A CITIZEN’S GUIDE TO SHADE STRUCTURES

Bellflower Municipal Code (B.M.C) defines “structure” as “anything constructed or erected which requires a fixed location on the ground, or is attached to a building or other structure having a fixed location on the ground.” All shade structures require Planning and Building Division review. Should you have any questions regarding fences and walls please contact the Planning Division at 562-804-1424.

Examples of shade structures include, without limitation:

- Canopies
- Gazebos
- Pergolas
- Awnings
- Patio Covers
- Cabanas

**Approval Process**

- Contact the City’s Planning Division prior to the purchase or installation of any such structure. City staff are available to assist potential applicants by informally reviewing the proposed structure, including size, construction, and location.

- Submit a Site Plan to the Planning Division that shows the following (refer to the A Citizen’s Guide to Architectural Plan Requirements handout for a full checklist):
  - Shape and dimensions of the lot and any easements.
  - All existing structures and setbacks. Setback dimensions are measured from the face of all structures to the property lines.
  - Proposed location of the new shade structure.
  - Specific details of the size, appearance, materials, and construction of the proposed structure.

- Architectural plans for Shade structures not requiring a building permit may be reviewed over the counter with a minor plot plan review for a fee of $66. Shade structures over 120 sq.ft. in size require a building permit and must be submitted for plan check with a major plot plan review for a fee of $310.00 (also subject to building fees).