FROM: Tina Wilson, Associate Planner, 530-879-6807, tina.wilson@chicoca.gov Community Development Department

RE: Architectural Review 21-22 (Oleander Community Housing); 2324 Esplanade, APN 006-100-049

## RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board adopt the required findings contained in the agenda report and approve the proposed project, subject to the recommended conditions.

## Proposed Motion

I move that the Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board adopt the required findings contained in the agenda report and approve Architectural Review 21-22 (Oleander Community Housing), subject to the recommended conditions therein.

## BACKGROUND

The applicant proposes to construct a new, gated and entry-controlled, 38-unit residential development, and associated site improvements including outdoor amenities, parking, and landscaping on an approximately 1.3-acre lot on the east side of Esplanade (see Attachment A, Location Map). The site is designated Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) on the City of Chico General Plan Land Use Diagram and zoned Community Commercial (CC) with Airport Overflight Overlay (-AOD) and Corridor Opportunity Site (-COS) overlay zones.

The three-story apartment building would be located on the northern portion of the lot, fronting on Esplanade between Rio Lindo Avenue and Mission Ranch Boulevard. The project would include 37 units of permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing homelessness and mentally disabled individuals. One additional unit would be reserved for an on-site resident manager. The project would also include on-site case management offices where individualized supportive services would be provided to the residents. The building would also include a community center and elevator (see Attachment B, Project Description and Attachment C, Site Plan). The site is currently vacant. Surrounding land uses include automotive uses to the south, single-family residences to the east, and the Paramount RV and Trailer Park to the north.


#### Abstract

ANALYSIS The proposal is for the construction of 22,775 square feet of permanent supportive housing within a three-story apartment building, including a community room, fitness room, laundry rooms, tenant storage, and onsite improvements. The common open space has pedestrian access and is dispersed around the development, with a community courtyard, an outdoor


dining area with pergolas, an enclosed dog park, bicycle lockers, bocce ball court, a garden with raised planter beds, and other outdoor amenities.

Since the proposed project is three-stories and significantly less than 100 feet in height, there are no corresponding development standards related to the Airport Overflight (-AOD) overlay zone.

## Density

Pursuant to CMC Section 19.52.080, residential projects within a Corridor Opportunity Site overlay zone must be developed at or above the midpoint of the allowable density range of the zoning district. The midpoint of the allowable density range of the CC zoning district is 14 dwelling units per acre. The Corridor Opportunity Site overlay zone provides for a maximum of 60 dwelling units per acre on sites designated CMU (CMC 19.52.080.D.1). The project, with 29.2 units per acre, is over 14 and under 60 dwelling units per acre.

## Parking

Pursuant to CMC Section 19.70.040, multi-family housing projects located in a Corridor Opportunity Site (-COS) overlay zone are required to provide 0.75 parking spaces for each studio unit, one (1) parking space for each one-bedroom unit, and 1.5 parking spaces for each two-bedroom unit. Based on these requirements, 34 parking spaces would be required for the proposed project. However, based on CMC Section 19.70.050(A), the applicant is requesting a reduction of off-street parking of five (5) parking spaces, for a proposed total of 29 parking spaces. The reduction in required parking is warranted for multiple reasons, including the site is within a Corridor Opportunity Site (-COS) overlay zone, the area is served by public transit, and the proposed parking reduction is unlikely to overburden public parking supplies in the vicinity. In addition, the applicant anticipates that many of the residents of the proposed apartment building will not operate their own vehicles. Planning staff supports the requested reduction in vehicular parking spaces.

A total of 38 bicycle parking spaces are required and 42 are provided, meeting requirements.

## Architectural Design

The project complies with all development standards including lot size, site coverage, setbacks and building height. The exterior of the proposed three-story apartment building would be a variety of warm earth tones with white contrast and a variety of materials. The exterior materials would be a combination of cementitious rainscreen and clapboard siding, with stucco, board formed concrete and metal finishes. Architectural accents would be incorporated, providing an aesthetically appealing, contemporary style exterior that blends with the character of the surrounding neighborhood (see Attachment D, Architectural Elevations, and Attachment E, Conceptual Models). Planning staff will present the color and materials board at the upcoming meeting.

## Lighting and Landscaping

The landscape plan proposes a variety of native oaks and other trees and plants (see Attachment F, Landscape Plan). A total of 47 new trees would be planted onsite, including native oak and maple trees. Exterior lighting would include parking lot lights with a finished height of 18 feet, wall-mounted downlights on the buildings, and pedestrian bollard lighting. Lighting design will be required to minimize glare and spillover impacts while still maintaining
a safe atmosphere.

## DISCUSSION

## General Plan Goals, Policies and Actions

The Commercial Mixed Use land use designation accommodates retail and service commercial uses, office and / or residential uses, or hospitals and other public / quasi-public uses. The proposed project is for the construction of permanent supportive housing within a three-story apartment building, including a community room, fitness room, laundry rooms, tenant storage, and onsite improvements, on a vacant property. The proposal is consistent with General Plan goals and policies that encourage the development of housing for individuals that are homeless (H-4.6), create housing accessible to individuals with disabilities (H-4.1, 4.3), and overall encourage the development of housing for people with special needs (H-4).

## Consistency with Design Guidelines Manual

The design intent of the Commercial Mixed Use project type is to encourage the integration of retail and service commercial uses with office and / or residential uses and may also include hospitals and other public / quasi-public uses. The proposed permanent supportive housing project provides for much needed housing options for people in the community needing supportive services in a residential setting. The design of the project provides amenities for the people who would live in the proposed apartment building. The common open space has pedestrian access and is dispersed around the development, with a community courtyard, an outdoor dining area with pergolas, an enclosed dog park, bicycle lockers, bocce ball court, a garden with raised planter beds, and other outdoor amenities (DG 4.1.42, 4.1.45). This encourages individuals to make use of the open space by setting it in a meaningful relationship with its surroundings. Lighting design will be required to minimize glare and spillover impacts while still maintaining a safe atmosphere (DG 1.5.14, 1.5.15). The overall plan has the character, scale, and quality expected of new architecture in the City of Chico by the Chico Municipal Code and by the Design Guidelines (DG 1.2.11).

## REQUIRED FINDINGS FOR APPROVAL

## Architectural Review

According to Chico Municipal Code Section 19.18.060, the Architectural Review and Historic Preservation Board shall determine whether or not a project adequately meets adopted City standards and design guidelines, based upon the following findings:

1. The proposed development is consistent with the General Plan, any applicable specific plan, and any applicable neighborhood or area plans.

The proposal is for the construction of 22,775 square feet of permanent supportive housing within a three-story apartment building, including a community room, fitness room, laundry rooms, tenant storage, and onsite improvements, on a vacant property designated Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) on the City of Chico General Plan Land Use Diagram. The proposal is also consistent with General Plan goals and policies that encourage the development of housing for individuals that are homeless ( $\mathrm{H}-4.6$ ), create housing accessible to individuals with disabilities (H-4.1, 4.3), and overall encourage the development of housing for people with special needs $(\mathrm{H}-4)$.
2. The proposed development, including the character, scale, and quality of design are consistent with the purpose/intent of this chapter and any adopted design guidelines.

The proposed structure has meaningful architectural character and high-quality design elements. The proposed landscaping and configuration of the parking area help to minimize the views of automobiles (DG 1.1.14). The common open space has pedestrian access and is dispersed around the development, with a community courtyard, an outdoor dining area with pergolas, an enclosed dog park, bicycle lockers, bocce ball court, a garden with raised planter beds, and other outdoor amenities (DG 4.1.42, 4.1.45). This encourages individuals to make use of the open space by setting it in a meaningful relationship with its surroundings. Lighting design will be required to minimize glare and spillover impacts while still maintaining a safe atmosphere (DG 1.5.14, 1.5.15). The overall plan has the character, scale, and quality expected of new architecture in the City of Chico by the Chico Municipal Code and by the Design Guidelines (DG 1.2.11).
3. The architectural design of structures, including all elevations, materials and colors are visually compatible with surrounding development. Design elements, including screening of equipment, exterior lighting, signs, and awnings, have been incorporated into the project to further ensure its compatibility with the character and uses of adjacent development.

The type of construction of the apartment building would be wood frame supported by perimeter foundations. The exterior materials would be a combination of cementitious rainscreen and clapboard siding, with stucco, board formed concrete and metal finishes. Architectural accents would be incorporated, providing an aesthetically appealing, contemporary style exterior that blends with the character of the surrounding neighborhood.
4. The location and configuration of structures are compatible with their sites and with surrounding sites and structures, and do not unnecessarily block views from other structures or dominate their surroundings.

The proposed apartment building is sited close to the Esplanade street frontage, and parking is provided to the side and rear of the apartment building. Although the apartment building is a three-story structure, its location on the parcel would provide over 100 feet of distance from surrounding single-family residences. In addition, outdoor amenities such as the courtyard and bocce ball court would create a buffer between surrounding existing development and proposed onsite vehicular access and parking areas. Consequently, the development should not unnecessarily block views from other structures or dominate its surroundings (DG 1.2.13).
5. The general landscape design, including the color, location, size, texture, type, and coverage of plant materials, and provisions for irrigation and maintenance, and protection of landscape elements, have been considered to ensure visual relief, to complement structures, and to provide an attractive environment.

The landscape design includes a variety of trees and shrubs with moderate to low water
use. The design will complement the proposed apartment building and outdoor amenities, help to screen certain portions of the site, and provide sufficient visual relief to create an attractive environment.

## RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

1. The front page of all approved building plans shall note in bold type face that the project shall comply with Architectural Review 21-22 (Oleander Community Housing). No building permits related to this approval shall receive final approval without prior authorization of Community Development Department Planning staff.
2. All development shall comply with all other State and local Code provisions, including those of the City of Chico Community Development and Public Works Departments. The permittee is responsible for contacting these offices to verify the need for compliance.
3. All approved building plans and permits shall note that wall-mounted utilities and roof or wall penetrations, including vent stacks, utility boxes, exhaust vents, gas meters and similar equipment, shall be screened by appropriate materials and colors. All parapet caps and other metal flashing shall be painted, consistent with the approved building colors. Adequate screening shall be verified by Planning staff prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy.
4. All exterior lighting shall be shielded and directed downward to avoid light spillage onto adjacent properties.
5. All new electric, telephone, and other wiring conduits for utilities shall be placed underground in compliance with CMC 19.60.120.
6. As required by CMC 16.66, trees removed shall be replaced as follows:
a. On-site. For every six inches in DBH removed, a new 15-gallon tree shall be planted on-site. Replacement trees shall be of similar species, unless otherwise approved by the urban forest manager, and shall be placed in areas dedicated for tree plantings. New plantings' survival shall be ensured for three years after the date of planting and shall be verified by the applicant upon request by the director. If any replacement trees die or fail within the first three years of their planting, then the applicant shall pay an in-lieu fee as established by a fee schedule adopted by the City Council.
b. Off-site. If it is not feasible or desirable to plant replacement trees on-site, payment of an in-lieu fee as established by a fee schedule adopted by the City Council shall be required.
c. Replacement trees shall not receive credit as satisfying shade or street tree requirements otherwise mandated by the municipal code.
d. Tree removal shall be subject to the in-lieu fee payment requirements set forth by Chico Municipal Code (CMC) 16.66 and fee schedule adopted by the City Council.
e. All trees not approved for removal shall be preserved on and adjacent to the project site. A tree preservation plan, including fencing around drip lines and
methods for excavation within the drip lines of protected trees to be preserved shall be prepared by the project developer pursuant to CMC 16.66.110 and 19.68.060 for review and approval by planning staff prior to any grounddisturbing activities.
7. The applicant shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City of Chico, its boards and commissions, officers and employees against and from any and all liabilities, demands, claims, actions or proceedings and costs and expenses incidental thereto (including costs of defense, settlement and reasonable attorney's fees), which any or all of them may suffer, incur, be responsible for or pay out as a result of or in connection with any challenge to or claim regarding the legality, validity, processing or adequacy associated with: (i) this requested entitlement; (ii) the proceedings undertaken in connection with the adoption or approval of this entitlement; (iii) any subsequent approvals or permits relating to this entitlement; (iv) the processing of occupancy permits and (v) any amendments to the approvals for this entitlement. The City of Chico shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action or proceeding which may be filed and shall cooperate fully in the defense, as provided for in Government code section 66474.9.

## PUBLIC CONTACT

Public notice requirements are fulfilled by mailing a 10-day public hearing notice to all landowners and residents within 500 feet of the site, by placing a notice on the project site and by posting of the agenda at least 10 days prior to the ARHPB meeting. As of the date of this report, no comments have been received in response to the public notice.

## DISTRIBUTION

Internal (3)
Mike Sawley, Principal Planner
Marie Demers, Housing Manager
Tina Wilson, Associate Planner
File: AR 21-22
External (4)
AMG \& Associates, LLC, Attn: Jacob Soroudi, Email: jsoroudi@amgland.com
AMG \& Associates, LLC, Attn: Cameron Johnson, Email: cjohnson@amgland.com
Pacific West Architecture, Email: ncalzacorta@gmail.com
Jaya Ratanjee, 618 Larch Lane, Chico, CA 95926

## ATTACHMENTS

A. Location Map
B. Project Description
C. Site Plan
D. Architectural Elevations
E. Conceptual Models
F. Landscape Plan


AR 21-22 (Oleander Community Housing)
2324 Esplanade
APN 006-100-049-000


## OLEANDER APARTMENTS PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Oleander Apartments Permanent Supportive Housing Project represents (Project) a new, gated and entry-controlled, 38-unit rental development located on approximately $1.3+/$ - acres on Esplanade between Rio Linda Avenue and Mission Ranch Boulevard in Chico, CA. The Project will consist of 37 units of permanent supportive housing targeted to homeless and mentally disabled individuals. One additional unit will be reserved for an on-site resident manager. The Project will also include on-site case management offices in which individualized supportive services will be provided to the residents with the intent of helping them restore their lives. With a mix of 21 studio units ( 442 gross sq. ft.), 16 one-bedroom units ( 607 gross sq. ft .), and 1 twobedroom unit ( 800 gross sq. ft .) the proposed project will target the homeless and mentally disabled individuals residing in Butte County. 29 parking spaces, including 4 ADA spaces, will be provided. Residents will also have access to an elevator.

The units will be newly constructed apartments in one, three-story residential building with an elevator and a community building. The type of construction will be wood frame supported by perimeter foundations. The exterior will be a combination of cementitious rainscreen and clapboard siding, with stucco, board formed concrete and metal finishes. Architectural accents will be incorporated, providing an aesthetically appealing, contemporary style exterior that blends with the character of the surrounding neighborhood and the City of Chico. Minimum construction standards will be adhered to in order to assure that a quality permanent supportive housing development is provided.

The building will be oriented appropriately on the site with the intent to create a community concept for residents to enjoy while remaining social and active. Outdoor amenities include a community courtyard, an outdoor dining area with pergolas, an enclosed dog park, covered smoking area, bicycle lockers, bocce ball court, and a garden with raised planter beds. The development will include a large community building (approximately $2,981 \mathrm{sq} . \mathrm{ft}$.) with accessible common spaces including a community room, multi-purpose room, fitness room, 3 laundry rooms, and 3 tenant storage spaces. Case management offices will also be located on site. An on-site resident manager will provide assistance and management while residing in a one-bedroom manager's unit.

Within the units, tenants will enjoy standard features such as refrigerators, exhaust fans and ranges with ovens. All of the units are fully accessible or easily adaptable to meet the needs of the tenant population.

The Project will be financed using a variety of sources including $9 \%$ tax credit financing CDBG Disaster Relief funding and project based vouchers. We expect to receive all required funding by the end of 2022. Upon successful receipt of the above listed funding, construction would be slated to begin in December 2022 with units being available for occupancy in December 2023.

The Project Co-Sponsors will be the Housing Authority for the County of Butte and Pacific West Communities, Inc.


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