

Findings

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

- 1.1 El Dorado County (County) has considered the Mitigated Negative Declaration together with the comments received during the public review process. The Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County and has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and adequate for this project.
- 1.2 No significant impacts to the environment as a result of this project were identified in the initial study.
- 1.3 Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 requires the County to adopt a reporting or monitoring program for changes to the project which it has adopted or made a condition of approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The approved project description and conditions of approval, with their corresponding permit monitoring requirements, are hereby adopted as the monitoring program for this project. The monitoring program is designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.
- 1.4 In accordance with California Fish and Wildlife Code Section 711.4, the project is subject to the current fee after approval, but prior to the County filing the Notice of Determination of the project. This fee plus the \$50.00 filing fee, is to be submitted to Planning Services and must be made payable to El Dorado County.
- 1.5 The documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based are in the custody of the Planning and Building Department, Planning Services Division, at 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA, 95667.

2.0 GENERAL PLAN FINDINGS

2.1 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.1.2.3.

To meet the commercial and service needs of the residents of the Rural Centers and Rural Regions, the predominant land use type within Rural Centers shall be commercial and higher density residential development.

Rationale: The project proposes a new 9,100 square foot commercial retail store located within the Cool Rural Center. The project is consistent with this policy.

2.2 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.1.2.4.

Rural Centers shall be evaluated for their status as historic districts. The Historic Design combining zoning district shall be applied to each Rural Center which meets the criteria to conserve the unique historic character.

Rationale: The Cool Rural Center is not included Historic Design combining zoning district. As such this policy would not be applicable to projects within the Cool Rural Center. Furthermore, the project does include architectural elements consistent with historic designs.

2.3 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.2.1.2.

The purpose of the Commercial land use category is to provide a full range of commercial retail, office, and service uses to serve the residents, businesses, and visitors of El Dorado County. This designation is considered appropriate within Community Regions, Rural Centers and Rural Regions.

Rationale: The project is consistent with the Commercial (C) land use designation of the subject site as defined by General Plan Policy 2.2.1.2.(Exhibit C). The project proposes to construct a 9,100 sq. ft. commercial retail building (Dollar General) consistent within the Commercial land use designation, which provides for a full range of commercial retail, office, and service uses to serve the residents, businesses, and visitors of El Dorado County.

2.4 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.2.1.5.

The Commercial Land Use Designation shall provide for a maximum ratio of allowable floor area to site area of .85.

Rationale: The project is would have floor area ratio of .12 and would be consistent with this policy.

2.5 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.2.5.2.

All applications for discretionary projects or permits including, but not limited to, General Plan amendments, zoning boundary amendments, tentative maps for major and minor land divisions, and special use permits shall be reviewed to determine consistency with the policies of the General Plan. No approvals shall be granted unless a finding is made that the project or permit is consistent with the General Plan. In the case of General Plan amendments, such amendments can be rendered consistent with the General Plan by modifying or deleting the General Plan provisions, including both the land use map and any relevant textual policies, with which the proposed amendments would be inconsistent.

Rationale: The project has been reviewed in accordance with General Plan Policy 2.2.5.2 and has been found to be consistent with all applicable policies of the General Plan. As conditioned, the proposal is consistent with the intent of the General Plan, as determined within the General Plan Findings.

2.6 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.2.5.21.

General Plan Policy 2.2.5.21 requires that development projects be located and designed in a manner that avoids incompatibility with adjoining land uses.

Rationale: The project site is surrounded by to the north, west and south by commercial developments similar to the proposed planned development. To the west of the proposed development is California State Highway 49 and a commercial development featuring similar “gold rush” architectural elements and colors. To the south is a vacant commercial property, California State Highway 193 and the Cool Village Shopping Center. To the north is another smaller commercial center with R.V. Storage and a cell tower being located to the east.

2.7 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 2.8.1.1.

Development shall limit excess nighttime light and glare from parking area lighting, signage, and buildings. Consideration will be given to design features, namely directional shielding for street lighting, parking lot lighting, sport field lighting, and other significant light sources, that could reduce effects from nighttime lighting. In addition, consideration will be given to the use of automatic shutoffs or motion sensors for lighting features in rural areas to further reduce excess nighttime light.

Rationale: The proposed development would include indoor lighting and outdoor lighting. These new sources of light would be visible from a distance at night. The proposed project will change the character of these parcels from vacant land that generates no light to lighted commercial parcels, which is similar to existing commercial development in the area. The lighting at the site is designed to minimize light/glare impacts to the adjacent property by ensuring that all exterior lighting and pole-mounted parking lot lighting be shielded and directed downward. The outdoor lighting design for the new development is required conformance to Section 130.34 of the El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance, and be fully shielded pursuant to the Illumination Engineering Society of Northern America’s (IESNA) full cut-off designation. This ordinance requires that no light spill over onto adjacent properties as demonstrated by a photometric study that will be reviewed for compliance during the building permit process.

2.8 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 5.2.1.2.

An adequate quantity and quality of water for all uses, including fire protection, shall be provided for with discretionary development.

Rationale: The project was reviewed by Georgetown Public Utility District (GPUD) and El Dorado County Fire Protection District for adequate public services capacity. The applicant proposes to connect to existing water service from GPUD. A water availability letter was issued May 21, 2019. Water supply and conveyance facilities, including an existing onsite fire hydrant, are available to serve the project.

2.9 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 5.2.1.3.

All commercial projects may be required to connect to public water systems if reasonably available when located within Community Regions and to either a public water system or to an approved private water systems in Rural Centers.

Rationale: The applicant proposes to connect to existing water service from GPUD. A water availability letter was issued May 21, 2019. Water supply and conveyance facilities, including an existing onsite fire hydrant, are available to serve the project.

2.10 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 5.3.1.3.

General Plan Policy 5.3.1.3 identifies that in Rural Centers, the County may allow community wastewater systems and other alternative solutions as an acceptable option to traditional wastewater treatment for commercial centers. The applicant must prove and the County must find that the proposed system will be adequately and safely operated and can accommodate the highest possible demand of the project.

Rationale: The project is within the Cool Rural Center and would be served by an onsite septic system. An Onsite Wastewater Report (Exhibit J) was prepared for the project, which demonstrates that the proposed wastewater disposal can accommodate the highest possible demand of the project.

2.11 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 5.4.1.1.

General Plan Policy 5.4.1.1 requires storm drainage systems for discretionary development that protect public health and safety, preserve natural resources, prevent erosion of adjacent and downstream lands, prevent the increase in potential for flood hazard or damage on either adjacent, upstream or downstream properties, minimize impacts to existing facilities, meet the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, and preserve natural resources such as wetlands and riparian areas.

Rationale: The project would connect to the existing stormwater collection system, and would include an on-site retention area, to the east of the parking lot. No new off-site stormwater facilities would be required.

2.12 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 5.7.2.1.

Prior to approval of new development, the responsible fire protection district shall be requested to review all applications to determine the ability of the district to provide protection services. The ability to provide fire protection to existing development shall not be reduced below acceptable levels as a consequence of new development. Recommendations such as the need for additional equipment, facilities, and adequate access may be incorporated as conditions of approval.

Rationale: As previously discussed, the project was reviewed by the Transportation Department, El Dorado County Fire Protection District, and GPUD to ensure that adequate access and water would be provided to meet Fire Safe standards and conform to the County Design Improvement Standards Manual and would be conditioned to provide adequate access and improvements to ensure adequate fire protection services and ensure the project does not have an adverse effect on fire protection service standards.

2.13 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 6.2.3.2.

Policy 6.2.3.2, Adequate Access for Emergencies, requires that the applicant demonstrate that adequate access exists, or can be provided to ensure that emergency vehicles can access the site and private vehicles can evacuate the area.

Rationale: The Transportation Division, El Dorado County Fire Protection District and Long Range Planning Division reviewed the application materials and site plan for adequate access for emergencies. The project was required to address the adequacy of vehicle parking for anticipated demand, vehicle types, and zoning requirements. It was determined by the traffic study that the project would have an adequate turn radius for a firetruck. As such, the proposed project is considered to allow for adequate access and on-site circulation for emergency vehicles. The fire department review of plans associated with building permit would ensure compliance with these standards. As conditioned the project would provide the required access. The project is in compliance with the General Plan Policy.

2.14 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 6.2.2.2.

Policy 6.2.2.2, Wildland Fire Hazards, requires that the County preclude development in high and very high wildland fire hazard areas unless such development can be adequately protected from wildland fire hazards, as demonstrated in a Fire Safe Plan and approved by the local Fire Protection District and/or CALFIRE.

Rationale: The property is in an area designated as a high fire hazard zone. The project has been conditioned to provide a Fire Safe Plan prior to issuance of building and grading permits.

2.15 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 6.2.3.2.

Policy 6.2.3.2, Adequate Access for Emergencies, requires that the applicant demonstrate that adequate access exists, or can be provided to ensure that emergency vehicles can access the site and private vehicles can evacuate the area.

Rationale: Both the El Dorado County Fire Protection District and CALFIRE reviewed the application materials and would not require additional site access or improvement to the existing roads. The project is in compliance with this policy.

2.16 The project is consistent with General Plan Policy 7.1.2.1.

General Plan Policy 7.1.2.1 directs that development or disturbance shall be restricted on slopes exceeding 30 percent unless necessary for access.

Rationale: The area proposed for new development is in an area that is relatively flat and avoids any steep slopes of 30 percent. The project is in compliance with the policy related to steep slopes.

2.17 This project is consistent with General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4.

General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 requires all new non-exempt development projects that would result in impacts to oak resources must adhere to the standards of the Oak Resources Management Plan (ORMP).

Rationale: The project has been designed to adhere to the oak tree canopy retention and replacement standards established by the Oak Resources Management Plan. In order to address on-site tree canopy removal, the Oak Technical Report (Exhibit L) was prepared for the project by a certified arborist and registered profession forester. The project would result in impacts to seven oak trees, including one heritage tree of 40 inches diameter at breast height (dbh). The Oak Technical Report identified a mitigation fee in the amount of \$37,944. Mitigation fees (Condition of Approval 6) would need to be collected prior to finaling of each phase. One heritage tree would be removed.

3.0 ZONING FINDINGS

3.1 The proposed use is consistent with Title 130.

The Commercial, General (CG) zone is intended to provide a mix of more intensive commercial uses, such as light manufacturing, automobile repair, and wholesale activity; where outdoor storage or activity commonly occurs; and where residential, civic and educational uses are limited to avoid conflicts with allowed uses.

Rationale: The parcel is zoned CG. The Commercial Zone matrix of allowed uses and permit requirements establishes those uses that are permitted and those that require approval by a Conditional Use Permit in the CG zone district. The matrix includes commercial uses, including Retail Sales which is a use allowed by right within the CG zone. The proposed project would include a retail store.

The project has been analyzed in accordance with Zoning Ordinance Section 130.23.030 (Development Standards) for minimum lot size, dimensions, height, and building setbacks. The project, as proposed, is consistent with the Zoning Ordinance because the project will comply with building setbacks and other applicable standards.

3.2 The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 130.16, Signs.

The proposed signs for the project must comply with the Chapter 130.16 of the Zoning Ordinance, Signs. The three new buildings will each have their own building attached signs. According to Table 130.16.070.1b- Rural Center Area Signage Standards for Permanent On-Site Signs, both freestanding signs and building attached signs in the General Commercial Zoning District are limited to 50 square feet of max signage area with no more than 12 feet in height for freestanding signs.

Rationale: The project proposes a building attached sign and a monument sign near the intersection of Northside Drive and State Route 49. The proposed monument sign would be constructed of wood or steel of like size, and would be painted brown with illuminated yellow lettering (Exhibit F). An externally illuminated wall sign of approximately 50 square feet (25 feet wide by 2 feet tall) is proposed along the building frontage facing State Route 49. The wall sign lettering would be colored yellow to match the proposed monument sign (Exhibit F).

3.3 The proposed project is consistent with Chapter 130.34: Lighting.

All outdoor lighting shall be located, adequately shielded, and directed such that no direct light falls outside the property line, or into the public right-of-way.

Rationale: As the project proposes exterior light and pole mounted parking lot lighting. An illuminated monument sign is proposed near the corner of Northside Drive and California State Highway 49 and an illuminated wall

mounted sign is proposed along the western elevation. As shown in the project plans and elevations, no proposed lighting will direct light outside the property line or into the public right-of-way. Proposed light fixtures would be adequately shielded as shown in Condition of Approval 5.

3.4 The project is consistent with Chapter 130.35: Off-Street Parking and Loading.

Chapter 130.35 of the Zoning Ordinance establishes off-street parking and loading requirements for commercial developments.

Rationale: General retail developments have a parking requirement of one parking space per every 300 square feet of active use area (AUA) and 600 square feet of storage area. Active use areas, encompasses all developed areas within a building except for storage areas, restrooms, and employee lunchroom/cafeterias. The project proposes approximately 8,640 square feet of AUA of the overall building square footage of 9,100 square feet, with no proposed dedicated storage area, which results in a parking requirement of 29 parking spaces. The project is considered to have a low loading bay demand and is not required to provide a loading bay, though the project does include a 256 square foot concrete delivery pad. The project is proposing 31 parking spaces, including two accessible spaces, which satisfies the minimum parking requirements for general retail.

3.5 The project is consistent with Title 130.52.030 and the El Dorado Design Guide.

The project has been reviewed in accordance with Section 130.52.030 of the County Zoning Ordinance, Design Review Permit. This process is applied to commercial projects with a Design Review-Community (-DC) Combining Zone. The Design Review process is limited to consideration of compliance with established standards, provided that the use proposed for the project site is an allowed use within the zone.

Rationale: As noted in Finding 3.1, the use is allowed in the CG zone. The project is located within the Cool Rural Center which does not have a specific community design standard; as such the project would default to the El Dorado County Design Guide. The project design, architectural treatments, and associated improvements substantially conform to the El Dorado County Design Guide and would not substantially detract from this commercial district. The project proposes new traditional, Western false front styled architecture, utilizing typical building elements such as vertical narrow rectangular windows, parapet roofs and columns/braces that are similar to the overall design (Exhibit H). Building colors would include reds, tans, blues and yellows, with the building consisting of horizontal and vertical wooden slating. The front walkway will consist of stamped concrete to mimic a wooden walkway.

4.0 DESIGN REVIEW FINDINGS

4.1 The issuance of the permit is consistent with the General Plan.

Rationale: As discussed above in Section 2.0, General Plan Findings, the Design Review Revision is consistent with the applicable policies and requirements in the El Dorado County General Plan.

4.2 The proposed use would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare, or injurious to the neighborhood.

Rationale: The use is consistent with the General Plan and will comply with the Development Standards of the CG-DC zone. The proposed use is consistent with the surrounding land uses, which include commercial land uses. As conditioned, the project is not anticipated to result in significant environmental, visual, or noise impacts to the surrounding residents.

4.3 The proposed use is specifically permitted by Design Review.

Rationale: The design review process is applied to commercial sites in area where the Design Review-Community (-DC) overlay exists. The design review process shall be limited to consideration of compliance with established standards, provided that the use proposed for the project site is an allowed use within the zone. The retail commercial buildings are allowed uses by right in the General Commercial (CG) zoning designation. As discussed previously, the design review is consistent with the applicable policies and requirements in El Dorado County General Plan.

5.0 DESIGN GUIDELINE FINDINGS

To promote good architecture, the El Dorado county Board of Supervisors adopted a design review ordinance (Exhibit O) that regulates design within Design Control (DC) and Design Scenic Corridor (DS) overlay districts. This ordinance provides help and direction in situations where there are buffer zones between residential and commercial development or special uses which may be desirable, but are attended by problems like noise and traffic congestion. Within designated design review districts, the County has the authority to review and control the design of commercial, industrial and multi-family residential development. The process looks at more than the proposed buildings. It also examines the project's layout, landscaping, parking, signs, and other features. It covers all the factors in the project's appearance, plus how well it fits its surroundings. This does not mean the County is dictating a particular style of architecture for design review districts. Variety is preferred, not uniformity. But it does mean the County is seeking higher standards of architecture.

The analysis below evaluates the components of the Community Design Guide and project consistency with the guidelines of the Community Design Guide. Typically, the project was consistent with or modified to be consistent with the Community Design

Guide. While consistency with the Community Design Guide is preferred it is not a required finding for approval of a Design Review application.

5.1 **The project is consistent with the General Design Guidelines.**

In reviewing plans, County authorities will evaluate a project on its contribution to the County's character and on its suitability for its location. Stock building plans might not be acceptable. Some basic questions by which projects will be evaluated are:

- a. Will the project be a good neighbor? It should not impair the use, value or good development of neighboring property. Its design should minimize interference with the privacy, quiet and views of its neighbors and avoid traffic problems and damage to the natural environment.

Rationale: The project site is neighbored to the north, west and east by existing commercial developments, with a vacant commercial property located to the south and the Cool Village commercial development located across State Route 193. The project has been designed to incorporate architectural elements of the neighboring development utilizing new traditional, Western false front styled architecture.

- b. Does the project follow the basic principles of good design? The project should be designed as a whole, fit into its surroundings and avoid monotony in form, detail and siting.

Rationale: The project is designed as traditional, Western false front architecture, painted blue, red, yellow and beige (Exhibit H). This design is consistent with the surrounding developments, most notably the commercial development located across State Route 49 (the Boardwalk), and contributes to the Gold Rush era aesthetics that is present throughout the Sierra Nevada foothill region. The project went through several iterations (Exhibit P) before the final proposed plan (Exhibit H). These changes were made based off of community input and the intent for the project to follow the principles of good design.

- c. Does the project give people some variety and something interesting to look at? Landscaped areas, benches and fountains are much more appealing to the eye than blank walls and uninterrupted rows of parking

Rationale: As stated previously, the project features multicolored traditional, Western false front architecture, with covered sidewalks and awnings over the windows (Exhibit H), which provides a more interesting aesthetic than a plain stock building. The project will incorporate landscaping (Exhibit I) to help break parking areas and to provide pleasing perspective to building walls.

5.2 The project is consistent with the Design Guidelines.

The El Dorado County Design Guidelines identifies the following guidelines to be considered for projects. Does the project suit its purpose? Do the various components of the project work well together? Does the project make good use of the site? Do different elements fit together logically? Are materials, forms and other elements of a project suitable for its uses?

Rationale: The project design is suitable for the proposed retail commercial use, and can be easily identified as a commercial development from adjacent roadways. The site is utilized appropriately with main doors and windows facing toward the proposed parking lot and State Route 49. Existing oak trees have been retained where feasible, most notably a 19 inch diameter Blue oak located in the front of the property towards State Route 49. The materials, forms and project elements are suitable for this proposed project.

5.3 The project is consistent with the Site Planning Guidelines.

During review of a development project, specific criteria relating to the site, the building, landscaping, signs, parking and other features will be considered.

a. Suiting the Site – A designer should try to fit a project to the existing site rather than alter the site to accommodate a stock plan. Preserve topography, the natural grade and vegetation. Avoid excessive cuts and fills.

Rationale: The project site is highly disturbed with previous grading occurring sometime in the past. Additional, grading will be required to accommodate the 9,100 sf building and associated parking. A maximum, seven foot high retaining wall will be required along the northwestern boundary of the project footprint. The retaining wall will be constructed from tan/earth tone cmu blocks. This is intended to blend with the existing earth colors. The project typically utilizes the previously graded areas of the parcel, however due to the slope of the parcel grading is required for this project.

b. Open Space – Natural features and views should be maintained and protected through use of adequate open space.

Rationale: The project identifies approximately 2,000 square feet of an undisturbed open space area located at the western areas of the project site (Exhibit I).

c. Parking Areas – Screen parking areas from public ways and divide them up with landscaping, walls, fences, berms and other means.

Rationale: Landscaping has been incorporated in the project design to screen proposed parking from State Route 49 and Northside Drive (Exhibit I).

- d. Lighting – Exterior lighting should be subdued and avoid creating a glare for occupants or neighboring properties. Lighting should enhance the building design and landscaping as well as providing for safety and security.

Rationale: As stated previously in Finding 3.3 the project proposes exterior light and pole mounted parking lot lighting. An internally illuminated channelized monument sign (Exhibit F) is proposed near the corner of Northside Drive and California State Highway 49 and an externally illuminated wall mounted sign (Exhibit F) is proposed along the western elevation. As shown in the project plans and elevations, no proposed lighting will direct light outside the property line or into the public right-of-way. Proposed gooseneck light fixtures would be adequately shielded as shown in Condition of Approval 5, and compliment the proposed project design. Internally laminated signs exist elsewhere in the project area, most notably at the Cool Village Shopping Center (Holiday Market) and the 76 Gas Station located across from State Route 49 from the project site. The current internally illuminated signs at the 76 Gas Station were approved through a Design Review (DR00-0004), which was further amended through DR-R19-0003 on August 19, 2019.

- e. Trash and other Service areas – Locate trash containers and loading docks away from public streets and store entrances and screen them. Screening should be durable and an integral part of the overall structural design.

Rationale: Trash receptacles and loading pads/receiving areas would be located near the proposed buildings northeast elevation away from the main entrance located at the northwest elevation. The trash enclosure will be constructed out of tan bricks similar to the retaining wall. Trash receptacles would be located within a gated enclosure and screened from public view, due to its location between landscaping, the retaining wall and the proposed building (Exhibit F).

5.4 **The project is consistent with the Building Design Guidelines.**

The building design should consider many points.

- a. Harmony - Different structures and parts of structures should harmonize with each other and the neighborhood. New construction should go well with the old, or the old may be remodeled to go with the new.

Rationale: The project has been designed in the style traditional, Western false front architecture (Exhibit H), similar to the commercial development located across State Route 49. This integrates the project within the established commercial neighborhood.

- b. Materials – Use materials honestly. Simulated wood or masonry, for example, generally is not acceptable.

Rationale: The project will be using stamped concrete along the front of the building to mimic a wooden boardwalk. This is to incorporate existing design of a neighboring commercial development, which uses wooden boardwalks. Due to Americans with Disability Act regulations, the use of wooden boardwalks was determined to be infeasible. Stamped concrete to simulate wooden boardwalks are being proposed instead. Project siding will consist of cementitious panels (fiber cement), layered to mimic traditional wooden siding (Exhibit H). Cementitious panels are used due to fire safety concerns.

- c. Finishes, Textures, Colors – Exterior treatment should be subdued and restrained. Treatment should aim at durability and ease of maintenance as well as initial beauty. The different building materials of stone, wood and timber need to be skillfully blended. Large building masses should be broken with architectural detail, roof lines development with interest and variety, and windows enlivened with detail.

Rationale: The project proposes a structure primarily made up of wooden siding painted red, blue, yellow and brown/beige. The building façade will be broken with different false front facades. Windows are vertically oriented consistent with traditional western design (Exhibit H).

- d. Mechanical Equipment and Utilities – Design service equipment, including meter boxes, as part of the structure and provide screening for them.

Rationale: Utilities will be located at the rear of the structure, away from any public right of way or public access, as such they are considered to be screened from public view.

- e. Energy Conservation – Design should minimize the need for mechanical heating and cooling. Wherever possible, use sunlight for heating and illumination, and natural ventilation and shading for coolness.

Rationale: The project does incorporate mechanical heating and cooling. The project site will be built to current California Green Building Code minimizing the need for mechanical heating and cooling. Windows are oriented west to maximize exposure to natural light.

5.5 **The project is consistent with the Landscaping Design Guidelines.**

Landscaping improves the appearance of sites and buildings, helps erosion control and provides screening and shade. Landscaping, including trees, shrubs and ground cover, should be included in all development projects.

- a. Maintenance – Choose landscape materials and arrangements to minimize maintenance. A permanent irrigation system should be provided. Automatic watering system, set to water at night or early morning, are encouraged.

Rationale: The project proposes a permanent water efficient drip irrigation system (Exhibit I). The project is subject to the water maintenance requirements of the Model Water Landscaping Ordinance (MWELo) regulations, to be verified prior to finaling of building permit. All proposed landscaping is consistent with the adopted Landscaping and Irrigation Standards, which requires at least 50 percent of proposed landscaping to consist of a list of drought tolerant species as determined by the Planning Director, 75 percent of the proposed landscaping species are consistent with this list. As conditioned (Condition of Approval 7) all landscaping shall be consistent the Maintenance and Protection measures as set forth in the Landscaping and Irrigation Standards.

- b. Parking Lots – Landscaping ought to include planters at suitable intervals throughout the lot and at the ends of parking rows. It should include trees that will provide adequate visual relief and shading when they mature. Landscaping must not block a driver’s view.

Rationale: The project proposes periodic planter boxes to break parking. Landscaping is proposed around the perimeter of the project site to provide additional project buffering. Driving views will not be blocked.

- c. Trees – Trees have many uses. They can provide summer shade for parked cars and pedestrian walkways; provide visual screening; provide accent points that help reduce the formless expanse of a parking lot; filter the glare of reflective pavement, muffle noise and trap dust and airborne particles.

Rationale: In addition to existing trees to be retained, the project proposes to plant additional trees located within parking lot planters and along the project perimeter.

5.6 **The project is consistent with the Buffering Design Guidelines.**

Industrial and commercial land uses should be screened from adjacent residential areas, so that noise light glare and other visual disturbances are minimized. Where some types of land uses front on and can be viewed from a public road, the use of buffers and other screening techniques may be required to shield areas where there is outside storage of materials and equipment.

Rationale: The project is surrounded to the north, east and west by commercial uses. To the south is an undeveloped commercial parcel. The project does not propose any outside storage of materials and equipment. A concrete

delivery pad is located to the northeastern side of the project building and mostly be screened from public view from State Route 49, but will be visible from Northside Drive, however there are no requirements for screening of delivery trucks.

5.7 The project is consistent with the Signs Design Guidelines.

The Sign Design Guidelines offers the following recommendations on project signage.

- a. Design Compatibility – Signs, their materials, size, color, lettering, location and arrangement, should be an integral part of the site and building design and compatible with the surroundings.

Rationale: The project proposes a wall sign and a monument sign (Exhibit H). Most signs in the project area, including internally illuminated signs, utilize metal or wood building materials. Both signs are designed to be appropriate with the onsite project design and other surrounding developments.

- b. Consistency – Keep signing consistent in location and design throughout a development.

Rationale: Both the wall sign and the monument sign use matching lettering and colors.

- c. Restraint – Signing should be simple, restrained and subordinate to the overall project design. A sign ought to attract and identify, but not dominate the site.

Rationale: The two proposed signs incorporate simple yellow letters on a brown background. The signs will not dominate the site.

- d. Types – Wall signs, graphic symbol signs and low profile free-standing signs are encouraged. Flashing, moving and rotating signs are prohibited by County ordinance.

Rationale: The project proposes a monument sign and a wall sign. Signs will not be flashing, moving or rotating.

- e. Simplicity – Signs should use minimum copy and suitable lettering and avoid garish materials and shapes.

Rationale: The signs incorporate simple yellow lettering that do not create use garish materials or shapes.

- f. Lighting – Subtle lighting and landscaping can enhance a sign’s setting and draw attention to it. The light source should be screened.

Rationale: As previously discussed an internally illuminated monument sign is proposed near the corner of Northside Drive and California State Highway 49 and an illuminated wall mounted sign is proposed along the western elevation. As shown in the project plans and elevations, no proposed lighting will direct light outside the property line or into the public right-of-way. Proposed light fixtures would be adequately shielded as shown in Condition of Approval 5.

5.8 The project is consistent with the Parking Design Guidelines.

Designers should give careful thought to parking areas. Well designed buildings on choice sites lose their visual impact if all that is seen on approach is barren blacktop and monotonous rows of cars. There must be a practical and economic use of land in layout of parking spaces, landscape areas and vehicle and pedestrian access. Landscape plants, along with earth berms and walls, must be designed to screen, shade and soften the impact of parking areas. A good designer should consider locating the parking to the rear or side of a building rather than in front.

Rationale: Parking is proposed at the front and side of the project building. Parking would largely be screened from public view by existing vegetation, such as the two oak trees to be retained, proposed landscaping and the vertical positioning of the parking lot, above State Route 49. The project proposes parking in front of the building due to onsite circulation issues and the standardized store layout that the corporate tenant (Dollar General) utilizes.

5.9 The project is consistent with the Commercial Design Guidelines.

The El Dorado County Design Guidelines identifies the following commercial guidelines to be considered for commercial projects.

a. Employ variations from the conventional building design and materials.

Rationale: As stated previously, the project is designed as traditional, Western false front architecture, painted blue, red, yellow and beige (Exhibit H). This design is consistent with the surrounding developments, most notably the commercial development located across State Route 49 (the Boardwalk), and contributes to the Gold Rush era aesthetics that is present throughout the Sierra Nevada foothill region.

b. Provide ample landscaping with large plant materials for quick effect.

Rationale: The project proposes to utilize both existing vegetation, such as oak trees, and new landscaping (Exhibit I). This includes using large plant materials in the forms of trees (15 gallon) and shrubs (1-5 gallon).

c. Use a minimum of site grading and replant cuts and fills.

Rationale: As stated previously, the project site is highly disturbed with previous grading occurring sometime in the past. Additional, grading will be required to accommodate the 9,100 sf building and associated parking. A seven foot high retaining wall will be required along the northwestern boundary of the project footprint. The project typically utilizes the already graded portion of the property.

d. Integrate signing with the total architectural design.

Rationale: As stated previously, the project proposes a wall sign and a monument sign (Exhibit H). Both signs are designed to be appropriate with the onsite project design and other surrounding developments.

e. Provide screening and light shielding from adjacent residential properties.

Rationale: While the project does provide screening through landscaping and light shielding, the project is not located adjacent to any residential properties (Exhibit D).

f. Separate pedestrian and car traffic.

Rationale: The project has been conditioned to construct or provide an in-lieu fee for a new Class 2 Bike Lane along the shoulder of State Route 49.

g. Keep the public entrance free of parking.

Rationale: The project does not propose parking along the public entrance.

h. Provide screening for utilities, trash disposal, vent stacks, etc.

Rationale: As stated previously, utilities will be located in the rear of the property screened from public view. Trash receptacles are located at the side of the structure within an enclosure, generally screened from public view (Exhibit F).

i. Consider bicycle parking facilities.

Rationale: The project is proposing six bicycle parking spaces located south of the proposed building (Exhibit F). These facilities are proposed in compliance with the El Dorado County Parking and Loading requirements. Bike parking was added to the project per Planning Staff's request.