

**RESOLUTION NO. PC2023-21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COACHELLA PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. 22-03) PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVE GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 22-01 TO AMEND THE CITY OF COACHELLA GENERAL PLAN 2035 ADOPTING THE CITY OF COACHELLA SIXTH CYCLE HOUSING ELEMENT (2021-2029). APPLICANT: CITY OF COACHELLA**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Coachella initiated General Plan Amendment No. 22-01 for preparation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element of the City’s General Plan to analyze the City population and existing housing stock, evaluate efforts in the previous Housing Element, identify housing constraints, and consider the future needs for housing in the City, with a particular focus on affordable housing and housing for special needs households, including seniors, disabled persons, large families, single parent households, farmworkers and the homeless. It also provides the City’s decision makers with Goals, Policies and Programs intended to facilitate the development and preservation of adequate housing supply to meet these needs. This Update addresses the sixth cycle from 2021 to 2029.

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the City of Coachella (“City”) adopted a General Plan Update to guide development and provide a basis for decision-making for the City through 2035; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to encourage the maintenance, improvement, and rehabilitation of the City’s existing housing stock; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City finds it beneficial to improve housing conditions in the community and encourage energy efficiency in both new and existing housing stock; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City wishes to promote equal opportunity to secure safe, sanitary and affordable housing for all members of the community regardless of race, sex, or other arbitrary factors; and,

**WHEREAS**, City staff prepared for the Planning Commission consideration a draft housing element update, which was released and made first made available for public review on August 29, 2013; and,

**WHEREAS**, by way of preparation of Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA 22-03), attached hereto as Exhibit “A” and incorporated herein, the City has evaluated the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, based on this Environmental Assessment/Initial Study the City has made a determination that the Project will not have a significant impact on the environment and has prepared a Negative Declaration for this Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration was posted with the County Clerk and the proposed Mitigated Negative was made available for a 20-day public review period commencing on October 20, 2022 and ending on November 8, 2022; and,

**WHEREAS**, interested and concerned individuals and public agencies had the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Negative Declaration; and,

**WHEREAS**, findings of the Initial Study indicated that the Proposed Project would not create any significant impacts to the environment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Project would not be detrimental to the general health, safety and welfare of the community.

**WHEREAS**, a Negative Declaration was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, as amended.

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on General Plan Amendment No. 21-02 and EA No. 22-03 on July 19, 2023 to consider staff recommendations and prior written and oral testimony regarding the project and recommended to the City Council adoption of a negative declaration and approval of General Plan Amendment No. 21-02; and,

**WHEREAS**, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA DOES HEREBY FIND, DETERMINE AND RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1. Recitals.** The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein as findings of fact.

**SECTION 2. Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.** The Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration (EA 22-03), comments received, and other documents contained in the administrative record for the Project. The Planning Commission recommends that the City Council find adequacy in the CEQA documents and finds that the Negative Declaration and administrative record contain a complete and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City Council. The Planning Commission recommends that the City Council find that the Negative Declaration, as shown in “Exhibit A” attached and made a part hereto, has been completed in compliance with CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines, and the City of Coachella’s Local CEQA Guidelines.

**SECTION 3. Findings on Environmental Impacts.** Based on the Negative Declaration, the administrative record, and all written and oral evidence presented to the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission recommends that the City Council find that all environmental impacts of the Project have been addressed within the Negative Declaration. The Planning Commission

recommends that the City Council find that no new or additional mitigation measures or alternatives are required. The Planning Commission recommends that the City Council find that the Negative Declaration contains a complete, objective, and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts associated with the Project and reflects the independent judgment and analysis of the City Council.

**SECTION 4. Adoption of a Negative Declaration.** The Planning Commission hereby recommends that the City Council adopt the Negative Declaration, Exhibit A, prepared for the Project and finds that the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element update project has been analyzed in accordance with the statutes and guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act.

**SECTION 5. General Plan Consistency.** The Planning Commission has considered the economic, environmental, and fiscal factors and community goals as set forth in the City's General Plan, and pending comprehensive update to the General Plan. The City's recent efforts in developing the General Plan Update has included extensive public participation in the areas of land use and community character, safety from natural hazards, open space and conservation, and community health and wellness.

The proposed General Plan Amendment 22-01 adopting the 2021-2029 Housing Element update is internally consistent with the overall City General Plan, including the pending General Plan Update document. The Housing Element Update is the City's document for meeting future housing needs, including housing affordable to lower income households. The purpose of the Housing Element is to establish specific goals, policies, and objectives relative to the provision of housing, and to adopt an action plan toward this end. The 2021-2029 Housing Element update is a response to the State of California's mandate of requiring a Housing Element within every General Plan, and periodic updates.

**SECTION 5. Adoption of General Plan Amendment No. 22-01.** The Planning Commission hereby recommend that the City Council adopt the 2021-2029 Housing Element update project as shown in "Exhibit B" attached and made a part hereto.

**SECTION 6. Custodian of Records.** The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings on which these findings are based are located at Coachella Civic Center. City Clerk is the custodian of the record of proceedings.

**SECTION 7. Execution of Resolution.** The Planning Commission Chair shall sign this Resolution and the Planning Commission Secretary shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the members of the City of Coachella Planning Commission on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023.

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Ruben Gonzalez,  
Planning Commission Chair

ATTEST:

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Gabriel Perez, Planning Commission Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Carlos Campos, City Attorney

I, Gabriel Perez, Planning Secretary, City of Coachella, California, certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Planning Commission at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2023, and was adopted by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Gabriel Perez  
Planning Commission Secretary