

# Drafting Land Use Findings

The following tips provide guidance to help the plan commission draft legally defensible land use findings.

1. Put your findings in clear and understandable language.
2. Use statutory, case law and local ordinance standards as guidelines for your findings.
3. Avoid findings that merely restate the law. Instead, describe how the evidence supports or does not support each standard.
4. Make sure all evidence, including on-site observations, is included in the record.
5. Articulate a clear logical link between the impacts of the project and conditions imposed upon it.
6. If a project is modified since findings for it were written, make sure that the modifications do not necessitate new or revised findings.

Adapted from Kovacic, Gary A. and Mary L. McMaster. "Drafting Land Use Findings," *Planning Commissioners Journal*, Issue 4, May/June 1992.