Office of the City Manager

March 20, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: _Qwk_ Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Subject: Planning Department launches new software to improve
           access to information regarding permit activity

The Planning Department and Department of Information Technology just launched a new public-focused software tool that enables community members to access more information, more easily, about building and development activity in Berkeley. Called "buildingeye," the new online tool provides information on building and land use permit activity by address from 2000 to the present. Council, staff, and members of the public can now visit the City's buildingeye platform 24 hours a day, located online at https://berkeley.buildingeye.com.

Through its search function, the buildingeye tool allows anyone to explore permits for a specific location, council district, building inspection district, earthquake fault zone, earthquake liquefaction zone, or a range of areas. After creating a simple free account, users can also set up alerts to automatically inform them when new activity takes place in any location or range of locations in Berkeley.
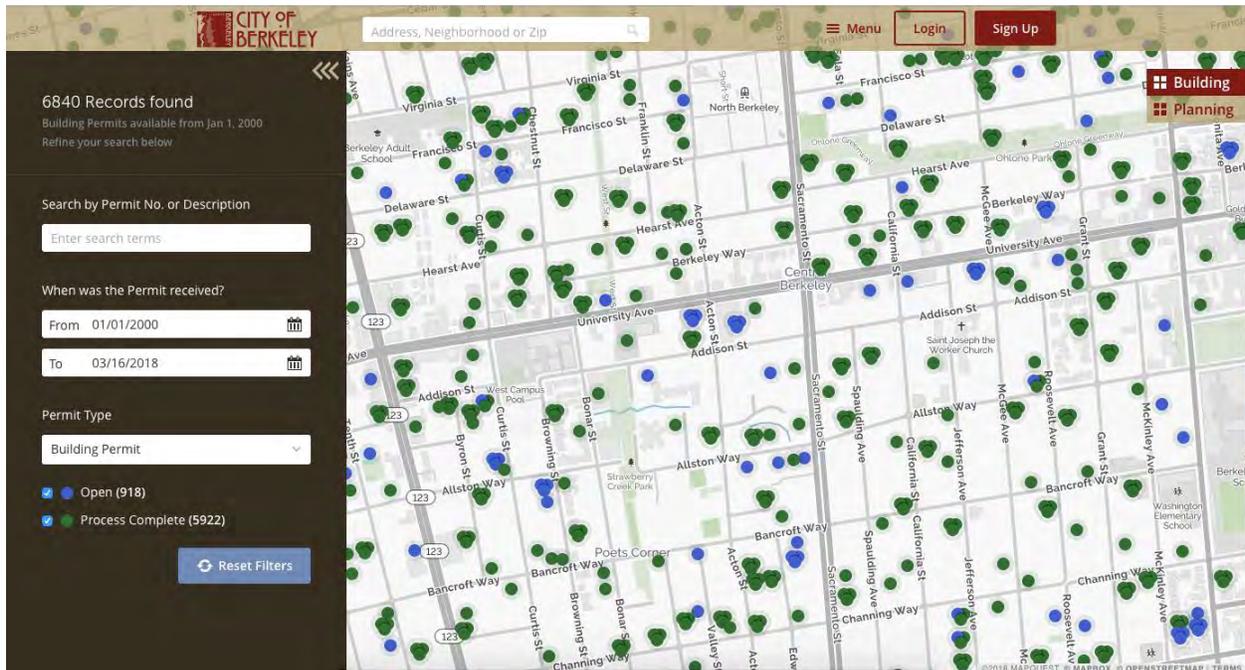
Common types of inquiries which buildingeye can answer include, but are not limited to:

- What building activity is happening in my neighborhood?
- Has someone applied to develop that vacant lot down the street?
- Is the new home I'm considering located in a liquefaction zone?

Many types of inquiries which used to require a phone call, email, or even a visit to City offices can now be answered with a few simple clicks on any internet-connected device. The tool is part of the Planning Department's efforts to improve customer service as well as to advance environmental sustainability by providing more information online.

As is illustrated in the image below, the tool provides a map function that allows users to easily see and click on permit activity by address:

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In addition to buildingeye, the City also offers the following tools that provide information about zoning and development activity:

Parcel Popper – This tool provides the zoning district of a given parcel and other parcel information.

Current Zoning Applications "General Information" – This link provides a list of all current zoning applications.

Please experiment with buildingeye and encourage community members to use it as well. Staff will soon post a news release on the City's homepage about the launch of the new tool.

For questions about the tool, please contact Eryn Blackwelder, Assistant Management Analyst, Office of the Planning Director, 510-981-7498, EBlackwelder@cityofberkeley.info

cc: Jovan Grogan, Deputy City Manager
       Mark Numainville, City Clerk
       Savita Chaudhary, Director, Information Technology
       Timothy Burroughs, Acting Director, Planning & Development
       Ann-Marie Hogan, City Auditor
       Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager