Resolution
No. 2013-015  
A resolution amending conditions of approval and site plan for Conditional Use Permit No. 257; Catheys Valley Baptist Church. Assessor Parcel Number: 016-270-013

WHEREAS an application requesting to amend the conditions of approval for Conditional Use Permit No. 257 was received on September 13, 2013 from Catheys Valley Baptist Church for a property located at 4565 Cornets Entrance Road in Catheys Valley, Assessor Parcel Number 016-270-013; and

WHEREAS the project proposes to amend the conditions of approval and site plan to allow for 6 RV spaces for limited and intermittent use by volunteer builders/contractors and missionaries and appurtenant structures; and

WHEREAS the project also proposes to amend the approved site plan; and

WHEREAS the original Conditional Use Permit No. 257 approved site plan allowed for the construction of a church; and

WHEREAS only the church structure was constructed within the original three year timeframe allowed; and

WHEREAS the amended site plan proposes the construction of a fellowship hall with a storage room, a Sunday school classroom building, and RV spaces; and

WHEREAS a duly noticed public hearing was scheduled for the 4th day of October 2013; and

WHEREAS based upon the applicant’s request the Planning Commission continued the public hearing to the 18th day of October 2013; and

WHEREAS a finding has been made that the project is exempt from environmental review; and

WHEREAS a Staff Report and Notice of Exemption were prepared pursuant to the California Government Code, Mariposa County Code, California Environmental Quality Act, and local administrative procedures; and

WHEREAS a Staff Report was prepared pursuant to the California Government Code, Mariposa County Code, and local administrative procedures; and

WHEREAS the Planning Commission did hold a public hearing on the continued date of October 18, 2013 and considered all of the information in the public record, including
the Staff Report, testimony presented by the public concerning the application, and the comments of the applicant.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Planning Commission does hereby approve Amended Conditions Application No. 2013-149; and

BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the project is approved based upon findings set forth in Exhibit 1 with the terms and conditions set forth in Exhibit 2.

ON MOTION BY Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Becker, this resolution is duly passed and adopted on the 18th day of October 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: Harris, Becker, Harter, and Marsden

NOES:

EXCUSED:

ABSTAIN:

Les Marsden, Chair
Mariposa County Planning Commission

Attest:

Judy Mueller, Secretary to the
Mariposa County Planning Commission
EXHIBIT 1
PROJECT FINDINGS
FOR
AMENDED CONDITIONS APPLICATION NO. 2013-149

Pursuant to Mariposa County Zoning Ordinance, Section 17.112.040, it is found that:

1. That adequate open space is being provided.

   The site is currently developed with a church, parking, landscaping, and other appurtenant structures. The original approval for Conditional Use Permit No. 257 included the structures being proposed as part of the amended site plan in slightly different locations. All of the development will be situated on a 5 acre parcel, which will include undeveloped areas. Staff estimated that about 80% of the parcel open space will be maintained, which is adequate open space for this project. This will continue with the approval of the amended site plan.

2. That the site is physically suited for the proposed development.

   The site is currently zoned Mountain Home. The parcel is mostly flat making the site physically suited for this development. There are adequate areas on-site for sewage, water and parking. The parcel to the north and east have residential development. The parcels to the west are in the agricultural exclusive zone and are used mostly for cattle grazing. The parcel to the south is zoned Mountain Home and is currently vacant. Mitigation was proposed to ensure that this project does not conflict with adjacent uses.

3. That adequate provisions have been made for sewage disposal and handling of solid waste.

   The enforcement of County Health Department standards and the proposed conditions of approval will insure that sewage and solid waste disposal are handled adequately.

4. That the proposed development will have adequate potable water for public use and fire protection.

   The State Department of Health Services Office of Public Drinking Water requires a permit for on-site public drinking water facilities for the church. This permitting procedure establishes requirements for the quantity and quality of water available for public use. A condition of approval for the use permit required the applicant to obtain the necessary permit and submit evidence of the permit to the Planning Director prior to occupancy of the structure.

   The proposed project has been reviewed and is protected by the Mariposa County Fire Department. The applicant shall contact the fire department for verification of current fire protection development requirements at the time of building permit
application. The proposed structure shall comply with existing Uniform Fire Code requirements and all applicable statutes, codes, ordinances, or standards of the fire department.

5. That the project complies with all standard and special setback requirements and appropriate buffers have been provided for adjacent land uses.

The existing church is located in the center and slightly towards the front of the property and poses no property line setback issues. The proposed fellowship hall and education building will be required to meet the required setback standards from property lines. Staff estimates that approximately 80 percent open space is being maintained on-site. The required landscaping for exterior uses and the parking lot area shall provide appropriate buffers from adjacent land uses.

6. That appropriate access is available or is proposed to the development.

The proposed project is for a fellowship hall and educational building as part of an existing small rural church and will not substantially increase traffic flow. The additional appurtenant structures and slight change in approved hours of operation will not increase occupancy of the church. Public Works Department review of the project did not identify a need to improve Cornett’s Entrance Road or Old Highway.

7. That the proposed use is consistent with the policies and standards of the general plan and any applicable specific plan.

As proposed, and pursuant to Finding No. 10 and Condition No. 21, this project is not inconsistent with the setback standards of the Mariposa County zoning ordinance and will have no detrimental effect on the policies and standards of the County General Plan.

The General Plan allows for churches in the Residential land use with discretionary permits. The existing church was established through approved Use Permit No. 257. The amended site plan and conditions will allow for the development of appurtenant structures to the church: a fellowship hall with attached kitchen and an educational building. The approval of RV spaces is not for recreational purposes. The RV spaces may only be used on an intermittent basis in conjunction with an approved development permit for the church or in conjunction with missionary work associated with the church.

8. That the project as approved will not have a significant effect on the environment, or the significant impacts have been eliminated or substantially lessened, or determined that the significant effects are unavoidable and acceptable due to overriding concerns.

The Planning Commission adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Conditional Use Permit No. 257 on June 19, 1998. Staff is recommending that the Planning Commission find that the project is exempt from environmental review based on General Rule Exemption; Section 15061 (b) (2), CEQA Guidelines. There is an existing approved Conditional Use Permit for a church to operate on the project site.
The Fellowship Hall and Sunday School Classrooms are appurtenant to the church use and will serve the existing members of the church and will not increase the capacity of the church. The RV sites are only proposed to be for temporary use and conditions have been applied that will minimize the impacts created by these. Only minor changes are being made to the approved site plan for Conditional Use Permit No. 257. Based upon an evaluation of the project, for the particular case and in relationship to the permitted uses through an existing Conditional Use Permit on the property, the proposed changes to the originally approved project will not have any impact on the environment. There are existing permit processes in place, which are required prior to installation, to ensure that all potential impacts associated with the project will be addressed by the appropriate agencies.

9. That the establishment, maintenance, or operation of the use applied for will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of the persons residing or working in the neighborhood of such proposed use, and will not be injurious or detrimental to property and improvements in the neighborhood or the general welfare of the county.

Exterior light requirements will insure that the surrounding properties are not exposed to excessive light impacts from the new church facility. Conditions for setbacks and landscaping will ensure an appropriate buffer is maintained for the RV sites. The operation of a religious facility, and educational activities under the governance of a religious group, will not be detrimental to the health, safety, morals, comfort, and general welfare of the county or surrounding community.

10. FINDING: The approval of the Amended Site Plan is not an approval of the "Proposed Property Line." A property line adjustment is subject to the completion of a Lot Line Adjustment (LLA) process, including filing of Certificates of Completion on both adjusted parcels.
EXHIBIT 2

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL AND MITIGATION MEASURES
FOR
Amended Conditions Application No. 2013-149

1. The Use Permit is approved for construction of a church building, parking facilities, a recreational ball field, an outdoor picnic area, a fellowship hall, Sunday school classrooms, a mobile home, 6 RV spaces and other site improvements in accordance with the approved site plan on file at the Planning Department (date stamped October 02, 2013 by the Planning Department), and in accordance with all conditions established herein. The approval includes an existing 6,000 sq. ft structure which includes a church, two office rooms and a preschool. Approval also is for a mobile home for residential purposes, a 48’ by 80’ fellowship hall, a 50’ by 120’ Sunday school classroom structure, a 20’ by 20’ mechanical room and storage area.

The hours of operation for the church and preschool shall be as follows:

Church: Sunday 6 a.m. – 10 p.m., and Wednesday 6 – 8pm
Church Office: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Preschool: Tuesday - Thursday 8-11a.m.

The ball field and picnic area may only be used from sunrise to sunset, to minimize potential noise impacts on adjacent residential land uses.

Minor amendments in the configuration, materials, and periods of operation of the church development may be approved by the Planning Director provided that any expansion does not exceed 10% of the size of area of the approved facility (any amount of a reduction in size of area of the facility may be allowed), and provided a finding can be made that the modification does not create impacts which were not addressed in the original approval. The use permit is granted for use of the building for religious worship and educational proposes by the church members only, and other church related functions. The property is located at 4565 Cornett’s Entrance Road.

2. Prior to issuance of any building permit, the applicant shall submit scaled parking plans for the church and preschool. The plan shall meet the following: one (1) parking space shall be provided for each four(4) fixed seats in the sanctuary (18 linear inches along a bench is considered 1 fixed seat) or one (1) space per 50 square feet of building area if fixed seats are not provided.
One space per 200 sq. ft. shall be provided for the two offices.

The parking lots, and driveways shall be surfaced and maintained with an all weather surfacing which may be crushed rock or road base. The parking lots shall also comply with all handicapped accessibility requirements as established by Title 24 of California Code of Regulations.

Wheel stops shall be installed two feet from the edges of pedestrian walkways, planters, and landscaped areas in order to protect these areas from vehicular damage.

3. The church building design shall meet the same conceptual design as the church picture submitted by the applicant, including steeple, portico at the front door, windows, trim, and wood siding. The fellowship hall and classroom buildings shall be a complementary design to the church building. The base color for the proposed buildings shall be a color which blends with the colors of the surrounding environment. The roof of the buildings shall be of a dark color and non reflective. The applicant shall submit building elevations, a full set of plans for the buildings and a color palette showing the proposed colors for the building, siding of natural materials, trim, portico, and roofing, etc. which shall be approved by the Planning Director prior to issuance of a building permit to construct the proposed buildings.

4. All exterior lighting fixtures shall be of a hooded type, and shall be designed and located so as to confine lighting directly on the premises. Lighting should be of minimum, but adequate intensity. Exterior lighting fixtures shall not shine light upon or directly illuminate any surface other than the area required to be lighted. A lighting plan and the design of the lighting fixtures must be submitted to the Planning Department prior to issuance of a building permit. Lighting fixtures shall not be installed in the picnic area and ball field.

5. Prior to the issuance of a building permit for the proposed church development, the applicant shall submit a landscaping plot plan for the ball field, picnic area, and the parking lot.

6. All landscaping shall be maintained in good condition in order to present a healthy and neat appearance for the life of the development. Dead or diseased plants shall be replaced as soon as possible and no later than 6 months from the time the plant died.

Additional landscaping is required to be installed along the northern property line in the location of the RV spaces to screen RVs from adjacent properties. A landscaping plan for the RV spaces must be submitted and approved by the Planning Director prior to issuance of building or Health Department permits for the RV spaces. Approved landscaping shall be installed prior to the use of the RV spaces. Low water and low maintenance landscaping is encouraged.

7. Refuse storage areas, dumpsters, and propane tanks shall be screened from view from adjoining parcels and the road. Proposed locations and screening of these
facilities shall be reviewed and approved by the Planning Department prior to issuance of a building permit.

8. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy to any building on the project site a wastewater disposal system shall be designed and installed in accordance with the County Health Department’s specifications and requirements.

9. Provisions shall be made for the on-site storage of all solid waste generated during construction and operation of the project. All solid waste shall be removed from the site on a weekly basis to maintain the site in a safe and attractive condition.

10. Prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, the applicant shall apply for and receive a domestic water supply permit from the State Department of Health Services/Drinking Water Field Operations Branch. Verification of the domestic water supply permit shall be submitted to the Planning Director.

11. Prior to the issuance of a building permit and prior to issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy, all fees associated with the County’s processing of this project, and filing of associated documents and issuance of any approvals/reviews shall be paid.

12. Signs shall comply with size requirement in the Section 17.76.020.D of the Zoning Ordinance. The signs shall not extend above the peak of the roof of the building on which the sign is located.

13. The applicant shall contact the Mariposa County Fire Department for verification of current fire protection development requirements. All new construction shall comply with existing Uniform Fire Code requirements and all applicable statutes, codes, ordinances, or standards of the fire department.

14. An encroachment permit shall be obtained from the Mariposa County Public Works Department prior to any work being done on Cornett’s Entrance Road. In addition, all grading and road improvement work required as a condition of approval of this project shall comply with the Mariposa County Improvement Standards and all requirements contained therein. The County Engineer may require engineered improvement plans prepared by a Registered Civil Engineer for any improvements required as a condition of approval for this project. All engineered improvement plans shall be approved by the County Engineer prior to commencement of construction work on the required road improvements.

15. The use permit shall be null and void if not used and/or fully implemented within fifteen (15) years from the date of Planning Commission approval (Mariposa County Zoning Ordinance 17.140.010) (June 21, 2028).

16. Written permission from the Health Department is required for the use of portable restrooms.

17. The use of the RV spaces is limited for use by missionaries and builders/contractors subject to the limitations below. The use of the six (6) RV spaces is limited to a maximum of a week (7 days) three times per calendar year for missionaries (21
days total combined). Each day that any space is occupied by missionaries counts towards the 21 day limit. In addition, the use of the RV spaces by builders and contractors shall be limited to three (3) weeks at a time. Builder/contractor stays are only permitted while there is an active building permit on file for the project site with the Mariposa County Building Department and there is active construction work occurring. Prior to the initiation of any stay, the applicant shall provide the Mariposa County Planning Department in writing, the number of spaces to be used, the length of stays, and whether it is a builder/contractor or a missionary. The RV spaces are not approved for recreational use. The RV spaces and their use of them shall not be allowed to become a nuisance with regards to light, noise, odor, dust, or smoke.

Upon completion of all construction allowed by the approved site plan or by June 21, 2028, whichever comes first, four (4) of the six (6) RV spaces must be disabled and removed.

18. Prior to commencement of use of the RV spaces the applicant shall contact the Mariposa County Building Department and the Mariposa County Health Department for permitting requirements and shall obtain all necessary permits. Existing improvements may be required to be removed and reinstalled to meet permitting requirements.

19. Prior to commencement of use of the RV spaces the applicant shall contact the California Department of Housing and Community Development to determine whether any permits are necessary from that department. Proof that a permit is not required or that the permitting process has been completed shall be provided to the Mariposa County Planning Department. Existing improvements may be required to be removed and reinstalled to meet permitting requirements.

20. RVs are not allowed to be located closer than 25 feet from the property line. RV utilities may be required to be relocated to meet this requirement. A physical barrier or delineation of the approved spaces shall be provided to preclude the RVs from parking closer than 25 feet from the property line.

21. All structures are required to meet required setbacks of 25 feet from property lines. (If the proposed property line adjustment as shown on site plan date stamped October 02, 2013 by the Mariposa County Planning Department is not submitted, approved, and completed with the filing of Certificates of Compliance for both parcels, the structure labeled Future Sunday School Classrooms will need to be relocated to meet the required property line setbacks.)

22. Failure to comply with all conditions of approval shall be cause for revocation of Conditional Use Permit No. 257 as amended.