

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-61

A RESOLUTION OF THE COACHELLA CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION (ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. 22-03) PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND APPROVING 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 6th 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, the City Council conducted a duly noticed public hearing on General Plan Amendment No. 21-02 and EA No. 22-03 on September 13, 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 CITY COUNCIL 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. Adoption of General Plan Amendment No. 21-02. The City Council hereby approves text modifications to Chapter 11 Housing Element as shown in “Exhibit B” attached and made a part hereto (collectively, “General Plan Amendment No. 21-02”), and hereby approves General Plan Amendment No. 21-02.

SECTION 3. Findings. The City Council finds that the amendments to General Plan proposed by “Exhibit B” are consistent with the goals and policies of all elements of the General Plan, as amended by this Resolution, and exercise the City’s land use powers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The proposed General Plan Amendment No. 22-01 adopting the 2021-2029 Housing Element update is internally consistent with the overall City General Plan. 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.

The City Council also finds that the proposed amendment to the Coachella General Plan 2035 would not be detrimental to the public interest, health, safety, convenience, or welfare of the City and would ensure that the City can plan for the future housing needs of all residents at all income levels.

SECTION 4. Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The City Council 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 City Council finds 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 City Council finds 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 5. Findings on Environmental Impacts. Based on the Negative Declaration, the administrative record, and all written and oral evidence presented to the City Council, the City Council finds that all environmental impacts of the Project have been addressed within the Negative Declaration. The City Council finds that no new or additional mitigation measures or alternatives are required. The City Council finds 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 6. Adoption of a Negative Declaration. The City Council hereby adopts 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 7. 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 8. Execution of Resolution. The City of Coachella Mayor shall sign this Resolution and the City Clerk shall attest and certify to the passage and adoption thereof.

PASSED APPROVED and ADOPTED this 13th day of September 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Steven A. Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Angela M. Zepeda
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Carlos Campos
City Attorney

STATE OF)
CALIFORNIA) ss.
COUNTY OF)
RIVERSIDE
CITY OF COACHELLA

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution No. 2023-61 was duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Coachella at a regular meeting thereof, held on this 13th day of September 2023 by the following vote of Council:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Delia Granados
Deputy City Clerk