

RESOLUTION NO. 24- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MENIFEE, CALIFORNIA APPROVING GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. PLN 21-0336, WHICH AMENDS THE GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION OF 590.3 ACRES FROM MENIFEE VALLEY RANCH SPECIFIC PLAN TO MENIFEE VALLEY SPECIFIC PLAN

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2021, the applicant, Minor Ranch, LLC (“Applicant”) filed a formal application with the City of Menifee for General Plan Amendment (GPA) No. PLN 21-0336 which proposes to change the General Plan land use map to include the Menifee Valley Specific Plan (MVSP) land use designation and remove the Project site from the Menifee Valley Ranch Specific Plan No. 301 (SP 301).

WHEREAS, the application for the GPA is being processed concurrently with applications for a Specific Plan (SP) No. PLN 21-0217 which establishes land uses and development standards for 590.3 acres, a GPA No. PLN 21-0336 to change the General Plan land use map to include the MVSP land use designation and remove the portion of SP 301 proposed to be removed under Specific Plan Amendment (SPA) No. PLN 21-0221, a Change of Zone (CZ) No. PLN 21-0335 to revise the City Zoning Map to include the MVSP zone, a SPA No. PLN 21-0221 (listed above), a Tentative Tract Map (TTM) No. PLN 22-0033 for a subdivision for conveyance purposes and mass grading, and a Development Agreement (DA) No. PLN 21-0338 for the establishment of provision for development of the Project such as, but not limited to infrastructure improvement, park benefits, vesting of development rights and timing of public improvements (collectively, the applications are referred to as the “Project,” “Menifee Valley Specific Plan,” or “MVSP”); and

WHEREAS, on January 10, 2024, the Planning Commission, held a duly noticed Public Hearing on the Project, considered all public testimony as well as materials in the staff report and accompanying documents, which hearing was publicly noticed by a publication in *The Press Enterprise* (a newspaper of general circulation), an agenda posting, notices placed on the project site, and notice to property owners within 300 feet of the Project boundaries, and to persons requesting public notice; and

WHEREAS, at the January 10, 2024 Planning Commission public hearing, based upon the materials in the staff report and accompanying documents, public comments, and Planning Commission discussion, the City of Menifee Planning Commission recommended the City Council approve GPA No. PLN 21-0336; and

WHEREAS, a detailed visual for GPA No. PLN 21-0336 has been prepared and attached hereto as “Exhibit A” of the Resolution; and

WHEREAS, on February 7, 2024, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the Project, considered all public testimony as well as all materials in the staff report and accompanying documents for the Project, which hearing was publicly noticed in *The Press Enterprise*, a newspaper of general circulation, an agenda posting, on-site posting, notice to property owners within 300 feet of the Project boundaries, and to persons requesting public notice.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Menifee resolves as follows:

Section 1: The amendment is consistent with the intent of the vision, goals and policies of the General Plan as a whole.

The General Plan land use designation of the site is SP 301, however, this GPA is being concurrently processed with a SPA to remove the Project site from the SP 301 and Specific Plan application to include the Project site within a new Specific Plan (MVSP). The GPA proposes to change the General Plan land use map to include the MVSP land use designation and remove the portion of SP 301 proposed to be removed under SPA No. PLN 21-0221.

The intent of the Specific Plan General Plan land use designation is to recognize areas where a Specific plan is in place and to provide policies, standards and criteria for the development or redevelopment of these areas. The MVSP provides the policies, standards and criteria for development of the area.

The proposed MVSP is consistent with the General Plan. The Specific Plan provides land uses, development standards and design guidelines that implement the goals and policies of the General Plan. Roadways, trails, bike lanes, and enhanced landscape corridors have been incorporated into the Specific Plan consistent with the General Plan.

The areas surrounding the Project site consist of a mix of land uses, including industrial, residential, and public/quasi-public facilities. The area is dominated by Southern California Edison's (SCE) Valley Power Station, one of the largest in the SCE portfolio and the SCE service station, which is a facilities and operations maintenance facility. The Project site is bounded on the north by State Route 74 (SR-74) and the west by Menifee Road, both identified in the City's General Plan as designated truck routes. Directly south is the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks (BNSFRR), SCE transmission facilities, and Matthews Road (a dirt road designated only as a paper street). Directly to the east is Briggs Road. Nearby single-family residential uses include the Heritage Lake residential community to the south on the opposite side of the BNSFRR and other residential subdivisions under the jurisdictional authority of unincorporated Riverside County to the east. Vacant land planned for commercial and industrial uses is located to the north across SR-74. At the southeastern corner of the SR-74/Briggs Road intersection is Heritage High School, with the high school property directly abutting the Project site boundary on the high school site's west and south sides.

Business park and commercial planning areas are adjacent to Menifee Road and SR-74 or internal to the site, away from existing residential uses and buffered from the residence to the south via berming and landscape buffering. The Project is compatible with surrounding land uses.

In addition, the Project is consistent with the following City of Menifee General Plan policies:

- *Policy LU-1.1: Concentrate growth in strategic locations to help preserve rural areas, create place and identity, provide infrastructure efficiently, and foster the use of transit options.*

The Project places appropriate uses within an area designated Specific Plan per the General Plan. Growth has been concentrated in this strategic location to help preserve rural areas. Through the land use plan, development standards, and the design guidelines, the Specific Plan will create a unique place and develop its own identity. The Land Use Plan, Circulation Plan, Grading Plan, and Phasing Plan of the Specific Plan will ensure that that development will provide infrastructure efficiently. A combination of pathways, paseos, walkways, or similar pedestrian accesses are provided that connect the individual Planning Areas in the Specific Plan to commercial areas and recreation areas.

- *Policy LU-1.2: Provide a spectrum of housing types and price ranges that match the jobs in the city and make it possible for people to live and work in Menifee and maintain a high quality of life.*

The Project provides a variety of lot sizes that can accommodate different housing types and price ranges. The Project contains residential, school, recreation, conservation, public facility civic node, business park, and commercial uses, which makes it possible for people to live and work in Menifee and maintain a high quality of life.

- *Policy LU-1.5: Support development and land use patterns, where appropriate, that reduce reliance on the automobile and capitalize on multimodal transportation opportunities.*

The Project provides pedestrian connections, trails, and bike lanes to facilitate multimodal transportation. The Project was designed to promote walkability. In addition, a pedestrian connection was added from the residential portion to the future potential transit stop at the southwest corner of the Project site adjacent to the existing rail lines. In addition, the Project site provides paths of travel to encourage walking of future residents to the future commercial uses and the existing Sports Park within the Heritage Lake community to the south across the BNSFRR rail lines.

- *LU-1.7 Ensure neighborhood amenities and public facilities (natural open space areas, parks, libraries, schools, trails, etc.) are distributed equitably throughout the City.*

The proposed Project provides planning areas which allow for and anticipate these types of amenities and public facilities, such as a K-5 school, green spaces, recreational amenities, and agri-commercial uses such as a community farm. The parks and paseos are distributed strategically through the Project area so that recreational amenities are nearby residents.

- *LU-2.1 Promote infill development that complements existing neighborhoods and surrounding areas. Infill development and future growth in Menifee is strongly encouraged to locate within EDC areas to preserve the rural character of rural, estate, and small estate residential uses.*

The proposed Project is located within an urbanized area, surrounded by SR-74, Menifee Road, BNSFRR rail lines, and Briggs Road. The areas surrounding the Project site consist of a mix of land uses, including industrial, residential, and public/quasi-public facilities. The proposed Project will promote infill development and complement these existing and proposed adjacent land uses.

- *Policy C-1.1 Require roadways to: Comply with federal, state and local design and safety standards.*

The Project proposes improvements for roadways, including but not limited to, Menifee Road, Briggs Road, McCall Boulevard, SR-74, McLaughlin Road and Matthews Road/Case Road, which are consistent with the City's General Plan and the City's Public Works and Engineering Department Standard Details.

- *Policy C-2.2 Provide off-street multipurpose trails and on-street bike lanes as our primary paths of citywide travel and explore the shared use of low speed roadways for connectivity wherever it is safe to do so.*

The Project provides bike lanes and trails consistent with the General Plan.

- *Policy CD-1.3: Strengthen the identity of individual neighborhoods-communities with entry monuments, flags, street signs, and/or special tree streets, landscaping, and lighting.*

The Project includes entry monuments with a common architectural theme that will strengthen the identity of the development. Special trees and landscaping have been incorporated into the overall design and streetscapes. Expanded parkways are also included on several streets to enhance the streetscapes. A round-about is provided within the Project to add to the community identity as well.

- *CD-3.8 Design retention/detention basins to be visually attractive and well-integrated with any associated project and with adjacent land uses.*

The Project has been designed to include substantial landscaping and to be screened from adjacent roadways.

- *CD-6.1 Recognize the importance of street trees in the aesthetic appeal of residential neighborhoods and require the planting of street trees throughout the City.*

The proposed Project will include street trees throughout the project site.

- *HE-2.4 Parks and Recreation. Enhance neighborhood livability and sustainability by providing parks and open spaces, planting trees, greening parkways, and maintaining a continuous pattern of paths that encourage an active, healthy lifestyle.*

As described above, the Project provides parks and open spaces, including expanded parkways, trees and a pattern of pathways that encourage an active healthy lifestyle.

- *HE-2.5 Public Facilities and Infrastructure. Provide quality community facilities, infrastructure, traffic management, public safety, and other services to promote and improve the livability, safety, and vitality of residential neighborhoods.*

The Project incorporates quality community facilities, including parks, is conditioned to install infrastructure including sewer, water, roadways, and will promote and improve the livability, safety and vitality of the proposed residential neighborhoods and surrounding existing neighborhoods.

- *OSC-1.2: Require a minimum of five acres of public open space to be provided for every 1,000 City residents.*

Menifee Municipal Code (MMC) requires 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. The overall Specific Plan proposes 1,718 dwelling units with an estimate of 5,220 residents¹ (using 3.12 person per single-family residential household and 2.48 persons per multi-family household)². Based on the proposed residents, 26.1 acres of parkland would be required. The proposed Specific Plan proposes 29.8 acres of public parkland (Planning Areas 7A, 8A, and 8B) on the project site.

Consistency with Housing Element.

The Project would maintain the maximum residential unit count of 1,718 that was previously approved for the Project site under SP 301. Implementation of the Project would not conflict with the City's ability to meet the affordable housing requirements. Accordingly, the Project would not conflict with the Housing Element, and impacts would be less than significant.

Section 2: *The amendment prescribes reasonable controls and standards for affected land uses to ensure compatibility and integrity of those uses with other established uses.*

The Project is specifically intended to meet the finding to prescribe reasonable controls and standards for affected land uses and to ensure compatibility and integrity of those uses with other established uses. As discussed above in detail, the Project address land use compatibility via the

¹ 87.2 percent of residential development is single-family; 12.8 percent of residential development is multi-family (per the MVSP)
 $87.2\% * 1,718 = 1,498$ single-family units; $12.8\% * 1,718 = 220$ multi-family units
 3.12 persons per unit * $1,498$ units = $4,674$ persons (single-family households); 2.48 persons per unit * 220 units = 546 persons (multi-family households)
 $4,674 + 546 = 5,220$ persons

² United States Census Bureau. 2019. 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates. Table DP02.
<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=persons%20per%20household&t=Family%20Size%20and%20Type%3AHousehold%20and%20Family&g=1600000US0646842&tid=ACSDP1Y2019.DP02&moe=false>. Accessed March 2, 2022.

development standards and allowable uses contained in the proposed MVSP. The Project is compatible with other established uses in the area.

Section 3: *The amendment provides for the protection of the health, safety and/or general welfare of the community.*

The Project would facilitate the development of a Specific Plan that includes a mix of land uses, including industrial, residential, commercial, and public/quasi-public facilities. The residential uses proposed are similar to existing development surrounding the Project site. Commercial uses proposed within the Project are located adjacent to SR-74 away from existing and planned residences and a buffer is established between the industrial park component of the Project and existing and proposed residential uses.

The Project is compatible with the surrounding land uses, general plan land use designations and zoning classifications. The Project incorporates quality design, trails, parks, landscaping and other improvements which will enhance the area upon construction. The proposed Project is in conformity with and will promote public convenience, general welfare and good land use practice.

The associated entitlements have been reviewed and conditioned by the City of Menifee Community Development Department, Engineering Department and Office of the Fire Marshal to ensure that it will not create conditions materially detrimental to the surrounding uses. Conditions of approval include substantial landscaping, park and other amenities to support the proposed residential component, roadway improvements consistent with the General Plan, expanded sidewalks and a network of bike lanes to encourage non-vehicular travel, fire infrastructure, and drainage improvements that will benefit the project site and surrounding areas.

In addition, environmental impacts resulting from the implementation of the Project have been analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The EIR determined that potential impacts would all be less than significant with the necessary mitigation incorporated, except for significant and unavoidable impacts to Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Land Use and Planning and Transportation.

A Statement of Overriding Considerations (SOOC) is included for the EIR stating that the impacts of the project are acceptable and outweighed by the benefits of the Project. Except for the environmental categories of air quality, greenhouse gas, land use and planning and transportation, the proposed entitlements are not anticipated to create conditions materially detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare or injurious to or incompatible with other properties or land uses in the project vicinity.

The proposed GPA would not create conditions materially detrimental to the public health, safety and general welfare or injurious to or incompatible with other properties or land uses in the Project vicinity and within the City.

Section 9: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance. The MVSP EIR (SCH# 2022030233) has been completed for the Project and certified by the City Council

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pursuant to a separate Resolution. The GPA at issue is consistent with the EIR, which the City Council has considered as part of its proceedings. The EIR includes a finding made pursuant to Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21081 (a)(3) that specific economic, social, or other considerations make infeasible mitigation measures or Project alternatives identified in the EIR.

Section 10: Approval of the General Plan Amendment. The City Council finds that the facts present within the public record and within this Resolution provide the basis to approve GPA No. PLN 210-0336.

Section 11: The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings on which this Resolution has been based are located at the Community Development Department – Planning Division, 29844 Haun Road, Menifee, CA 92586. This information is provided in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of February 2024.

Bill Zimmerman, Mayor

Attest:

Sarah Manwaring, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jeffrey T. Melching, City Attorney