



## City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

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☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ PLANNING COMMISSION ☒ Regular ☐ Special

**Meeting Date:** August 7, 2024

**Title:** PC RESOLUTION 08-07-2024-PC , A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF NEEDLES APPROVING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A NEW 1,200 SQUARE FOOT SOCIAL SUPPORT CENTER LOCATED AT 1060 EAST BROADWAY STREET (APN 0186-222-09) PURSUANT TO A CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CEQA GUIDELINES SECTION 15332.

**Background:** Pacific Clinics ("Applicant"), requests that the Planning Commission approve a Special Use Permit to establish a 1,200- square-foot Social Support Center.

The project site is located within the existing Needles Town Shopping Center at 1060 East Broadway Street (APN: 0186-222-09), south of Ice Plant Road. It has a General Plan land use designation of General Commercial (C-2) and is within the General Commercial (C-2) zoning district.

Pacific Clinics, a California non-profit public benefit corporation, provides mental health services throughout the state and has been contracted by the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health.

The Social Support Center primarily focuses on behavioral health recovery, providing peer support and access to essential resources. Additionally, it extends support to a broader community, including families, individuals experiencing domestic violence, those facing food insecurities, and others needing assistance with healthy living and community resources. The program ensures a low barrier to engagement, making it easily accessible and adaptable to the specific needs of local residents.

Services and resources onsite will include support groups tailored to local needs, such as grief and loss, domestic violence, and mental health and substance use recovery. Presentations on Medi-Cal benefits and suicide prevention will be available. The site will offer workshops on resume building, sharpening interview skills, and psychoeducation on mental health topics. Case management services will provide referrals, access, and linkages to address social health factors and transportation to medical appointments and job interviews. Additional resources include a computer lab, phone access, and a printer.

The project site is located within the existing Needles Town Shopping Center on a 7.5-acre parcel at 1060 East Broadway Street (APN: 0186-222-09). This location is physically suitable in size and shape to support the operation of the support center. The surrounding area primarily consists of commercial establishments and government services, including the San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department and the Department of Motor Vehicles. The project will adhere to all applicable Building, zoning, fire, and standards. These measures will ensure the project is safe, attractive, and well-designed.

Services will be provided for adults 18 years and older. Individuals interested in receiving services must apply to become members of the program. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the program team. Approved members will be assisted on a walk-in basis. The center will operate from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. No services will be available outside these hours. Offsite activities will be offered in collaboration with the Department of Behavioral Health.

**Public Notification:** A public hearing notice was published in the Needles Desert Star newspaper on Wednesday, July 24, 2024, and posted in two conspicuous locations. Notices were also sent to property owners within 300 feet of the proposed projects.

**Fiscal Impact:** The recommended action will not result in a fiscal impact on the City of Needles.

**Environmental Impact:** Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section No. 15332, Class 32 (Infill Development) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Recommended Action:** Based on the information in the staff report and subject to the attached Findings and Conditions of Approval, staff recommends that the Planning Commission adopt PC Resolution 08-07-2024-PC , approving a Special Use Permit for a 1,200-square-foot Social Support Center, and Direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

**Submitted By:** Irene Romero, City Planner

**Attachments:**

1. Vicinity Map
2. Project Site Plan
3. Project Floor Plan
4. Planning Commission Resolution, Findings, and Conditions of Approval

**City Manager Approval:** Patrick J. Martinez

**Date:** 8-2-2024

**Other Department Approval (when required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

**Agenda Item:** \_\_\_\_\_