

RESOLUTION NO. PC2021-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE AMENDMENTS TO ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW 20-03 TO ALLOW THE CONSTRUCTION OF A 2,028 SQ. FT. DRIVE-THRU COFFEE SHOP AND A 4,088 SQ. FT. MINI-MARKET WITH ALCOHOL SALES AND 24 HOUR OPERATION ON 3.1 ACRES OF A 5.9 ACRES OF VACANT LAND LOCATED AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF FIRST STREET AND CESAR CHAVEZ STREET. (APN 778-020-007 AND 778-010-017) COACHELLA RETAL REALTY ASSOCIATES, LP (APPLICANT).

WHEREAS, Coachella Retail Realty Associates, LP filed an application for Conditional Use Permit (CUP 346), CUP 347, Architectural Review (AR) 21-12 and amendments to CUP 321, AR 20-03, and Tentative Parcel Map (TPM) 37940 to allow the construction of a 2,028 sq. ft. drive-thru coffee shop, 2,600 sq. ft. drive-thru restaurant, and a 20,422 sq. ft. supermarket located at the northeast corner of First Street and Cesar Chavez Street (APN 778-020-007 and 778-010-017); and

WHEREAS on December 7, 2021, the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella held a duly noticed public hearing on the subject application, considered written and oral comments, and facts and evidence presented by the applicant, City staff, and other interested parties; and

WHEREAS the proposed use is necessary or desirable for the development of the community, is consistent with the objectives of the City’s General Plan, and is not detrimental to the existing uses or the uses specifically permitted in the zone in which the proposed use is to be located; and,

WHEREAS the proposed site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the proposed development; and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Division completed an initial environmental assessment of the above matter and in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) recommends the Planning Commission determine the project will not result in any new environmental effects that were not previously analyzed as part of the original project under Environmental Initial Study 07-16 on May 7, 2008 for Fountainhead Plaza for all phases of the project.

WHEREAS, the proposed change could not adversely affect the general health, safety and welfare of the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella, California hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. Incorporation of Recitals

The Planning Commission hereby finds that all of the facts in the Recitals are true and correct and are incorporated and adopted as findings of the Planning Commission as fully set forth in this resolution.

Section 2. CEQA Findings

Based upon its review of the entire record, including the Staff Report, any public comments or testimony presented to the Planning Commission, and the facts outlined below, the Planning Commission hereby finds and determines that the proposed project will not result in any new environmental effects that were not previously analyzed as part of the original project under Environmental Initial Study 07-16 on May 7, 2008 for Fountainhead Plaza for all phases of the project.

Section 3. Architectural Review Findings

With respect to the modifications to Architectural Review 21-03, the Planning Commission finds as follows for the proposed for the 2,028 sq. ft. drive-thru coffee shop:

1. The proposed use will not be in conflict with, but will be in harmony with and in accordance with the objectives of the Coachella General Plan 2035, except as recognized that the project has vested rights as to the number of drive-thru restaurants and service stations previously vested under CUP No. 233 and AR No. 07-20. Staff requested direction from the Planning Commission at the June 3, 2015, Planning Commission hearing through a policy discussion item on the agenda. The site has a Downtown Center land use designation that allows for a range of retail uses. The proposed uses on the site are in keeping with the policies of the Downtown Center land use classification and the Project is internally consistent with other General Plan policies for this type of development.
2. The proposed uses will be located, designed, constructed, operated and maintained so as to be compatible with the existing or intended character of the general vicinity and shall not change the essential character of the same area. The proposed project is in compliance with the applicable development standards of the City's Zoning Code. The applicant proposes to amend the approved site plan by eliminating two tenant spaces (4,500 sq. ft). of a multi-tenant retail building and instead retain a 2,028 sq. ft. drive-thru Coffee Shop and a 12-fueling position Canopy for Service Station and a 3,010 sq. ft. mini-market with alcohol sales and 24 hour operations on 3.1 acres of vacant land, in accordance with section 17.74.010 of the Coachella Municipal Code.
3. Consideration is given to harmony in scale, bulk, coverage and density, to the availability of public facilities and utilities, to harmful effect, if any, upon desirable neighborhood character, to the generation of traffic and the capacity of surrounding streets, and to any other relevant impact of the development. The proposed development consists of an amended site plan and architectural elevations that proposes to eliminate two tenant spaces (4,500 sq. ft). of a multi-tenant retail building and instead retain a 2,028 sq. ft. drive-thru Coffee Shop and a 12-fueling position Canopy for Service Station and a 3,010 sq. ft. mini-market with alcohol sales and 24

hour operations on 3.1 acres of vacant land, in accordance with section 17.74.010 of the Coachella Municipal Code. The proposal which will provide City residents and regional residents with an alternative food service and an additional service station with a convenience store which will provide convenience to motorists within the region. The proposed use is compatible with existing adjacent uses, which include similar land uses and large commercial development sites.

4. Where the proposed use may be potentially hazardous or disturbing to existing or reasonably expected neighboring uses, it must be justified by the common public interest as a benefit to the community as a whole. The proposed development will be compatible with the neighboring properties with respect to land development patterns and application of architectural treatments. The plans submitted for this project propose a building with similar architectural features to the adjoining existing architectural theme of the commercial center as well as adjoining commercial development within the immediate vicinity of the proposed site. The surrounding properties to the south and to the east are vacant and can provide for similar commercial development. As such, the proposed buildings will be in keeping with the scale, massing, and aesthetic appeal of the existing neighborhood and future development.
5. The proposed use will include three new vehicular approaches to the property designed to improve off-site and on-site vehicular circulation for existing traffic on surrounding public streets or roads. Evidence of this is reflected in the provided site plan design. The three new proposed drive isles and internal circulation have been reviewed and approved by the Fire Department and the Engineering Department.

Section 4. Planning Commission Approval

Based on the foregoing recitals and findings above, and the written and oral comments, facts and evidence presented, the City of Coachella Planning Commission recommends to the City Council approval of Architectural Review 20-03 for the Fountainhead Plaza Phase II development and subject to the Conditions of Approval as set forth in “Exhibit A”

PASSED APPROVED and ADOPTED this 7th day of December 2021.

Stephanie Virgen, Chairperson
Coachella Planning Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Perez
Planning Commission Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. PC2021-26, was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella, California, held on the 7th day of December 2021 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Gabriel Perez
Planning Commission Secretary