or structures (but not including a mobile home park).	3 years	
Second Dwelling	5 years	As Amended By
Mobile Home Park	35 years	Ord. No. 03-1290
Use involving building or structures which would require a building permit to replace such buildings or structures.	20 years	
Multiple-family residential uses located within a Mixed-Use Residential (MUR) Overlay District with ten (10) or more units (except existing mobile home parks), subject to Section 9182.24.	2 years	As Amended By Ord. No. 94-1039
Residential uses located within a Mixed-Use Residential (MUR) Overlay District with nine (9) units or less, subject to Section 9182.24.	5 years	As Amended By Ord. No. 94-1039
Existing food/grocery stores in residential zones.	Expires December 31, 2003	As Amended By Ord. No. 93-1024
Outdoor advertising use.	5 years	
Trailer Parks.	20 years	As Amended By
Sale of convenience goods at automobile service stations within 300 feet of any school.	20 years	Ord. No. 84-679
Transient hotels and motel units with no kitchens (except one manager's unit).	35 years	As Amended By Ord. No. 84-702
Producing oil wells, oil storage tanks.	20 years	As Amended By
Arcades.	5 years	Ord. No. 84-685
Truck related uses defined in Section 9148.8 which requires a Conditional Use Permit.	1 year	As Amended By Ord. No. 92-982
Adult Business.	5 years	As Amended By
Wireless telecommunication facility, transmit- ter, receiver or repeater station - radio, televi- sion, microwave.	5 years	Ord. No. 94-1037 As Amended By Ord. No. 03-1284

Cargo Container Storage; provided
however, that effective February 5,
1988 (1) no cargo container storage
shall be permitted within fifty (50)
feet of any residentially zoned prop-
erty which involves any stacking
more than one container high; no
cargo container storage shall be per-
mitted within one hundred (100)
feet of any residentially zoned prop-
erty which involves any stacking
more than two containers high and
(3) in no event shall any cargo con-
tainer storage be permitted on any
site which involves any stacking
more than three containers high.

6 Months

As Amended By Ord. No.87-822

Indoor Mini-Mart, Auction House.

10 Months

As Amended By Ord. No.87-813

Transmitters, receivers and repeater stations.

5 Years

As Amended By Ord. No.03-1279

Structure Type According to Building Code*

Type of Structure*	Old Classification	New Classification	Use	Allowable Life
Light metal or wood frame.	IV, V	II (1-hour) II-N,V	Nonresidential	25 years
Light metal or wood frame.	IV, V	II (1-hour) II-N,V	Residential, except single-	30 years
Light metal or wood frame.	IV, V	II (1-hour) II-N,V	family dwellings. single- family dwellings.	35 years
Heavy timber, masonry, concrete.	II, III	II (Fire Resistive))All	40 years
Fire resistive heavy steel and/or concrete.	ı	I .	All	50 years

^{*} Building Code classification shall take precedence over type of material in case of conflict.

B. The time period indicated in the following table measured from the date of construction of the most recently constructed main building or other major facilities which are designed or intended for the nonconforming use.



CITY OF CARSON

September 30, 2008

Mr. Michael C. Baum Resch, Polster, Alpert, and Berger, LLP 9200 Sunset Boulevard, Ninth Floor Los Angeles, CA 90069-3604

Re: TST Metals

2020 and 2032 E. 220th Street, Carson, CA 90745

Mr. Baum,

The following information is in response to your request dated August 23, 2007 for an assessment of building permit information as it relates to the legal, non-conforming status of the use at the addresses cited above. This information incorporates our findings from a site inspection and confirms the Planning Division's decision regarding the non-conforming 'allowable life' and amortization date of the existing use. Our previous correspondence dated March 13, 2008 presenting a detailed analysis of the legal, non-conforming status of the subject property is also enclosed.

The Building and Safety Division has reviewed the building permits issued for the eight structures identified in your request, as well as all other building permits on file for the subject property. A field inspection on April 29, 2008 yielded findings which are consistent with building permits on file for all structures. All eight structures identified in your written request were correctly classified as either 'Type IV', non-combustible, or 'Type V' at the time of construction.

The following table lists each structure as identified in your original request and provides information regarding the structures' legal, non-conforming status, allowable life, and amortization:

Permit No.	Work Description	Type of Construction	Final Inspection Date	Allowable Life Per CMC Section 9182.22(B)	Amortization Date (Final Inspection Date + Allowable Life)
1	Permit for shop (machine and welding)	IV	February 1, 1966	35 years	February 1, 2001
2	Factory for auto dismantling	V	May 3, 1972	35 years	May 3, 2007



Permit No.	Work Description	Type of Construction	Final Inspection Date	Allowable Life Per CMC Section 9182.22(B)	Amortization Date (Final Inspection Date + Allowable Life)
3	Building for storage of incombustible materials	IV	December 7, 1973	35 years	December 7, 2008
4	Administration offices	V	February 1, 1966	35 years	February 1, 2001
5	Tank for holding water	Non-conformity use incidental to a non-conforming use, which must be brought into compliance pursuant to Carson Municipal Code Section 9182.08.			
6	Processing pit for melting aluminum	No longer in use.			
7	Metal canopies (3 total)	IV	June 7, 1974	35 years	June, 7, 2009
8	Fire separation block wall	Non-conformity incidental to a non-conforming use, which must be brought into compliance pursuant to Carson Municipal Code Section 9182.08.			

As shown in the table above, the latest possible amortization date based upon type of construction is June 7, 2009. As stated in our March 13, 2008 correspondence, a January 1, 2011 expiration date of legal, non-conforming status for the use at the subject property was identified. This date refers to the allowable life of the non-conforming use, which is 20 years from the date of non-conformance. Therefore, the current scrap metal yard and processing facility use must be abated by January 1, 2011, which includes all of the buildings identified in the list above.

We recognize the importance of your request and have taken appropriate care to provide a full evaluation, including a complete investigation of the building permits for the subject property, previously approved land-use entitlements, field observations, and a study of the property's historical zoning. Based upon our analysis, this letter provides confirmation of the determination contained in our correspondence to you dated March 20, 2008, which established a January 1, 2011 expiration date for the existing non-conforming use. There are a number of alternatives available to TST Metals and we encourage a meeting to discuss these options in detail. In order to comply, the following courses of action may be taken:

1) The owner may submit a development application for an alternative use should it wish to convert the existing structure(s) to a use permitted in the zone, pursuant to Section 9141.1 of the Carson Municipal Code (CMC). Please note however, that the review process involving an application for a new use is a process that is mutually exclusive of the termination of existing non-conforming use process as outlined in this correspondence. Thus, it does not extend the non-conforming abatement period of the existing use as described herein;



- 2) An appeal of this final determination of the allowable life of the nonconforming metals processing use may be filed within 15 days after receipt of this correspondence, pursuant to Section 9173.4 of the CMC;
- 3) The owner may apply for a possible extension of the legal, nonconforming life. Procedures for this are outlined in Section 9172.25 of the CMC. Such extension may be granted by either the Planning Commission or City Council upon request by the owner.

If you need any further clarification of this analysis or the City's procedures, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Sheri Repp-Loadsman Planning Manager

Enclosures

Cc: C. Graves, Economic Development General Manager

V. Rollinger, Development Services General Manager

F. Gallante, Assistant City Attorney

S. Newberg, Associate Planner

SCN

