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## **NEWS RELEASE – MARCH 17, 2009**

### **DOWNTOWN SPECIFIC PLAN ON THE AGENDA FOR CITY COUNCIL 3/24**

Defining the downtown area with attractive gateway entrances, public art, tree plantings, façade and building renovations, walkways, alley and streetscape improvements are all part of the proposed Downtown Specific Plan update being presented to the Twentynine Palms City Council this month.

At their next regular meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, at City Hall, the Council will hear a status report from Community Development Director Charles LaClaire regarding the progress that has been made to date by Pacific Municipal Consultants (PMC), hired in 2008 to help the City of Twentynine Palms develop a Specific Plan for economic revitalization of the downtown area.

The progress report will include information from PMC's recent meeting with Caltrans regarding possible constraints to street improvements and development along the Twentynine Palms Highway. The consultant is also asking for verification or changes regarding the Council's vision and goals for development of the downtown area, design concepts, and mixture of future land use designations, including retail and office space, residential units, and possible artist studio/gallery districts.

The Downtown Specific Plan, which comprises approximately 86 acres of commercial and mixed-use land along portions of the highway and Adobe Road, will eventually be integrated into the update of the City's General Plan.

"Feedback and public input is essential at this stage of the process," LaClaire said, "and Twentynine Palms residents and business owners in the downtown area are encouraged to attend and participate in the City Council meeting on March 24."

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