

El Prado hardware store headed for final vote

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The Taos News, 10/25/2018

A final vote to either approve or deny a new hardware store in El Prado near KTAOS and the Old Blinking Light is scheduled for next month.

The Taos County Commission will hear the application for a northside Ace hardware store, as well as other retail space, at a public hearing set for Nov. 27 at 9 a.m. All commission meetings happen in the Commission chambers at 105 Albright Street in Taos.

The plan to build a new hardware store, which would be near the existing north side Randall Lumber and Hardware store, was formally submitted to the county in April. After some back and forth with the Taos County Planning Department, the plan was deemed complete Sept. 10 and received conditional approval at the planning commission meeting Oct. 10.

The project proposal calls for a 17,268 square-foot hardware store, 7,085 square feet of retail and office space, a 4,671 square-foot restaurant and a 2,105 square-foot cafe. Half of the 6.8 acre lot will be kept open space, and plans have been laid out to preserve a nearby acequia.

If approved, water would be supplied by the El Prado Water and Sanitation District. An April 3 letter from the district said the property “will have access to the (El Prado) water system for domestic use as well as fire protection, subject to the funding being available and the main water line being complete by the end of 2018.”