#### Flamingo 640

Project Applicant: RoBott Land Company

Pre Application Submittal: May 2020

**CUP Application Submittal:** September 2020

The project site is a 640-acre site located at 2107 Old Woman Springs Road. The area proposed for development of a new campground is shown on the attached site plan. The project site is bisected in a northeast to southwest direction by Pipes Canyon Wash. No major development is proposed to occur within the Pipes Canyon Wash portion of the project site (approximately 350 acres), nor the approximately 65 acres located east of the wash. RoBott Land Company (Project Applicant) is requesting approval of a Conditional Use Permit to develop approximately 25 acres of the 640-acre parcel.

In May 2020, the applicant submitted a Pre-Application package for County staff review. As originally proposed, the project included a music festival site with related parking on the northwest portion of the property covering about 90 acres. In consultation with County staff, the applicant deleted the music festival component from the project. No development is proposed in the Wash nor in the 90 acres mentioned above. The project scope has been significantly reduced and the development footprint is now approximately 25 acres.

In September 2020, the applicant submitted an application for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a 75-site campground with onsite amenities for campers. Changes to the original development plan include no public access to the proposed restaurant and bar; the amenities are now only available to patrons of the campground (managed by on-site staff) as an ancillary use. In addition, the proposed helipad remains a part of the site plan as an emergency use only helicopter pad, with no aerial tours being conducted from the site.

The proposed project consists of the following functions:

### Accommodations: Up to 75 camp sites of three distinct types:

- Camping Lofts 1,230 square-feet (SF) each; 20 sites
- Camping Tents 220 SF each; 35 sites
- Chalet 850 SF each; 20 sites

#### Support Buildings/Areas

- Reception /Camp Store 2,288 SF
- Restrooms 1,120 SF each; 8 units
- Fire Pits –700 SF each; 4 units (gas-fired pit/no wood burning proposed)
- Pool/Patio 3,000 SF
- Workshops 3,600 SF each; 2 units
- Art Barn 5,500 SF
- Restaurant 10,108 SF
- Agave Bar 5,500 SF
- Helipad 7,854 SF (emergency use only)
- Storage Area: 25,275 SF
- Yoga Deck: 2,400 SF

- Retention area: 58,902 SF (subject to change)
- Sewage disposal area and expansion: 58,902 SF (subject to change)

# <u>Trails/Paths/Gardens:</u>

- Gardens 212,000 SF
- Internal Paths/Walkways between buildings/ site activities
- External Trails for the remainder of the site (through the wash and east side of wash)

The applicant's proposed use prohibits the use of off-road vehicles and activities. Overnighting of RVs is also prohibited. Hiking in the area, along with buildings for crafts and other activities are proposed.

## Summary of Issues:

The County has received a number of comments on the proposal as part of the Project Notice and the subsequent release of the environmental document related to a variety of topics. The following is a summary of the key issues.

- Zoning. The stated purpose of the Policy Plan RL Category is "a desire to maintain a rural and open space environment" The proposed camping project is consistent with this policy. The County permits campgrounds within the RL Zone upon approval of a Conditional Use Permit. "Commercial" activities have been restricted to campground guests only, thus the proposed uses are within the bounds of what is allowable in an RL zone.
- <u>Highway 247</u>. The project site is adjacent to Old Woman Springs Road/SR 247, which is a County Scenic Route and Eligible State Scenic Highway. Development restrictions along a County designated scenic route extend 200 feet on either side of the right of way. The closest proposed structures are over 700 feet from the Highway. As such, views along most of the project site frontage would be in compliance with the required setbacks.
- <u>Traffic Study</u>. As part of the CUP application, the applicant included a Trip Generation memo and a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Assessment for review by the County's Traffic Planning Engineer. Upon review of these two documents, the Traffic Engineer recommended approval of the project with no further Traffic Study required.
- BLM Protections. Pipes Canyon was not listed on the BLM Web Site under their "Current List of Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)". The Biological Resources Assessment and the CEQA Initial Study prepared for the project both included a review of relevant plans, studies and databases for a number of issues including biological resources. The conclusion of this research was that there is no USFWS-designated critical habitat for any species within 10 miles of the project site.
- <u>Site Habitat</u>. A Biological Resources Assessment, including focused surveys for desert tortoise, borrowing owl, and Le Conte's thrasher, was completed. These surveys were conducted per USFWS and/or CDFW protocols for these species. The Assessment also included a jurisdictional waters delineation of the Pipes Canyon Wash per CDFW protocol. The results of the field surveys were that no evidence of desert tortoise, burrowing owl of Le Conte's thrasher was found at the time of the field surveys. However, according to the California Natural Diversity

Database, the project site includes desert habitat that suitable for desert tortoise and the potential for individuals to occur is high. Because these species are mobile, and field surveys are undertaken at specific points in time, additional surveys must be completed prior to any site disturbance occurring as recommended in the Biological Resources Assessment. Recommendations are included in the project's Initial Study as mitigation measures.

As part of the CUP application process, the County planning staff conducted a review of all
project materials and determined that given the proposed use of the entire site, the changes to
the project description and scope, and the ability to mitigate impacts, a Mitigated Negative
Declaration is supported by County staff. According to the project planner, there is no evidence
of impacts from the currently proposed version of the project that cannot be mitigated
necessitating an EIR.



