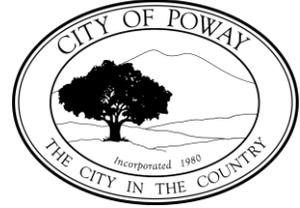


# CITY OF POWAY

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT



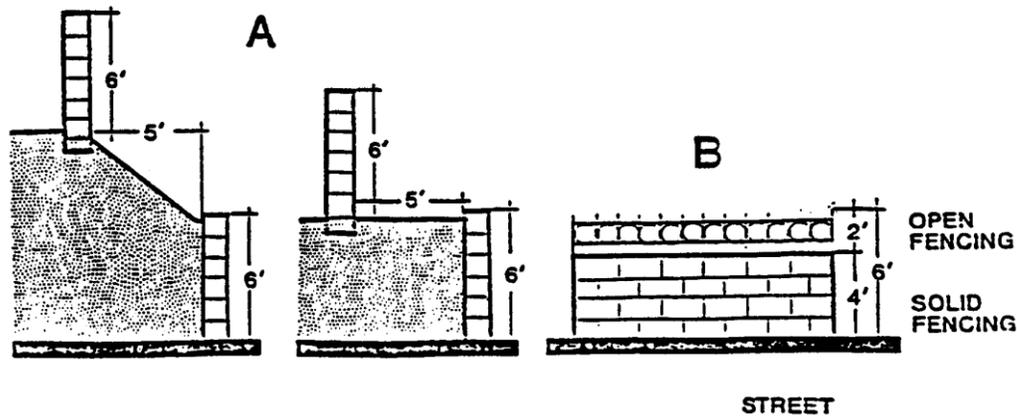
### Walls and Fences

Before proceeding with construction of a wall or fence, please check with the Development Services Department counter staff to make sure the wall or fence will not encroach into public property or block access to public facilities such as a water meter, sewer cleanout or fire hydrant.

17.08.240 Walls and Fences. Requirements for walls and fences in residential zones shall be as follows:

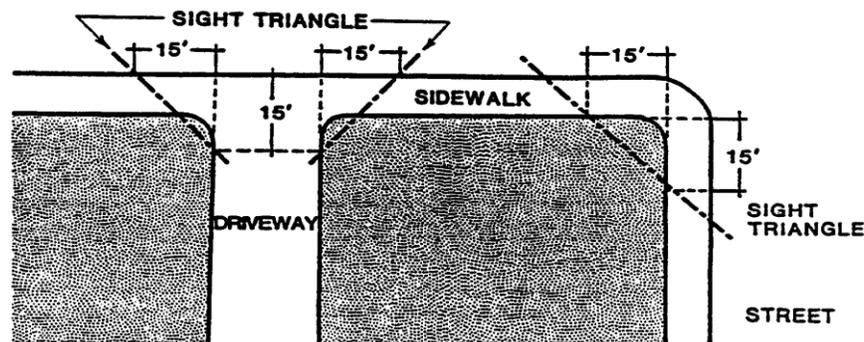
A. A wall, fence, retaining wall, or driveway entry gate and associated pilasters including any appurtenances or any combination thereof shall not exceed six feet in height, except as herein provided.

1. When a retaining wall is used to increase usable lot area, the sum total of any combination of fence or wall and retaining wall shall not exceed six feet in height unless a five-foot landscape area is provided between the retaining wall and fence or wall. A series of retaining walls and fence or wall is allowed in conjunction with the five-foot landscape area, provided each individual fence and wall or retaining wall shall not exceed six feet in height as conceptually shown in Figure A below.
2. Within the required front yard area, at a minimum, the top two feet of a six-foot fence or wall shall be constructed of open fencing as conceptually shown in Figure B below, unless the wall is a retaining wall, a driveway entry gate and associated pilasters, or additional height is approved for noise attenuation purposes.
3. The maximum height of driveway entry gates and associated pilasters, on properties that are at least one acre in size and zoned RR-A, RR-B, RR-C, or RS-1, shall not exceed seven feet. A driveway entry gate and associated pilasters shall be located adjacent to a driveway and may be located within the front yard setback area, provided a minimum 20-foot setback is maintained to the edge of the street intersecting the driveway to allow the vehicle entering the property to stop in the driveway during operation of the gate without impacting traffic in the street.



B. A solid wall or fence not more than six feet in height may be maintained along the interior side of rear lot lines, except as required by PMC 17.08.220(A); provided, that such wall or fence does not extend into a required front yard except for noise attenuation as required by the City and as provided in this chapter.

C. A wall or fence adjacent to a driveway or street providing vehicular access to an abutting lot or street shall not exceed three feet in height within 15 feet of the intersection of the driveway and the street right-of-way and/or shall comply with CalTrans's design standards for site visibility. Corner cut-offs may be required for safety and visibility (see examples following).



D. Fiberglass sheeting, bamboo sheeting or other similar temporary material shall not be permitted as a fencing material on street yard frontages.

E. A wall or fence up to eight feet in height may be allowed by the Director of Development Services where necessary for noise attenuation from arterial streets or other noise sources.

F. Where barbed wire strands, razor wire, or concertina wire (coiled barbed wire) is placed at the top of a wall or fence, such materials shall maintain a minimum vertical clearance of six feet above grade, shall extend no more than one foot

above the top of the wall or fence, and shall be maintained in a safe condition. Such strands of wire shall not be counted in the overall allowable fence height.

G. It is unlawful to place razor wire or concertina wire on the rooftop of any building.

H. It is unlawful for an owner of a parcel of land within the City to keep barbed wire or any other type of wire fencing in an unsafe, abandoned, or materially dangerous condition. Unmaintained wire fencing, including but not limited to barbed wire, razor wire, and concertina wire (coiled barbed wire), is declared to be a public nuisance and shall be subject to the nuisance abatement procedure, Chapter 8.72 PMC.

I. All fences (including retaining walls) shall be constructed of new or good used material and in accordance with the methods of construction which conform to the requirements of the Uniform Building Code. Additionally, they shall be maintained in a state of good repair. Any dilapidated, dangerous or unsightly fences or retaining walls shall be repaired or removed.

J. Retaining walls, which have a walking surface adjacent to the top of the retaining wall, shall be equipped with an open and decorative metal railing on the top of the retaining wall for safety as deemed necessary by the City Building Official. The height of the required railing shall not be considered in the overall height measurement of the retaining wall. (Ord. 685 § 3, 2009; Ord. 674 §§ 12 – 15, 2008; Ord. 518, 1999; Ord. 481 § 3, 1997; Ord. 232 § 1, 1987; Ord. 195 § 1, 1986; Ord. 172 § 1 (Exh. A), 1985; Ord. 162 § 1, 1985; Ord. 113 § 1 (Exh. A 2.5), 1983).

Please also note that Poway Municipal Code section 13.11.130(A)(6) requires that there be “free access” to water meters. “Free access to a water meter” means two feet of clearance on all sides of the meter and no obstructions above the meter. Poway Municipal Code section 13.11.130(A)(7) prohibits permanent structures, such as walls, fences, and gates, in a utility easement without written authorization from the City of Poway. In an emergency, the City has the right to remove the fence or wall to provide necessary access for repair work and to charge the removal cost to the person responsible for placement of the encroachment.

If you have any further questions please contact the City of Poway Development Services Department at (858) 668-4600.