

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF COACHELLA PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 351 AND ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW 22-04, ESTABLISHING DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS/GUIDELINES AND APPROVING DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND SIGN PROGRAM FOR THE TRIPOLI MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF 108 RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT UNITS AND RETAIL TENANT SPACES ON 2.8 ACRES AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF CESAR CHAVEZ STREET AND BAGDAD AVENUE. (APN 778-081-003 AND 778-081-001) CHELSEA INVESTMENT CORPORATION (APPLICANT).

WHEREAS Coachella Investment Corporation filed an application for Change of Zone No. 22-01, Conditional Use Permit (CUP 351) and Architectural Review (AR) 21-12 to allow the construction of a mixed-use development consisting of 108 affordable apartment units and 2 retail tenant spaces within two buildings located at the northeast corner of Cesar Chavez Street and Bagdad Avenue (APN 778-081-003 and 778-081-001); and,

WHEREAS on April 6, 2022, 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 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 as an infill development because the project involves development on a site under five acres where the parcel complies with General Plan policies and zoning regulations, and where the project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species, and where the site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services, and the project will not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality.

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 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15332 as an infill development because the project involves development on a site under five acres where the parcel complies with General Plan policies and zoning regulations, and where the project site has no value as habitat for endangered, rare or threatened species, and where the site can be adequately served by all required utilities and public services, and the project will not result in any significant effects relating to traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality. The subject site is surrounded on all sides by urban uses and has no suitable habitat for endangered species. There are existing utilities and public services available to serve the site. As proposed, the project will comply with General Plan policies and zoning code regulations and the project does not result in any significant traffic, air quality, or water quality impacts. As such, no additional environmental review is required.

Section 3. Conditional Use Permit and Architectural Review Findings

With respect to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) 351 and Architectural Review 22-04, the Planning Commission finds as follows for the proposed for the 108 unit mixed-use development project:

1. The Conditional Use Permit and Architectural Review is consistent with the goals, objectives, policies, and implementation measures of the Coachella General Plan 2035. 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 that allows for multi-family residential development. The proposed structures 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 and the Pueblo Viejo Revitalization Plan policies for this type of development. The project is consistent with the policies of the Land Use and Community Character's Sub-Area #2 policies which recognize that Downtown is the heart of the City where mixed use development is also encouraged that create a new gateway to downtown at the intersection of Sixth Street and Cesar Chavez Street.
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 for the C-G (General Commercial) Zoning District of the City's Zoning Code and the project request modified development standards through approval of a planned unit development overlay to allow for a mixed-use development consistent with the density permitted of the General Plan of 20-65 dwelling units per acre and consistent with the Pueblo Viejo Revitalization Plan.

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 a 108 apartment units and 2 retail spaces. The proposed uses will be compatible with existing adjacent uses that include single family residential, multi-family uses, and commercial uses within the immediate vicinity.
4. The Project will be compatible with neighboring properties with respect to land development patterns. The proposed development would develop 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 such as Pueblo Viejo Villas. The plans submitted for this project propose a commercial and multi-family residential use with amenities for the future residents of the site that are permitted in the C-G PD (General Commercial, Planned Development) zone. The project would promote a well-designed pedestrian realm that includes shade and a safe pedestrian environment for pedestrians.
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 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 recommends to the City Council approval Conditional Use Permit (CUP 351), and Architectural Review 22-04 for the Tripoli Mixed-Use Project development and subject to the Conditions of Approval as set forth in “Exhibit A” and Planned Unit Development Guidelines/Standards for the Tripoli Mixed-Use project in “Exhibit B.”

PASSED APPROVED and ADOPTED this 6th day of April 2022.

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. PC2022-10, was duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Coachella, California, held on the 6th day of April 2022, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Gabriel Perez
Planning Commission Secretary