

Zoning Administrator Agenda Report Meeting Date 05/28/2019

**DATE:** May 15, 2019

File: UP 19-08

- TO: ZONING ADMINISTRATOR
- **FROM:** Kelly Murphy, Project Planner, <u>kelly.murphy@chicoca.gov</u>, 879-6810
- RE: Use Permit 19-08 (United Rentals) 2855 Fair Street; APN 005-580-013

#### RECOMMENDATION

Planning staff recommends that the Zoning Administrator find the project categorically exempt from environmental review and approve Use Permit 19-08 (United Rentals), based on the findings and subject to the recommended conditions of approval.

## BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

This is a request to allow for the installation of an 8-foot tall, low-voltage security system on the 3.99-acre industrial property owned and operated by United Rentals. The project site is located at 2855 Fair Street (see Location Map, **Attachment A**) and bounded by Highway 99 to the east, Fair Street to the south, Country Drive to the west, and an industrial parcel owned and operated by U-Haul to the north. The subject parcel is zoned ML (Light Manufacturing/Industrial) and is designated Manufacturing and Warehousing (MW) on the General Plan Diagram. There are no residential uses in the vicinity.

Pursuant to Chico Municipal Code (CMC) 19.60.060(F), the use of an electrified fence is allowed only upon issuance of a use permit. In addition, CMC 19.60.060(A)(3), *Outdoor Storage and Work Yards*, states that "all auto dismantling operations, auto wrecking yards, building materials supply yards, junk yards, lumber yards, recycling facility/processing centers, scrap metal yards, waste resource and waste recycling operations, and uses with similar outside storage shall have a solid sight-obscuring masonry wall or metal fence not less than 6 feet nor more than 8 feet in height, of a type and design approved in advance of installation by the Director." The project site currently operates as an equipment rental storage yard, which is considered a similar outside storage use to those listed above. The applicant has provided a site plan consistent with the requirements for a Conditional Use Permit set forth in CMC Chapter 19.24 (see Site Plan, **Attachment B**). The project has been conditioned to comply with the requirement that outdoor storage uses have a sight-obscuring perimeter fence (see Condition of Approval #3).

The site has been developed with an industrial warehouse building. The parking and outdoor storage area is fully paved and surrounded by an existing 6-foot chain-link fence. A retention pond exists on an undeveloped portion of the site. No new grading or landscaping is proposed. Existing trees along the Fair Street frontage would remain. The proposed new fencing would be located 12 inches interior to the existing perimeter fence. Approval of the project would enhance the security of the site and deter theft of equipment stored onsite.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

This project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303(e) (New Construction – Accessory Structures).

## FINDINGS

Following a public hearing, the Zoning Administrator may approve a use permit application, with or without conditions, only if all of the following findings can be made:

#### Use Permit Findings

A. The proposed use is allowed within the subject-zoning district and complies with all of the applicable provisions of Chapter 19.24 (Use Permits).

Pursuant to CMC 19.60.60(F), an electrified fence may be permitted in the ML zoning district subject to the issuance of a use permit. This use permit was processed in compliance with 19.24.

B. The proposed use would not be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the proposed use.

The project site is an industrial parcel surrounded by industrial and commercial uses. There are no residential uses or properties in the vicinity. The site is located at the terminus of Fair Street adjacent to Highway 99, in an area with little to no foot traffic. Furthermore, the new fence would be located 12 inches interior to the existing perimeter fence. As such, the proposed fencing is not expected to have detrimental effects on the surrounding neighborhood.

C. The proposed use will not be detrimental and/or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood of the proposed use, as well as the general welfare of the City.

The existing land use on the project site would not change. The proposed new fencing would improve onsite security and deter theft of equipped stored outdoors. Full public improvements including curb, gutter and sidewalk exist along the Fair Street frontage. Installation of the proposed fence is not anticipated to have any detrimental effects on property or improvements in the area.

D. The proposed use will be consistent with the policies, standards, and land use designations established by the General Plan.

The proposed use is accessory to a permitted use in the Manufacturing and Warehousing General Plan land use designation. There are no neighborhood or specific plans for this site.

E. The design, location, size, and operating characteristics of the proposed use are compatible with the existing and future land uses in the vicinity.

The proposed use is compatible with surrounding commercial and light industrial uses, as demonstrated by the existing land use.

#### CONDITIONS OF PROJECT APPROVAL

1. Use Permit 19-08 (United Rentals) authorizes the installation of an 8-foot low-voltage security fence at 2855 Fair Street, in general accord with the "Site Plan to Accompany Use Permit 19-08 (United Rentals)" and in compliance with all other conditions of approval.

- 2. The permittee shall comply with all other State and local Code provisions, including those of the Building Division, Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Butte County Environmental Health. The permittee is responsible for contacting these offices to verify the need for permits.
- 3. An acceptable sight-obscuring material shall be added to the existing chain-link perimeter fencing to decrease visibility of the outdoor storage area from the street and/or adjacent properties.
- 4. 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

A notice was published in the Chico Enterprise Record 10 days prior to the meeting date, and notices were mailed out to all property owners and tenants within 500 feet of the project site. As of this report's publication, staff has not received any public comments.

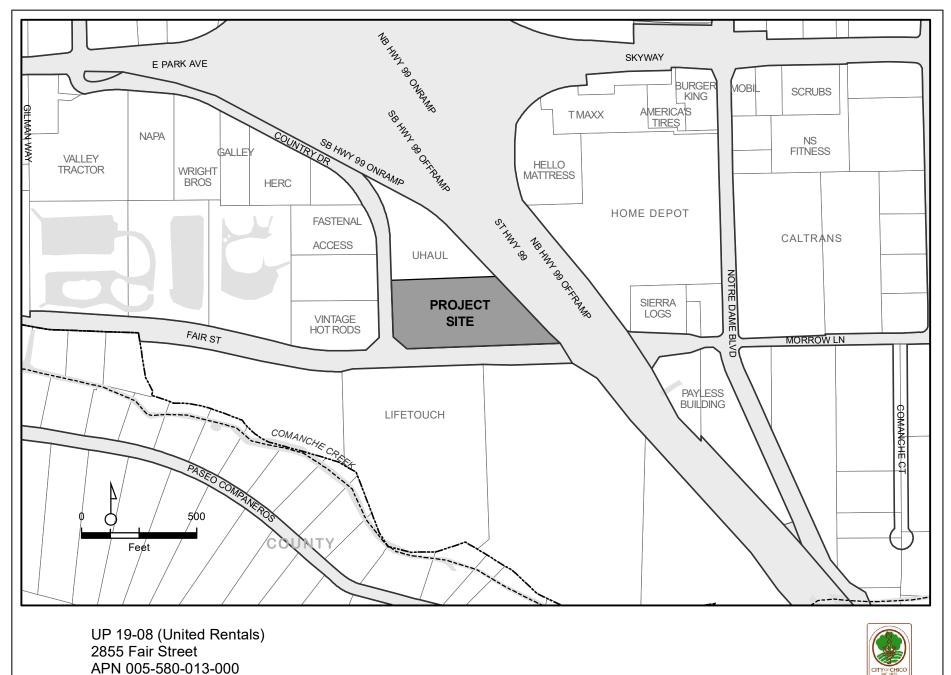
#### **DISTRIBUTION**:

Internal (2) Mike Sawley, Zoning Administrator Kelly Murphy, Project Planner

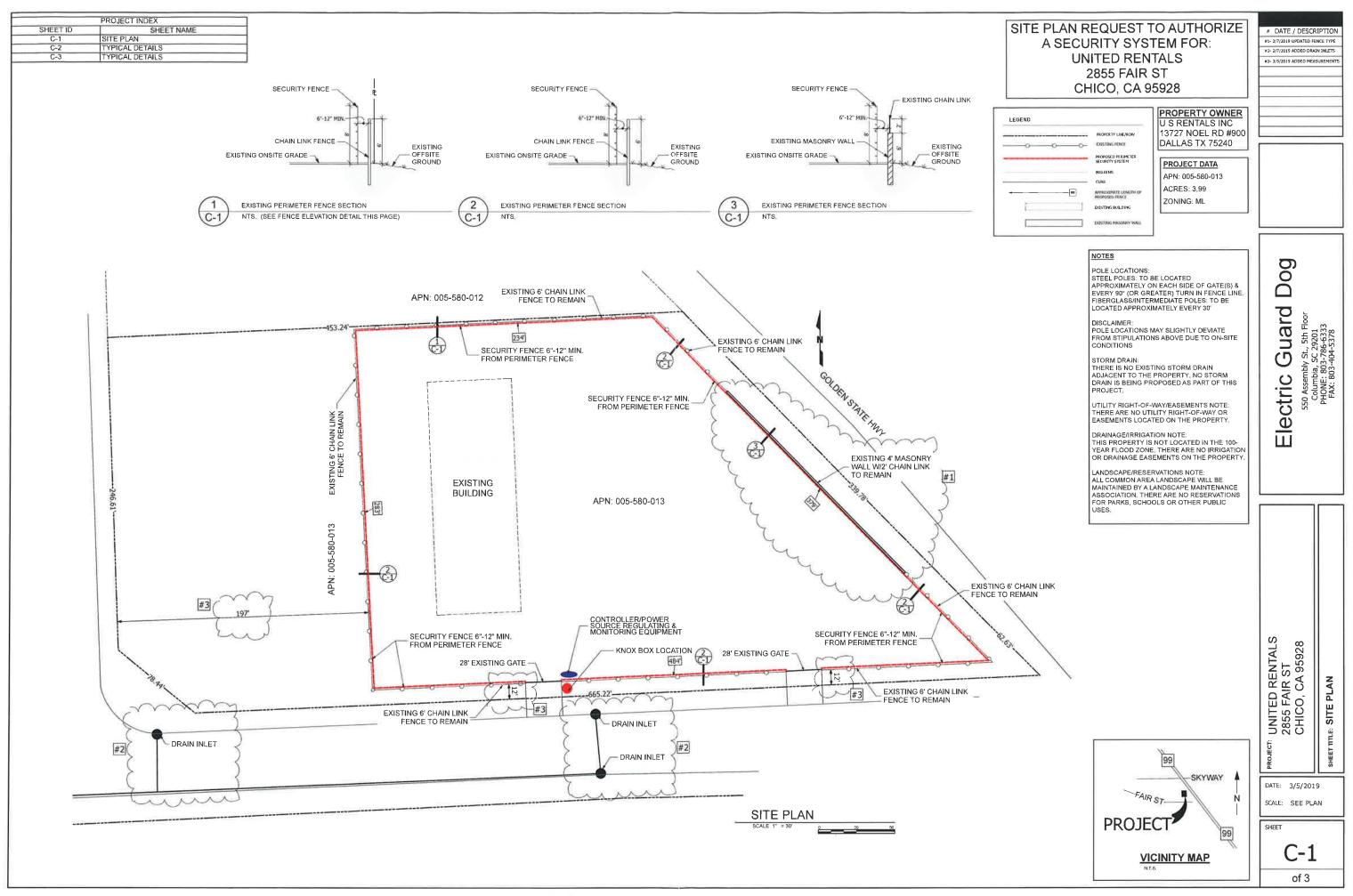
External (2) Electric Guard Dog LLC., Attn: Carol Bausinger, <u>cbausinger@electricguarddog.com</u> US Rentals Inc., 13727 Noel Road #900, Dallas, Texas, 75240

#### ATTACHMENTS:

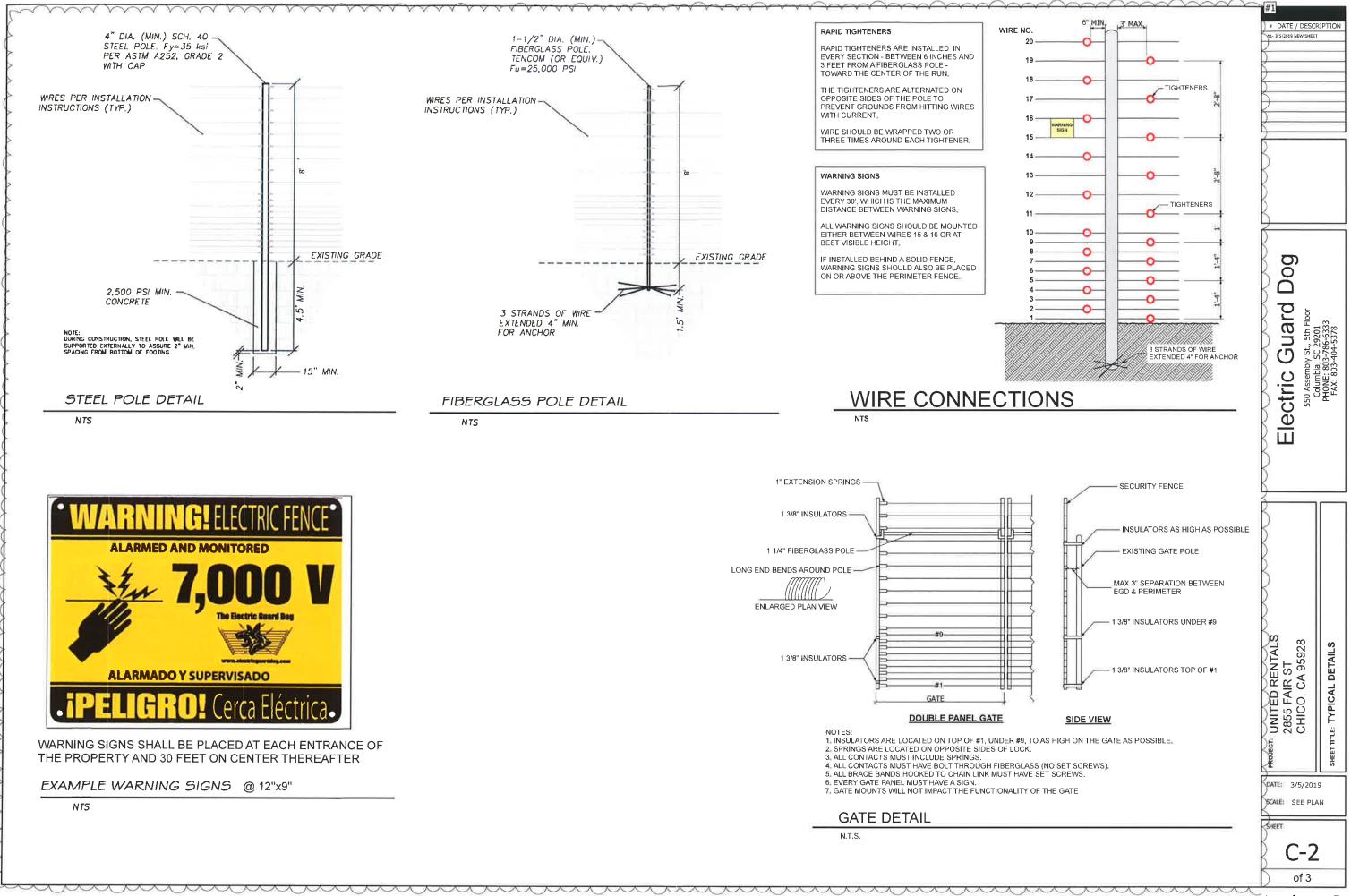
- A. Location Map
- B. Site Plan to Accompany Use Permit 19-08 (United Rentals)



Attachment A



Attachment B



Attachment B

