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Columbia Plaza plan environmental review approved



Columbia Plaza, Joshua Trujillo/Seattle P-I file

A six-story, 306-unit building proposed for Columbia City's prominent Columbia Plaza site won [environmental approval](#) from planners Monday.

[HAL Real Estate Investments](#) proposed the building, which would also include 8,129 square feet of ground-level retail space and 330 underground parking spaces, and require demolition of the existing 16,915-square-foot Columbia Plaza retail building. Before the plan gets a master-use permit, the Columbia City Review Committee and [Landmark Preservation Board](#) must still review the building's design, because the site is in the [Columbia City Landmark District](#).

"We still are a long ways away from the (master use permit)," HAL President Dana Behar said Monday. He said the timing of the project "will depend on what the market is like at the time when we achieve our (permit)."

The [Columbia City Farmers Market](#) uses the lot, but expects to have to move next year or in 2011.

HAL [bought](#) the 74,500-square-foot site for \$6.6 million from Kin Properties of Florida in 2007 and subsequently shut down the mixture of retailers that occupied crudely divided spaces in the building.

People can appeal the environmental approval through July 13 to the [Seattle Hearing Examiner's Office](#).

Posted by [Aubrey Cohen](#) at June 29, 2009 1:42 p.m.

· [Return to Columbia Plaza plan environmental review approved](#)

