# TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY

# PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

***The Mission of the Town of Yucca Valley is to provide a government that is responsive to the needs and concerns of its diverse citizenry and ensures a safe and secure environment while maintaining the highest quality of life***

**TUESDAY**
**OCTOBER 22, 2013**
**6:00 p.m.**

**YUCCA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER, YUCCA ROOM**
**57090 - 29 PALMS HIGHWAY**
**YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92284**

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**PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS**

***Tim Humphreville, Chairman***
***Vickie Bridenstine, Vice Chairman***
***Jeff Drozd, Commissioner***
***Warren Lavender, Commissioner***
***Steve Whitten, Commissioner***

# AGENDA

## MEETING OF THE
## TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
## 6:00 P.M., TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2013

*The Town of Yucca Valley complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you require special assistance to attend or participate in this meeting, please call the Town Clerk's office at (760) 369-7209 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.*

***If you wish to comment on any subject on the agenda, or any subject not on the agenda during public comments, please fill out a card and give it to the Planning Commission secretary. The Chair will recognize you at the appropriate time. Comment time is limited to 3 minutes.***

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:**
Vickie Bridenstine, Vice Chairman
Jeff Drozd, Commissioner
Tim Humphreville, Chairman
Warren Lavender, Commissioner
Steve Whitten, Commissioner

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Action:** Move by_____2nd by_____Voice Vote_____.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

***In order to assist in the orderly and timely conduct of the meeting, the Planning Commission takes this time to consider your comments on items of concern, which are not on the agenda. When you are called to speak, please state your name and community of residence. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less. Inappropriate behavior, which disrupts or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of the meeting, will result in forfeiture of your public comment privileges. The Planning Commission is prohibited by State law from taking action or discussing items not included on the printed agenda.***

## PUBLIC HEARINGS:

### 1. DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT, DCA 08-13

Proposed amendment to Title 9, Article 3 of the Yucca Valley Development Code adding Chapters 9.46 and 9.47, prohibiting the development of commercial solar facilities and commercial wind energy facilities in any land use district within the Town of Yucca Valley

**RECOMMENDATION:**

A. That the Planning Commission finds that the project was reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Town's Guidelines to implement same. The project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b) (3) since there is no possibility of a significant impact on the environment caused by this amendment.
The proposed amendment to revise the Town's General Development Standards regulations has no potential to impact the environment. The proposed amendment does not alter the existing requirements that specific development projects must comply with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Development Code Amendment, DCA 08-13 meets the exemption criteria which states "that if an activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activityis not subject to CEQA".

B. That the Planning Commission recommends that the Town Council adopts the Ordinances.

**Action:** Moved by_____ 2nd by _____ Voice Vote _____

## CONSENT AGENDA:

### 2. MINUTES

A request that the Planning Commission approve as submitted the minutes of the meeting held on August 27, 2013.

**All items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine matters and may be enacted by one motion and a second. There will be no separate discussion of the consent agenda items unless a member of the Planning Commission or Town Staff requests discussion on specific consent calendar items at the beginning of the discussion. Public requests to comment on consent calendar items should be filed with the Deputy Town Clerk before the consent agenda is called.**

## STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS:

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

November 12, 2013- Conditional Use Permit 02-13 Peter Ng, Residential Care Facility
Conditional Use Permit 03-13 Tractor Supply Co.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND REQUESTS:

Commissioner Drozd
Commissioner Lavender
Commissioner Whitten
Vice Chairman Bridenstine
Chairman Humphreville

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013

## ADJOURN

# PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

**To:** Chairman & Planning Commission
**From:** Shane Stueckle, Deputy Town Manager
**Date:** October 16, 2013
**For Planning Commission Meeting:** October 22, 2013

**Subject:** Development Code Amendment, DCA-08-13
Chapter 9.46, Renewable Energy Generation Facilities

**Prior Commission Review:** The Planning Commission discussed Renewable Energy Generation Facilities at its meetings of May 07, 2013.

**Recommendation:** That the Planning Commission:

A. Finds that the project is exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15061 (b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed amendment to revise the Town's regulations has no potential to impact the environment. The proposed amendment does not alter the existing requirements that specific development projects must comply with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Development Code Amendment, DCA 08-13 meets the exemption criteria which states "that if an activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA".

B. Recommends that the Town Council adopts the Ordinance.

**Executive Summary:** As part of the Development Code Update project, the Planning Commission discussed Renewable Energy Generation Facilities at its meeting of May 07, 2013.

Chapter 9.46 prohibits the development of commercial solar facilities and commercial wind energy facilities in any land use district with the Town of Yucca Valley.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ___ Department Report | X Ordinance Action | ___ Resolution Action | X Public Hearing |
| ___ Consent | ___ Minute Action | ___ Receive and File | ___ Study Session |

**Order of Procedure:**

Request Staff Report
Open the Public Hearing,
Request Public Comment
Close the Public Hearing
Commission Discussion/Questions of Staff
Motion/Second
Discussion on Motion
Call the Question (Voice Vote)

**Discussion:** Renewable Energy Generation Facilities are large scale commercial solar and commercial wind projects as the primary use of the property. The Planning Commission discussed Renewable Energy Generation Facilities at its meeting of May 07, 2013. At that time the Commission consensus was to prohibit the establishment of these facilities in all land use districts within the Town.

Chapter 9.46 prohibits the development of commercial solar facilities and commercial wind energy facilities in any land use district with the Town of Yucca Valley.

**Alternatives:** The Planning Commission may elect to make changes to the Chapter.

**Fiscal impact:** This Ordinance is included in the Town's contract for the Development Code Update project. No additional costs are incurred beyond existing contract services.

**Attachments:**
Ordinance, Renewable Energy Generation Facilities
Planning Commission minutes of May 07, 2013
Notice of Public Hearing

ORDINANCE NO. .

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING TITLE 9, ARTICLE 3 OF THE YUCCA VALLEY DEVELOPMENT CODE, BY ADDING CHAPTER 9.46 RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION FACILITIES.

The Yucca Valley Town Council ordains as follows.

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Yucca Valley desires to protect the character and value of the community, neighborhoods, and the natural and scenic values of the landscape within the Town from increased impacts of new commercial solar and wind energy generation facilities and;

**WHEREAS**, in protecting natural and scenic values of the landscape, the Town recognizes not only the substantial intrinsic value of the desert's natural and scenic setting, but also the importance of this setting for the quality of life of area residents and the economic value it creates for property owners and for the area's tourism industry.

**Section 1:**

Chapter 9.46 Renewable Energy Generation Facilities

9.46.010 – Purpose
9.46.020 – Definitions
9.46.030 - Prohibited

9.46.010 Purpose

A. The provisions of this Chapter, as determined by the Council, are intended to be in the best interest of the Town for the public health, safety and welfare of the community through implementation of the General Plan through this Chapter

9.46.020 Definitions

A. "Commercial Solar Energy", "Solar Power Plant" or "Solar Farm" means a utility scale commercial facility that converts sunlight into electricity, whether by photovoltaics (PV), concentrating solar thermal (CST) devices, or various experimental solar technologies, with the primary purpose of wholesale or retail sales of generated electricity.

B. "Wind Energy Facility" means a utility scale commercial facility that converts wind into energy through the use of windmills or wind turbines, with the primary purpose of wholesale or retail sales of generated energy.

C. For purposes of this ordinance, "solar energy generation project" or "wind energy facility" shall not include accessory solar or wind energy equipment installed primarily for onsite consumption.

9.46.030 Prohibited

Commercial Solar Energy, including Solar Power Plant or Solar Farm and Wind Energy Facilities shall be a prohibited use in all land use districts within the Town. No Conditional Use Permit, Site Plan Review, building permit or other entitlement for use shall be accepted, processed, approved or issued for the establishment of a Renewable Energy Generation Facility.

**Section 2:** **Severability:** If any provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Ordinance are severable. The Town Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance irrespective of the invalidity of any particular portion thereof.

**Section 3.** **Certification; Publication:** The Town Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance and cause it, or a summary of it, to be published once within 15 days of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation printed and published within the Town of Yucca Valley, and shall post a certified copy of this Ordinance, including the vote for and against the same, in the Office of the Town Clerk in accordance with Government Code § 36933.

**Section 4.** **Effective Date:** This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days from its adoption.

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** this _____day of _____, 2013.

_____

MAYOR

ATTEST:

_____

TOWN CLERK

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY**
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
**MAY 7, 2013**

Chair Humphreville called the regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m.

Deputy Town Clerk presented the Oath of Office to M.F. Warren Lavender.

Commissioners Present: Bridenstine, Drozd, Lavender, Whitten, and Humphreville.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Humphreville.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Whitten moved to change the order of the agenda, to move the department report after the public hearing. Motion died for a lack of second.

Bridenstine moved to approve the agenda. Chair Humphreville seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## DEPARTMENT REPORT:

### 1. DRAFT DEVELOPMENT CODE

Deputy Town Manager Shane Stueckle presented a staff report and PowerPoint presentation. At the request of the Planning Commission at a prior meeting, Article 3 of the Draft Development Code relating to sign regulations is being brought in front of the commission for separate review. Existing general allowances in the Sign Ordinance were explained. Stueckle explained areas for specific review including sign height, design merits, square footage for free standing signs and wall signage.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle continued to explain that amortization schedules are commonly used to address non-conforming signs. Proposed modifications are amortized based on fair market value from the Date of Notice and a time schedule for compliance. Stueckle explained that temporary signs and how to regulate them, such as banners, flags, pennants, hulas, political, and temporary subdivision signs is also an area needing attention.

Jennifer Collins, Yucca Valley, introduced others present at the meeting and spoke of input received through the Yucca Valley Chamber of Commerce office. Collins explained that these suggestions were forwarded to the Planning Commission for consideration.

Fritz Koenig, Yucca Valley, presented a document to the Planning Commission and commented that the purpose of the Sign Ordinance does not include any reference to improving the economy. Mr. Koenig suggested creating a sign ordinance that is in relation to local resources, not compared to other larger cities.

Tom Huls, Yucca Valley, explained that his business, Big O Tires sets back off the highway, and the recent relaxation of the sign code has helped his business tremendously. The use of temporary signage when used responsibly by business owners is very helpful. The Sign Code itself was created for the big business entities, but not for the small businesses we have in Yucca Valley.

Commissioner Drozd asked if the sign square footage is measured on letter size or background. Engineering Technician, Diane Olsen responded that the measurement would be taken by squaring off the total area.

Commissioner Bridenstine agreed that signage is very important and should be easy to see and of appropriate size for traffic view. Signage should be in good taste and well kept, but not to be as harmonious as the current code limits. The community expects signage in a commercial district. Signage, including temporary signage should not be blocking line of sight for safety reasons. Agrees with Mr. Koenig's comment about including the purpose of regulating signage is to promote business.

Commissioner Whitten thanked those in attendance for coming out this evening and questioned how many suggestions provided by the Chamber of Commerce group was included in the draft document. Also agreeing with Koenig's statement recommending a purpose of a sign ordinance should be included. Commissioner Whitten commented on his observation of the current signage throughout the community. Need to give the small businesses a chance to compete with the larger businesses and spoke of the benefit of monument signage.

Commissioner Whitten continued to discuss temporary signage including political signage. Twirler type signs provide employment for the youth of the community and help businesses that set back away from the road. Whitten also spoke on the limits of mural type signage on the side of buildings.

Commissioner Lavender spoke in favor of taking a relaxed attitude toward sign regulations.

Chair Humphreville asked Huls, what specific temporary signage he used to promote his business and asked about typical amortization schedule limits. Stueckle responded that 20 years is usually the maximum, usually based on value. Olsen also explained the inclusion of the Design Merits Program and the Landmark Signage Program to take into account historical signage. Humphreville stated he would like to see the signs stay smaller, yet

appealing and more effective; would like to see the consultant's recommendation. Political signage should have limits on size and frequency.

Commissioner Bridenstine would like to see an amortization schedule included in the new sign regulations, including an incentive such as reduced fees to encourage sign owners to bring into compliance. Signs should not be higher than the roof lines.

Commissioner Drozd agreed with including an amortization schedule as a fair and consistent avenue to bring signs into compliance and also suggested using type of business ownership instead of square footage to regulate signage to help with the smaller, mom and pop type stores. Stueckle responded that one way to possibly address this is to regulate signage by the sign size itself, not by allowing signage size to be based on property or building size.

Commissioner Lavender questioned the use of frontage feet as a tool for regulation. The Ideal Mall property was given as an example of an area where a monument type sign addressing all occupants of that property consistently.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented information on the draft development code section 3-19 regarding commercial solar and wind energy. With tax incentives in effect, property used for energy production limits the amount of property tax collected. Consensus was made among all commissioners present to not allow commercial solar or wind energy within Town limits.

Commissioner Lavender questioned the use of residential solar energy and the possibility of including provisions for home solar use. Stueckle responded that section 3-23, accessory energy systems provides guidelines for residential alternate energy use. Commission discussion continued, questioning the use of roof mount vs. pole mount systems, the need for roof designs of both commercial and residential buildings to accommodate solar panels, and the use of renewable energy parking lot and accessory lights. The use of solar energy when possible was encouraged by the commissioners.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle recommended that this item be continued to the May 14, 2013 Planning Commission meeting for further discussion.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

## 2. DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT, DCA 01-13, REASONABLE ACCOMODATIONS

Proposed amendment to Title 8, Yucca Valley Development Code adding Article 9, Section 83.0309 et al, Reasonable Accommodations, to provide reasonable accommodations in the Town's zoning and land use regulations, policies and procedures when needed to ensure equal access to housing and facilitate the development of housing for individuals with disabilities.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report explaining that it is necessary to update the ordinance to bring into compliance, giving reasonable accommodations for those with disabilities. New construction will usually not be affected by these changes; however older, existing buildings may see the effects of this state mandate.

Chair Humphreville opened public comment. With no one wishing to speak on the item, the public comment period was closed.

Commissioner Bridenstine asked if fees would be charged for the variance process. Stueckle responded, that fees will not be charged as the intent of state law.

Commissioner Whitten moved that the Planning Commission find that the proposed ordinance is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061 (b) (3) and recommends that the Town Council adopt the ordinance. Bridenstine seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote.

## 3. DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT, DCA 03-13, EMERGENCY TRANSITIONAL HOUSING AND SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY

Proposed amendment to Title 8, Yucca Valley Development Code to amend Section 84.0370 to allow emergency transitional housing subject to a Special Use Permit and single room occupancy units subject to a Conditional Use permit in the Industrial land use district.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report explaining the provisions in the current general plan housing element regarding emergency transitional housing. The ordinance presented here, establishes reasonable standards providing elements to Town staff for granting approval of homeless shelter facilities within the industrial land-use district. Stueckle gave examples of these reasonable standards and explained that the shelters are for use by those who are homeless and need emergency shelter, and not for long-term or used as an emergency shelter due to a local disaster.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained the second component of the state mandate requiring this ordinance mandates the Town to provide transitional housing and supportive housing. The Town is also required to develop Single Room Occupancy capacity with at least one land use district. All projects are subjected to the Conditional Use Permit process.

Chair Humphreville opened public comment.

Fritz Koenig, Yucca Valley voiced concern that the locations of such shelters, have reasonable access to bus stops, laundry facilities and spoke in favor of building clusters of high-density to fulfill these requirements.

With no others wishing to speak, Humphreville closed public comment.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle again explained that the item before the commission was for emergency homeless sheltering and does not address sheltering for those affected by natural disaster. Industrial areas are scattered around different areas within the Town limits, to give opportunity for sheltering units.

Commissioner Bridenstine asked for clarification of the term transitional and supportive housing.

Commissioner Whitten asked if there were current numbers representing the homeless population and suggested alternative wording regarding the use of illegal drugs and alcohol. Whitten also asked if trailer parks could be used as supporting or transitional housing as he has seen in other communities.

Commissioner Lavender asked if the state is providing any monetary provisions for financing these mandates. Stueckle explained the mandate is for provisions, but not for the actual construction of actual units. Other funding options may be available on a project by project basis.

Commissioner Whitten moved that the Planning Commission recommends that the Town Council finds the proposed ordinance exempt from CEQA under Section 15061 (b) (3), and adopts the ordinance. Commissioner Bridenstine seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote.

## 4. DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT, DCA 04-13, SECOND DWELLING UNITS

Proposed amendment to Title 8, Yucca Valley Development Code amending Section 84.0305 (b), 84.0320(b), 84.0325(b) and 84.0510, pertaining to second dwelling

units.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report regarding the state mandate requirement the amendment of the Development Code pertaining to second living dwellings in designated zones. State law requires cities and counties to enact second unit regulations that support and facilitate the development of second units as a means of encouraging and supporting affordable housing, on all residentially designated parcels. Existing Town regulations must be amended to encourage and support second units on all residential lots.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle continued by explaining ordinance provisions including, that the owner must live in one of the two units and cannot be owned by an investor. Also there is a need to eliminate the language about caretaker housing.

Chair Humphreville opened public comment.

Fritz Koenig, Yucca Valley, commented about enforcement of second units. The minimum standard presented at 725 square feet is not necessary and suggested the commissioners to look at architectural drawings for small living spaces. Less than 725 square feet is sufficient for many people.

With no others wishing to speak, Humphreville closed public comment.

Commissioner Whitten agreed with Mr. Koenig regarding the minimum standard of 725 square feet, being quite large for a second unit minimum and suggested using a percentage instead. Stueckle suggested that all sections work with each other including ancillary structures. Whitten expressed the need for further discussion on this particular language.

Chair Humphreville suggested that provisions for enforcement may need to be included such as property title disclosure.

Commissioner Whitten moved to approve that the Planning Commission recommends that the Town Council finds the proposed ordinance exempt from CEQA under Section 15061 (b) (3), and adopts the ordinance, without the inclusion of 84.0510 (a) due to caretaker language. Commissioner Drozd seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1 on a voice vote.

## CONSENT AGENDA

## STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that a public hearing was scheduled on May 14, 2013 regarding Affordable Housing, Article 3 of the Draft Development Code.

There will be an Public Hearing for an appeal of director approval of an HOP permit regarding firearm sales.

Super Wal Mart opening day was moved a month further out to July 2013.

Warren Vista Center Phase 2 under construction.

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Commissioner Bridenstine thanked staff for their hard work and thanked the public for the comments.

Commissioner Drozd gave kudos to staff and appreciated the public comment heard tonight.

Commissioner Lavender thanked staff for explaining the items.

Commissioner Whitten thanked the public for their input and thanked staff for their work on these items. Whitten questioned the allowance of parking in the front yard due to septic issues and compaction problems.

Chair Humphreville welcomed Mr. Lavender to the Planning Commission

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Deputy Town Clerk

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**
**YUCCA VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER**
**57090 29 PALMS HIGHWAY**
**YUCCA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA 92284**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2013 - BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.**

A PUBLIC HEARING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED BEFORE THE TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED APPLICATION:

**CASE NUMBER:** Development Code Amendment, DCA 08-13

**APPLICANT:** Town of Yucca Valley
58928 Business Center Drive
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

**PROPOSAL:** Proposed amendment to Title 9, Article 3 of the Yucca Valley Development Code adding Chapters 9.46 and 9.47, prohibiting the development of commercial solar facilities and commercial wind energy facilities in any land use district within the Town of Yucca Valley.

**LOCATION:** Town wide

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:** The project was reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Town's Guidelines to implement same. The project is exempt from CEQA under Section 15061(b) (3) since there is no possibility of a significant impact on the environment caused by this amendment.

The proposed amendment to revise the Town's General Development Standards regulations has no potential to impact the environment. The proposed amendment does not alter the existing requirements that specific development projects must comply with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Development Code Amendment, DCA 08-13 meets the exemption criteria which states "that if an activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA".

Any person affected by the application(s) may appear and be heard in support of or opposition to the proposal at the time of the hearing. The environmental findings, along the with proposed project application(s) are available and may be reviewed at the Town of Yucca Valley Planning Division, 58928 Business Center Drive, Yucca Valley, CA 92284 from 7.30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday or obtain information at (760) 369-6575.

The Planning Commission in its deliberation could recommend approval of the project, deny the project, or approve the project in an alternative form. If you challenge any of the projects in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the

Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Town Planning Division at, or prior to the Public Hearing.

Publish Date: Published on October 09, 2013

October 08, 2013

Date

Lesley Copeland
Deputy Town Clerk

**TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY**
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**
**AUGUST 27, 2013**

Chair Humphreville called the regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. All commissioners were present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Humphreville.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Whitten moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Bridenstine seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

## PUBLIC HEARING

### 1. DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT, DCA 06-13, ARTICLE 4

Chair Humphreville opened the public hearing for DCA 06-13, Article 4.

Deputy Town Manager Shane Stueckle presented the staff report regarding DCA 06-13. Stueckle explained that as part of the Development Code Update project, the Planning Commission has previously reviewed Article 4 at its meetings of April 9, 2013 and August 13, 2013. Article 4 Permit Procedures establishes the review authority and permit processing procedures for the land use permits established in the Yucca Valley Development Code. Processing applications including, but not limited to, General Plan Amendments, Development Code Amendments, Conditional Use Permits, Site Plan Reviews, and all other land use permits issued by the Town.

With no members of the public wishing to speak, Chair Humphreville closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Whitten moved to:

Find that the project is exempt from CEQA in accordance with Section 15061 (b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act. The proposed amendment to revise the Town's Permitting Procedures regulations has no potential to impact the environment. The proposed amendment does not alter the existing requirements that specific development projects must comply with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. Development Code Amendment, DCA 06-13 meets the exemption criteria which states "that if an activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for

causing a significant effect on the environment and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. And,

Moved to recommend to the Town Council to adopt the Ordinance, and repeals Sections 83.010105 thru 83.0103.15, Sections 83.010325 thru 83.010335, Section 83.010505, Sections 83.020105 thru 83.020210, Sections 83.030805 thru 83.030855, Sections 83.030145 thru 83.030175, Sections 83.030205 thru 83.030230, Sections 83.030310 thru 83.030325, Section 83.030405, Section 83.030505, Section 83.030605 Sections 83.030705 thru 83.030765, Sections 83.030905 thru 83.030955 of Division 3 of Title 8 from the Yucca Valley Development Code and Sections 41.151 thru 41.1569 from Chapter 15, Division 1 Title 4 of the Yucca Valley Municipal Code.

Commissioner Drozd Seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

## DEPARTMENT REPORT

## 2. HOME OCCUPATION PERMITS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report, explaining the general findings within Ordinance 178 relating to Home Occupation Permits.

Chair Humphreville opened public comment.

Barry Shaw, Esther Shaw, and Voss Schwartz, all of Yucca Valley spoke in opposition to firearm sales in residential neighborhoods.

Frank Hubbard, Yucca Valley requested the prohibition of firearm sales in residential neighborhoods.

Bonnie Brady, Yucca Valley spoke favorably of Commissioner Lavender's public request for input on neighborhood gun sales using the local newspaper.

With no other members of the public wishing to speak, Chair Humphreville closed public comment.

Commissioner Lavender commented that as a Planning Commissioner he needs to listen to the people and stated that he has received 17 responses, (13 opposed, 4 in favor) of residential gun shops. Lavender recommends revising the ordinance to not allow gun shops in residential neighborhoods.

Commissioner Whitten thanked the public for attending the meeting and providing input. Whitten commented the language on stamped page 99 relating to public health and safety and questioned what would be considered appropriate for residential neighborhoods. Whitten suggested to allow these types of businesses in more rural areas and suggested that the approval process for HOP's to be brought to the Planning Commission for an extra set of eyes.

Commissioner Drozd inquired about firewood businesses in residential neighborhoods. Drozd explained he understands the interest in gun sales due the recent commission activity and questioned if the ordinance language was changed, how would it affect the current permit holders.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that just because there is an opposition, it is not always are basis for change. If the application is consistent with the General Plan and the Development Code and all code requirements are met, public input is not always a basis for denial.

Vice Chair Bridenstine stated that it was a difficult decision and there is a need to be careful to not take away people's rights.

Chair Humphreville stated home based businesses are a viable part of a community and inquired on how an HOP is enforced. Deputy Town Manager Stueckle explained that once the permit is approved, the site is inspected but continual monitoring is usually on a complaint driven basis. Humphreville continued by stating from a land use issue, a day care facility has the potential of disrupting a neighborhood due to increased traffic more than many other types of businesses such as a gun shop.

Vice Chair Bridenstine recommended the commission look in defining the term gun shop to bring into perspective.

Chair Lavender stated he often hears gun shots in his neighborhood and that the Planning Commission should not add to the number of guns that are in the people's possession.

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle reminded the Commission that their purpose is to address land use issues, not second amendment issues. Staff will take the comments into consideration and the item will be brought back for public hearing.

No action was taken.

## 3. WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented the staff report by explaining past commission

discussions on wind energy conversion systems (WECS) and presented different types of systems that are available. The draft ordinance proposes standards for the installation of WECS.

Chair Humphreville opened public comment. With no members of the public wishing to speak, the public comments were closed.

Vice Chair Bridenstine spoke of prior commission experience with wind energy system use decisions. There is a need to set zoning, parcel size and height restrictions.

Commissioner Drozd spoke of concern with slope between properties and the possibility of blocking the neighbor's views, even though property line setbacks are met.

Commissioner Whitten reported his witnessing of a variety of wind energy systems with little or no noise emitting from them. Whitten asked for clarification that the discussion is for residential use, not commercial use.

Commissioner Lavender spoke of the benefits of alternative energy systems.

Vice Chair Bridenstine requested the inclusion of noise requirements to deter certain systems.

Chair Humphreville spoke favorably on the use of alternative energy systems, but would like to take view shed into consideration. Humphreville stated he would like to see enough flexibility in the code to not limit a certain system if it happens to work on a specific parcel.

No action was taken.

## 4. UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle opened discussion on utility undergrounding and gave background on the topic by reviewing Town Ordinance 233.

Chair Humphreville opened public comment on the item. With no members of the public wishing to speak, public comments were closed.

Vice Chair Bridenstine inquired about the restrictions relating to in-fill of Single Family and Multi-Family Residential development.

Commissioner Drozd questioned the in-fill cost of overhead lines versus undergrounding.

Chair Humphreville inquired about the effect on remodeling of commercial property.

Commissioner inquired if underground utilities were a requirement in the Old Town Specific Plan.

Chair Humphreville stated a statement of waiver for specific instances should be included, especially for soil or topography conditions.

No action was taken.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### MINUTES

Vice Chair Bridenstine moved to approve the Yucca Valley Planning Commission minutes of May 14, 2013, June 11, 2013, June 25, 2013 and July 09, 2013 as presented. Commissioner Whitten seconded. Motion carried 5-0 on a voice vote.

## STAFF REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Deputy Town Manager Stueckle presented a brief update on current commercial projects and noted that the Planning Commission will not be meeting on September 10, 2013 due to staff schedule conflicts.

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

## COMMISSIONER REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Commissioner Drozd thanked staff for their assistance and also thanked the public for attending the meeting and providing input.

Commissioner Lavender thanked the public for their input.

Commissioner Whitten thanked staff and commented favorably regarding the Town Manager Updates being distributed to the community.

Vice Chair Bridenstine also thanked staff and the public for participation in the process.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting of the Yucca Valley Planning Commission will be held on Tuesday, September 27, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Yucca Room of the Yucca Valley Community Center.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Humphreville adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Copeland, CMC
Town Clerk