

**EL DORADO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**



**Agenda of:** January 10, 2008  
**Item No.:** 7.a.  
**Staff:** Michael C. Baron

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT REVISION**

**FILE NUMBER:** S85-0070R2

**APPLICANT:** Jean and Ren Reinders

**REQUEST:** Special Use Permit Revision to amend Condition #5 as follows:

A minimum of ~~126~~ 21 on-site parking spaces shall be provided for employees and patrons of the Fudge Factory. A minimum of one handicap accessible parking space shall be provided adjacent to the Fudge Factory building. The applicant shall install directional signs identifying the location of the on-site parking area, ~~and~~ Two employees shall be available to direct vehicles to the parking area that location 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekends and holidays as needed during peak hours.

**LOCATION:** On the east side of High Hill Road, approximately one-quarter mile north of the intersection of High Hill Road and Carson Road, in the Camino area, Supervisorial District III (Exhibit A).

**APN:** 048-160-44

**ACREAGE:** 10.01 acres

**GENERAL PLAN:** Agricultural lands-Agricultural District (AL-A) (Exhibit B)

**ZONING:** Select Agricultural 10-acre/Exclusive Agriculture (SA-10/AE) (Exhibit C)

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** Categorically Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301

**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:** Conditional Approval

**BACKGROUND:** The project site is located within the Select Agricultural 10 acre (SA-10) and Exclusive Agricultural zone districts, which are designed to allow for the sale, packing, processing, and other related activities associated with the primary agricultural use of the property. The subject parcel is 10.01 acres in size.

The Zoning Administrator approved S85-10 on October 30, 1985, allowing the applicant to make and sell confections (candy and fudge) and wood cabinets produced on the site in an accessory building as a home occupation. A complaint prompted the applicant to request the amendment to the existing Special Use Permit to legitimize the required number of parking spaces.

**STAFF ANALYSIS**

**Project Description:** The Special Use Permit requires a minimum of 126 parking spaces and two parking attendants to be onsite during hours of operation from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. The applicant requests to reduce the parking requirements as specified in Condition NO. 5. The applicant would provide 21 onsite parking spaces, with two employees to be used for directing vehicles to parking areas from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM, as needed during peak hours. The applicant has stated that customer traffic is closely tied to the apple harvest season where business can be slow or busy regardless of a weekend or holiday therefore, having parking attendants is not always necessary.

**Site Description:** The subject parcel is generally level adjacent to High Hill Road and has been developed with a graded graveled parking lot, a large cabinet shop, horse stable and corral, tractor shed, orchard, single family residence, and candy store. An additional level area for parking is located on the southwest side of the cabinet shop. The eastern portion of the property slopes to the east with moderate slopes of 15 to 20 percent.

**Adjacent Land Uses:**

	Zoning	General Plan	Land Use/Improvements
<b>Site</b>	SA-10/AE	AL-A	Single Family Residence/Light Industrial/Retail Candy Store/Commercial Agriculture
<b>North</b>	SA-10	AL-A	Single Family Residence/Agriculture
<b>South</b>	SA-10/AE	AL-A	Single Family Residence/ Retail Arts and Crafts/Commercial Agriculture
<b>East</b>	SA-10/AE	AL-A	Vacant
<b>West</b>	SA-10	AL-A	Single Family Residence/Agriculture

**General Plan:** The General Plan designates the subject site as Agricultural Lands within an Agricultural District. This designation permits a wide range of agricultural endeavors and ranch marketing activities. Typical uses include single family residences, agricultural support structures, and a full range of agricultural production uses.

**Discussion:** The General Plan does not specifically address the types of special use permits that may be issued in each land use category. Lacking a specific policy either permitting or discouraging such a use, the long-term practice of allowing special uses as identified in the Zoning Ordinance is a practice deemed consistent with the General Plan. However, it can be considered consistent only when the use is found to satisfy the provisions and required findings of Chapter 17.22 of the Zoning Ordinance, and is consistent with applicable General Plan policies.

**Zoning:** The proposed use is permitted in both the SA-10 and AE Zone Districts, pursuant to Section 17.36.240. In order to approve the use, the approving authority must find that the use is consistent with the General Plan and would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare nor injurious to the neighborhood. A reduction in parking stalls would not create a negative impact because the new parking calculation is consistent with Chapter 17.18 of the Zoning Ordinance requiring 2 spaces for the residence, 10 spaces for the cabinet shop, 3 spaces for the candy shop, and 6 spaces for the picnic area. Furthermore, based on analysis and comments received from the applicant reducing the number of parking attendants would not create a negative impact because the applicant is only asking that they not be required to be present at all times in the parking lot when there is no traffic. Based on comments received from public agencies, citizens' groups, and impacted neighbors, as discussed below, staff finds that the project would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare and not injurious to the neighborhood.

**Agency and Public Comments:** The following agencies provided conditions of approval for this project:

**Department of Transportation:** The Department provided conditions for approval, specifically requiring the applicant to widen High Hill Road to a half width of 12 feet along the entire on-site property frontage and required the applicant to enter into a road maintenance entity to maintain all roads not maintained by the County.

**El Dorado County Fire Protection District:** The fire district would require the applicant to install a new fire hydrant. The location of the fire hydrant shall be determined by the fire district. The fire district would require the applicant to submit interior improvement plans for the cabinet shop in order to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This project has been found to be Categorically Exempt from the requirements of CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines stating that, Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. Pursuant to Resolution No. 240-93, a \$50.<sup>00</sup> processing fee is required by the County Recorder to file the Notice of Exemption.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. Certify that the project is Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines; and
2. Approve the Special Use Permit revision S85-0070R-2 subject to the conditions in Attachment 1, based on the findings in Attachment 2.

**SUPPORT INFORMATION**

**Attachments to Staff Report:**

Attachment 1 .....	Conditions of Approval
Attachment 2 .....	Findings
Exhibit A .....	Vicinity Map
Exhibit B .....	General Plan Land Use Map
Exhibit C .....	Agriculture District
Exhibit D .....	Zoning Map
Exhibit E .....	Assessor's Map
Exhibit F .....	Site Plan

# ATTACHMENT 1

## CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Planning Commission/January 10, 2008  
File Number S85-0070-R

### CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

#### S85-70/S85-70R

#### Conditions of Approval

1. The following structures & uses shall be allowed under this use permit:

**a. The Fudge Factory building (approximately 1,200 square feet);**

i. All candies and confections sold on site must be manufactured on site.

ii. No candies, crafts, or other food items not produced on site may be offered for sale.

iii. The Fudge Factory may have a maximum of 12 seasonal weekend employees at any one time during the peak season hours of operation (September 30 to December 30, each calendar year). The Fudge Factory may have one permanent full-time employee during the peak season (September 30 to December 30, each calendar year) and during the off-peak season (April 1 to September 30, each calendar year).

iv. The Fudge Factory hours of operation shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday during the peak season (September 30 to December 30, each calendar year); and the off-peak season (April 1 to September 30, each calendar year) hours of operation shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday only.

**b. Cabinet Shop (4,032 square feet);**

i. No on-site sales shall be allowed from the cabinet shop.

ii. The Cabinet Shop may have one permanent full-time employee in addition to the current resident of the single family residence on the property. The cabinet shop may utilize one part-time employee during the off-peak season for Apple Hill (April 1 to September 30, each calendar year).

iii. The Cabinet Shop hours of operation shall be Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

~~iv. No deliveries onto or off of the property shall be made on weekends during the peak Apple Hill season (September 30 to December 30, each calendar year).~~

~~e. **Office trailer (500 square feet).**~~

~~i. No on-site sales shall be allowed from the office trailer.~~

~~ii. The office trailer hours of operation shall be the same as those identified for the Cabinet Shop.~~

1. This Special Use Permit Revision is based upon and limited to compliance with the project description, the Planning Commission hearing exhibits marked Exhibit F dated \_\_\_\_\_, and conditions of approval set forth below. Any deviations from the project description, exhibits, or conditions must be reviewed and approved by the County for conformity with this approval. Deviations may require approved changes to the permit and/or further environmental review. Deviations without the above described approval will constitute a violation of permit approval.

The project description is as follows:

Special Use Permit Revision to amend Condition #5 as follows:

A minimum of ~~126~~ 21 on-site parking spaces shall be provided for employees and patrons of the Fudge Factory. A minimum of one handicap accessible parking space shall be provided adjacent to the Fudge Factory building. The applicant shall install directional signs identifying the location of the on-site parking area. ~~and~~ Two employees shall be available to direct vehicles to the parking area ~~that location~~ 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., ~~weekends and holidays~~ as needed during peak hours.

2. The preparation of all candies and confections shall be in compliance with the current Uniform Retail Food Facilities Law and all requirements of the El Dorado County Environmental Management division.

3. All structures on the site shall have a permit from the El Dorado County Building Department.

4. The parking area identified on the site plan shall be gravel based and shall be maintained with no obstructions. No materials may be stored, and no permanent or temporary structures may be placed in the parking area.

5. A minimum of ~~126~~ 21 on-site parking spaces shall be provided for employees and patrons of the Fudge Factory. A minimum of one handicap accessible parking space shall be provided adjacent to the Fudge Factory building. The applicant shall install

directional signs identifying the location of the on-site parking area and two employees to ~~shall~~ direct vehicles to the parking area that location 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., ~~weekends and holidays~~ as needed during peak hours.

6. The applicant shall be subject to the County Traffic Impact Mitigation (TIM) fee. Pursuant to Resolution 32-98, said fee shall be due upon issuance of this special use permit. If prior to the issuance of the special use permit for said project a revised fee is established, such revised amount shall be paid. (This fee applies only to the 2,300 square foot expansion of the cabinet shop)
7. The applicant shall be subject to the State Infrastructure Traffic Impact Mitigation (TIM) fee. Pursuant to Resolution 31-98, said fee shall be due upon issuance of this special use permit. If prior to the issuance of the special use permit for said project a revised fee is established, such revised amount shall be paid. (This fee applies only to the 2,300 square foot expansion of the cabinet shop).
8. The Cabinet Shop shall submit a Hazardous Materials Management Plan (HMMP) to the El Dorado County Environmental Management department for review and approval. The applicant shall provide information in the HMMP on all hazardous materials utilized in the Cabinet Shop operation.
9. The applicant shall provide either permanent restroom facilities or portable restroom facilities on-site for the use of customers during the peak season based on an evaluation from Environmental Management as to what is adequate. Signs shall be placed on-site identifying the location of the restroom facilities. These facilities shall be reviewed and approved by the Environmental Health Department. Additionally, an adequate number of trash receptacles (minimum of 6) shall be placed upon the property.
10. All signs on the property shall conform with the provisions of Chapter 17.16 and Section 17.36.230 (C) of the Zoning Ordinance.
11. The applicant will move forward to comply with the County Ranch Marketing Ordinance.
12. The permit will be reviewed in February 2002, and at that time, the applicant will submit records of employment for the previous Apple Hill Season.
13. In the event of any legal action instituted by a third party challenging the validity of any provision of this approval, the landowner agree to be responsible for the costs of defending such suit and shall hold County harmless from any legal fees or costs County may incur as a result of such action, as provided in Section 66474.9(b) of the California Government Code. The landowner shall defend, indemnify, and hold harmless El Dorado County and its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against El Dorado County or its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set

aside, void, or annul an approval of El Dorado County concerning a proposed development, which action is brought within the time period provided for in Section 66499.37. County shall notify the landowner of any claim, action, or proceeding and County will cooperate fully in the defense.

14. The applicant shall make the actual and full payment of planning processing fees for the special use permit revision prior to the issuance of an approval letter for the special use permit revision.

#### **El Dorado County Department of Transportation**

1315. The applicant shall widen the High Hill Road to a half width of 12 feet along the entire on-site property frontage, per El Dorado County Standard Plan 101C prior to issuance of the special use permit.

1416. The applicant shall irrevocably offer to dedicate the onsite 25 foot wide road and public utility easement along the entire property frontage along High Hill Road. This offer will be rejected by the County.

1517. The developer shall enter into an Improvement Agreement with the County and provide security to guarantee performance of the Improvement Agreement as set forth within the County of El Dorado Subdivision Ordinance, prior to issuance of the special use permit.

1618. Prior to issuance of the special use permit, the applicant shall join and/or form an entity, satisfactory to Department of Transportation, to maintain all roads not maintained by the County.

#### **El Dorado County Fire Protection District**

1719. Site/inspection review fee of \$150.00.

1820. One new fire hydrant is required. The Fire District shall approve the location of the fire hydrant.



# **ATTACHMENT 2 FINDINGS**

**Planning Commission/January 10, 2008  
File Number S85-0070R**

Based on the review and analysis of this project by staff and affected agencies, and supported by discussion in the staff report and evidence in the record, the following findings can be made:

## **1.0 CEQA Findings**

- 1.1 The project has been found to be Categorical Exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15301 stating that, Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.
- 1.2 The documents and other materials, which constitute the record of proceedings upon which the decision is based, are in the custody of the Development Services Department-Planning Services at 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95567.

## **2.0 SPECIAL USE PERMIT FINDINGS**

### **2.1 The issuance of the permit is consistent with the General Plan;**

The Special Use Permit Revision, as conditioned is consistent with General Plan since the revision is only a modification of existing conditions with no expansion of existing facilities.

### **2.2 The proposed use would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare, or injurious to the neighborhood;**

The El Dorado County Department of Transportation and the El Dorado County Fire Protection District have determined that with the inclusion specific conditions of approval the Special Use Permit Revision would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare, or injurious to the neighborhood.

**2.3 The proposed use is permitted by special use permit pursuant to Chapter 17.14.**

Both the Select Agriculture 10-acre and Exclusive Agriculture Zone Districts (SA-10/AE) allow the cabinet shop and sales of confections made onsite by Special Use Permit. The project is a modification of a previously approved Special Use Permit and the modifications to the conditions of approval do not include an expansion of the existing facilities. It has been determined that the modification is consistent with the intent of the provisions outlined in Chapter 17.14 of the Zoning Ordinance.