

# IID

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February 18, 2021

Mr. Luis Lopez  
Director  
Development Services Department  
City of Coachella  
1515 6th Street  
Coachella, CA 92236

SUBJECT: Coachella Canna Club Project in Coachella, CA; CUP No. 330, 331

Dear Mr. Lopez:

On February 10, 2021, the Imperial Irrigation District received from the City of Coachella Development Services Department, a request for agency comments on the preliminary information and design plans for the Coachella Canna Club project; Conditional Use Permit nos. 330 and 331. The applicant, Armen Paronyan/Coachella Can, LLC; proposes to establish a 7,170 sq. ft. retail cannabis business and consumption lounge and a take-out restaurant with outdoor seating and window service at 46-156 Dillon Road, Coachella, California (APN 603-102-024).

The IID has reviewed the project information and has the following comments:

1. IID will not begin any studies, engineering or estimate costs to provide electrical service to the project until the applicant submits a customer project application (available at <http://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=12923> and detailed loading information, panel sizes, project schedule and estimated in-service date. Applicant shall bear all costs associated with providing electrical service to the project, including but not limited to the construction of any additional facilities needed to extend electrical service to the proposed development such as distribution backbone feeders, distribution overhead and/or underground line extensions, the re-configuration of distribution circuits, transmission line extensions or other upgrades as well as applicable permits, zoning changes, landscaping (if required by the City) and rights-of-way and easements.
2. However, based on the preliminary information provided to the IID, the district can accommodate the power requirements of the project by extending distribution lines (conduit and cable) from existing facilities. The district's ability to provide service from existing infrastructure is based on currently available capacity, which may be impacted by future development in the area. It is important to note that a detailed and final study will be developed once a customer project application and loading calculations are received. This detailed information will allow IID to perform an accurate assessment and provide a full report of any potential impacts and mitigation measures. The conditions of service could change as a result of the additional studies.
3. Underground infrastructure that includes trenching, conduits, pull boxes, switch boxes and pads should be installed following IID approved plans. Physical field installation of

underground infrastructures should be verified and approved by an IID inspector prior to cable installation as per IID Developer's Guide (available at the district website <https://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=14229>).

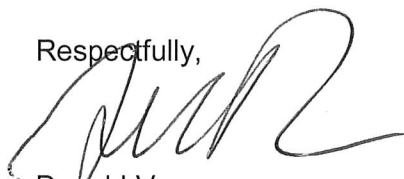
4. IID Regulations governing line extensions can be found at:  
No. 2 (<http://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=2540>),  
No. 13 (<http://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=2553>),  
No. 15 (<http://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=2555>),  
No. 20 (<http://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=2560>) and  
No. 23 (<https://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=17897>).
5. For additional information regarding electrical service for the project, the applicant should be advised to contact the IID Energy - La Quinta Division Customer Operations, 81-600 Avenue 58 La Quinta, CA 92253, at (760) 398-5841 and speak with the project development planner assigned to the area.
6. It is important to note that IID's policy is to extend its electrical facilities only to those developments that have obtained the approval of a city or county planning commission and such other governmental authority or decision-making body having jurisdiction over said developments.
7. The applicant will be required to provide rights-of-way and easements for any power line extensions and overhead or underground infrastructure needed to serve the project.
8. Any construction or operation on IID property or within its existing and proposed right of way or easements including but not limited to: surface improvements such as proposed new streets, driveways, parking lots, landscape; and all water, sewer, storm water, or any other above ground or underground utilities; will require an encroachment permit, or encroachment agreement (depending on the circumstances). A copy of the IID encroachment permit application and instructions for its completion are available at <https://www.iid.com/about-iid/department-directory/real-estate>. The IID Real Estate Section should be contacted at (760) 339-9239 for additional information regarding encroachment permits or agreements.
9. Relocation of existing IID facilities to accommodate the project and/or to accommodate street widening improvements imposed by the City will be deemed project-driven and all costs, as well as securing of rights of way and easements for relocated facilities, shall be borne by the applicant.
10. Any new, relocated, modified or reconstructed IID facilities required for and by the project (which can include but is not limited to electrical utility substations, electrical transmission and distribution lines, etc.) need to be included as part of the project's CEQA and/or NEPA documentation, environmental impact analysis and mitigation. Failure to do so will result in postponement of any construction and/or modification of IID facilities until such time as the environmental documentation is amended and environmental impacts are fully mitigated. **Any mitigation necessary as a result of the construction, relocation and/or upgrade of IID facilities is the responsibility of the project proponent.**



11. Dividing a project into two or more pieces and evaluating each piece in a separate environmental document (Piecemealing or Segmenting), rather than evaluating the whole of the project in one environmental document, is explicitly forbidden by CEQA, because dividing a project into a number of pieces would allow a Lead Agency to minimize the apparent environmental impacts of a project by evaluating individual pieces separately, each of which may have a less-than-significant impact on the environment, but which together may result in a significant impact. Segmenting a project may also hinder developing comprehensive mitigation strategies. In general, if an activity or facility is necessary for the operation of a project, or necessary to achieve the project objectives, or a reasonably foreseeable consequence of approving the project, then it should be considered an integral project component that should be analyzed within the environmental analysis. The project description should include all project components, including those that will have to be approved by responsible agencies. The State CEQA Guidelines define a project under CEQA as "the whole of the action" that may result either directly or indirectly in physical changes to the environment. This broad definition is intended to provide the maximum protection of the environment. CEQA case law has established general principles on project segmentation for different project types. For a project requiring construction of offsite infrastructure, the offsite infrastructure must be included in the project description. *San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus* (1994) 27 Cal.App. 4th 713.
  
12. Applicant should be advised that landscaping can be dangerous if items are planted too close to IID's electrical equipment. In the event of an outage, or equipment failure, it is vital that IID personnel have immediate and safe access to its equipment to make the needed repairs. For public safety, and that of the electrical workers, it is important to adhere to standards that limit landscaping around electrical facilities. IID landscaping guidelines are available at <https://www.iid.com/energy/vegetation-management>.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (760) 482-3609 or at [dvargas@iid.com](mailto:dvargas@iid.com). Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully,



Donald Vargas  
Compliance Administrator II

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