

Ground broken for Second Avenue condos

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Ground was broken Wednesday for a 38-story condo project in downtown Seattle at 1521 Second Ave. It will be the first residential tower built under the city's new height regulations.

The Seattle City Council approved allowing taller and more slender buildings earlier this year, and the **Opus NWR Development LLC** building on Second Avenue is the first to be built under those rules.

The 141-unit building is being constructed at the site of the former Green Tortoise hostel and a parking lot. The project is expected to be completed in the fall of 2008.

Condos will sell for an average of \$1.8 million, with an average size of 2,000 square feet.

When completed, the 440-foot condo tower will be the city's tallest residential building; Seattle's tallest residential structure at present is the 349-foot-high Continental Place building in Belltown.