

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA APPROVING ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW NO. 23-12, A REQUEST TO MODIFY PANDA EXPRESS DRIVE THRU BUILDING ARCHITECTURE WITH THE ADDITION OF RED LED LIGHTING STRIPS TO THE SWOOP ROOF ELEMENT DESIGN AS ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW NO. 23-12 AT 50-120 CESAR CHAVEZ STREET. APPLICANT: PANDA EXPRESS, INC.

WHEREAS Panda Express, Inc. filed an application for Architectural Review (AR) 23-12 to modify Panda Express drive thru building architecture with the addition of red LED lighting strips to the swoop roof element design at 50-120 Cesar Chavez Street; and,

WHEREAS on December 15, 2021 and January 5, 2022, the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella held a duly noticed public hearing, considered written and oral comments, and facts and evidence presented by the applicant, City staff, and other interested parties, and approved AR No. 21-12 and CUP 347 for the Aldi Supermarket and Panda Express and recommended approval to the City Council of Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 321 and AR 20-03 for Starbucks and 7-Eleven; 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 conditions as stipulated by the City are necessary to protect the public 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 Architectural Review 23-12, the Planning Commission finds as follows for the 2,600 sq. ft. Panda Express restaurant:

1. The Architectural Review modification is consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures of the Coachella General Plan 203. 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 use 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 for the C-G (General Commercial) Zoning District of the City's Zoning Code. The site plan proposes the construction and operation of a development consisting of a 2,600 sq. ft. restaurant 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 project is in compliance with the applicable development standards for the C-G (General Commercial) Zoning District of the City's Zoning Code. The proposed development consists of a 2,600 sq. ft. restaurant which will provide City residents and regional residents with a food options which will provide convenience to motorist within the region. The proposed use is compatible with existing adjacent uses, which include similar land uses and large commercial development sites.
4. The Project will be compatible with neighboring properties with respect to land development patterns. The proposed development would development according to the development standards of the C-G Zone at a scale, massing, and aesthetic appeal of existing development is in keeping with development of neighboring properties.
5. The proposed use will include 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 aisles and internal circulation have been reviewed and approved by the Fire Department and the Engineering Department.

Section 5. 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 hereby approves Architectural Review 23-12 (Amendment), modifying the architecture of the building to include LED lighting strips on exterior elevations, as set forth by the conditions in “Exhibit A” and development plans of “Exhibit B”

PASSED APPROVED and ADOPTED this 18th day of October 2023.

Ruben Gonzalez, 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. PC2023-24, was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella, California, held on the 18th day of October 2023, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Gabriel Perez
Planning Commission Secretary