

EXHIBITE

# Project Description 

## for

## Dieu Nhan Buddhist Meditation Center

## SUP\# S13-0007

Dieu Nhan Buddhist Meditation Association Inc. (Dieu Nhan) has been at its present location, 4241 Duncan Hill Rd., Rescue, CA 95672, since 2002. The existing building structures consist of two mobile homes (" $A$ " \& " $B$ "), a public restroom facility (" $M$ "), two gazebos (" $N$ ") and two storage sheds. Mobile home " $A$ " is currently being used as a meditation center, office and meeting room. Mobile home " $B$ " is currently being used as a residence for Nuns. The two gazebos were added in 2004. The public restroom " M " was added in 2009 and is used to provide restroom facilities for visitors. The storage sheds are currently being used to store garden and maintenance tools and equipment.

The mobile homes are old, dilapidated and need to be replaced. Due to the steady growth of Buddhist members and the increasing demand for Buddhist teaching, the need to improve the structures is of utmost importance. For this reason, we are seeking a Special Use Permit (Use Permit) to improve the facility and to replace the aging structures.

Project History: The request for a Special Use Permit for this project was submitted to El Dorado County Planning services in the spring of 2013. A Botanical Resources survey, conducted in May of that year, revealed that the original design of the project would impact a significant number of special status plants (El Dorado Mule-Ears, El Dorado Bedstraw, and Layne's Butterwort). After meeting with Planning Services and California Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel the project has been completely redesigned to minimize impacts to these plants.

Project Phasing: Due to limited budget, if the project is approved by El Dorado County, we plan to build the structures in various phases. Phase one consists of the following structures and facilities:

- "C" Meditation Hall: The main floor of the new two-story structure will be used for the Meditation Center. The lower floor will be used as a dining hall, offices, storage and meeting area. The new Meditation Hall is approximately in the location of a plaque that commemorates the location's blessing by Zen Master Thich Thanh Tu from Viet Nam, who is the Master of all Nuns at Dieu Nhan monastery.
- "D" Nuns' Residence: The building will be two stories with indivigrag aomsfornuns, and will house 14 nuns. The building includes a common kechanfocthenumstron prepare their own meals.

- "E" Kitchen and Restroom Facility: This kitchen will be used by nuns to prepare meals for visitors to the Meditation Center. Meals will be served in the lower story of the Meditation Hall " C ". The attached Restroom Facility will be for the use of visitors.
- " F " Guest Cottage: This cottage will be used as a temporary Nun's Residence during construction as the existing Mobile home " B " will be removed.
- Improvement plans for parking, access road and landscaping: The construction of the site will be in two stages: Stage 1 will construct the entrance road, associated parking, water and sewer lines, Guest Cottage " F ", and partial construction of the Nuns' Residence " $D$ ", which will serve as a temporary Meditation Hall. Stage 2 will include the widening of Penny Lane and Duncan Hill Road, the construction of the road leading to the Meditation Hall, and extending the water and sewer lines into this area. It also includes the construction of the new Meditation Hall " C " and the Common Kitchen " E " with attached restroom. Once the Meditation Hall " C " is completed, the nuns' residence will be modified to accommodate the nuns.

The balance of the planned structures would be constructed based upon need and the financial situation.

Description of new facility: Below is the description of the use and the anticipated occupancy for each structure:

1. Main Meditation Hall (" $C^{\prime \prime}$ ): This building is the main place to hold the weekly service (e.g. prayer and meditation) for lay persons and daily service for resident Nuns. The anticipated occupancy of this building is about 100.
2. Resident Nun Buildings (" D " \& " H "): We plan to have 2 buildings for the resident nuns; each building will house about 14 fulltime resident nuns.
3. Monk Resident Cottage ("K"): This is a small structure reserved for visiting monks. It has two bedrooms and one bathroom. This cottage will only be used once or twice a year when we have visiting monks.
4. Retreat Cottages (" G "): There are two retreat cottages equipped with restrooms being planned for this project. These are small structures to be used only by Resident Nuns for 49-day retreat. One structure is designed to house two nuns and the other is designed to house up to four nuns.
5. Guest Cottages (" $F$ " \& " 1 "): There are 4 guest cottages being planned for this project. Each cottage is designed to house about 14 guests. Participants staying overnight during retreats will use these cottages.
6. Common Kitchen (" $\mathrm{E}^{\text {" }}$ : This facility will be used to prepare vegetarian meals for guests during retreats. It will consist of a six-burner stove, two wash basins and stainless steel food preparation tables. Meals are for members' consumption only and not for sale.
7. Restroom Facilities (" J "): This Facility will be built in Phase 2 when the needs arise.
8. Tea Pavilion (L): This structure will be similar to the existing gazebo with removable glass panels, and will be used for informal gatherings and teachings.
9. Single-family residence (" $O$ "): The plan includes a single-family modular on the east side of Deer Valley Road. It is customary that Nuns can be the only full-time residents within the compound. This residence will allow a full-time caretaker to live outside the compound and still be nearby to assist the Nuns.
10. Buddha Pavilion (" P "): When the Resident Nun Building " D " is completed the existing Mobile Home " $B$ " will be removed and this place will be dedicated to be a Buddha Pavilion "P", a Buddha Statue made of stone will be erected at this location and the area will be landscaped.
11. Onsite lighting: The following is the planned onsite lighting:
a. There is no plan to have lights for the parking area. It is anticipated that attendees will arrive and depart during daylight hours.
b. It is planned to have a shielded outdoor light next to the main entrance to the main floor and next to the main entrance to the lower floor of the Meditation Hall "C".
c. It is planned to have a shielded outdoor light next to the main door of each Nuns Residences " D " \& " H ", Monk Cottage " K " and Guest Cottages " F " \& " I ". These lights will be turned off when the building is not occupied.
d. There is a call to prayer and meditation during the twilight hours. For health and safety reasons, installation of low-voltage, shielded lighting mounted on threefoot posts at approximately ten-foot spacing is planned along each pathway leading to the Meditation Hall " C " from the Nuns Residences " D " \& " H ", Monk Cottages " $K$ " and Guest Cottages " F " \& " I ".
e. All lighting shall meet the IESNA full cut-off standards.

## Description of existing structures to be retained:

1. Existing square gazebo (" $N$ "): This gazebo will remain in its current location and will be used for open-air gatherings and teaching.
2. Existing public restroom (" M "): This facility will be remodeled for use for storage in Phase I. It will be replaced by the public restroom attached to the Kitchen ("E").

Planned activities: Below is a list of activities proposed for this site:

- There will be about 30 people attending the service every Sunday;
- Every year there are three events celebrating: 1) Vietnamese Lunar New Year around late January or early February, 2) Buddha's Birthday in May and 3) Buddhist Mother's Day in August. There will be about 30 to 50 attendees at each event;
- There are two organized retreats yearly for members to practice meditation; these events are normally from Friday to Sunday. One retreat takes place in May and another in October. In each retreat we anticipate having about 50 to 100 attendees; about 50\% of the attendees will stay overnight and the rest will go home and come back the next day.


# PROPOSED SIGN DETAIL 



## PROPOSED SIGN PHOTOGRAPH PLANNING COMMISSION




## EXHIBITI




## EXHIBIT K



Left Elevation



Front Elevation - Nun Residence


Rear Elevation

## EXHIBIT L



Front Elevation - Retreat 2 Units


Front Elevation - Retreat 4 Units

EXHIBIT M


KITCHEN ATTACHED TO NUNS' RES.
1 " $=4$ '
(D)


EXHIBIT N


EDCRMDO OOUM
GUEST COTTAGE 1"= 10'
PLAWHNO COMDISSION
Type R-2 Occupancy Load 14, Roge Traffent
FXHIRITO


KITCHEN AND RESTROOM $1^{\prime \prime}=10^{\prime}$
(E)

## EXHIBIT P




EXHIBIT R


MONK RESIDENCE

(J)

Type R-3


PANMAGCOMTHESTON - May May 26,2016 Rogetinatenax
EXHIBIT S


Type R-3 Occupancy Load 14
EXHIBIT T


EXHIBIT U


RETREAT COTTAGE 2 UNITS

$$
1^{\prime \prime}=4 \text { ' }
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Type R-3
Occupancy Load 1/unit


EXHIBIT W-1


EXHIBIT W-2


EXHIBIT W-3


EXHIBIT W-4


EXHIBIT X

