

Jacob, Melinda

From: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB)
Subject: FW: 600 Gilman car wash and drive-thru coffee stand

From: Jeffrey Baker <jwbaker@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 10:58 AM
To: Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) <Planningzab@berkeleyca.gov>
Subject: 600 Gilman car wash and drive-thru coffee stand

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Esteemed Commissioners:

I write to support the staff's determination that permits for a change of use at 600 Gilman be denied. The site, at the corner of 2nd and Gilman, is pivotal to the success of the recently-built \$100 million Gilman interchange. The route to the pedestrian and bicycle overpass serving Tom Bates Fields and the Bay Trail passes by this parcel. 2nd Street was converted from two-way to one-way on this block, the sidewalk was widened and extended, and other changes were made to deprioritize cars and discourage turning maneuvers at this corner. Establishing a cars-only use at this corner would undermine the purpose of those investments.

There is also the matter of the application's generally misleading nature. No clear distinction is made between the existing site, the site before unpermitted construction, and the proposals. As a local resident I am aware that most of the improvements requested in these permits were installed more than one year ago, but that isn't obvious in the application. The drawings in the application also misrepresent the curb line and the purpose of the sidewalks north and north-east of the site (Sheet A1.01 "Site Plan") even though those improvements were made prior to 2024, before the date of the drawing.

The applicant should be encouraged to develop their parcel to M-RD standards and in a manner consistent with the area plan, but the current proposal to retroactively approve a wildcat drive-thru should be denied.

-Jeff Baker