

CONSULTANT:
N.E.S. Inc.
619 North Cascade Avenue,
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Page 1 of 4

REQUEST

GTL Inc. is requesting approval of the following applications:

1. A PUD Development/Preliminary Plan for the Rolling Hills Ranch Filings 1-3, consisting of 725 single-family dwelling lots, landscaping, open space, and trails on approximately 252 acres.
2. A Final Plat for Rolling Hills Ranch Filing 1, consisting of 262 lots and 4 tracts for landscaping, open space, and utilities on approximately 95 acres.
3. A PUD Modification of ECM Section 2.5.2.C.4 in relation to the requirement to provide midblock pedestrian crossings.
4. Early Metro District improvements.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

a. Consistency with Approved Sketch Plan

An amendment to the Sketch Plan for Meridian Ranch was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on March 14, 2018. This shows the land use designation of the area now comprising the Rolling Hills Ranch as MR-R3 (3 du/ac).

The PUD Development/Preliminary Plan for Rolling Hills Ranch Filings 1-3 comprises 725 lots on approximately 251 acres, which represents a density of 2.98 dwellings per acre. The net density, excluding the tracts and right-of-way is 5.21 dwellings per acre. The PUD Development/ Preliminary Plan is, therefore, in accordance with the approved Sketch Plan.

b. County Policy Plan and Small Area Plan Compliance

Meridian Ranch is identified as part of the Approved Development Pattern within the Falcon/Peyton Small Area Plan. As such it accords with the goals of the plan to meet the housing needs of existing and new residents with a diversity and variety of housing type, size, and location.

The proposed residential subdivision also satisfies the following policies of the County Policy Plan:

Policy 6.1.3: Encourage new development which is contiguous and compatible with previously developed areas in terms of factors such as density, land use and access.

Policy 6.1.11: Plan and implement land development so that it will be functionally and aesthetically integrated within the context of adjoining properties and uses.

c. Parks and Open Space Requirement

Rolling Hills Ranch Filings 1-3 includes open space tracts approximately 66 acres in size including trail connections to the extensive trail and open space provisions within Meridian Ranch. As required by Section 8.5.3 of the Land Development Code, the fees in lieu of park land dedication are \$272 per

subdivision lot for Urban Parks and \$430 per subdivision lot for Regional Parks. The required fees in lieu for this project are:

	Rolling Hills Ranch Filings 1-3
Urban	\$197,200
Regional	\$311,750
Total	\$508,950

The regional park fees are offset by the dedication of land to the County for the Falcon Regional Park per the overall Parks Land Agreement for Meridian Ranch. Credit for the urban park fees will be requested through a Parks Land Agreement at the time of platting to offset the costs of construction the neighborhood park, landscaped open space and trail improvements referenced above.

d. PUD Modification

Section 2.5.2.C.4 of the ECM states that block lengths in excess of 600 feet shall require pedestrian access to be provided approximately midway through the block. In this area of development for the 725 lots, the need for a midblock crossing is not considered necessary as there is no pedestrian destination in these areas that would necessitate a midblock crossing that the current attached sidewalks and open space trail connections wont already facilitate.

e. Drainage

A Preliminary/Final Drainage Report for the Rolling Hills Ranch is submitted with this application package.

f. Traffic

A Traffic Report prepared by LSC is submitted in support of this application.

g. Geotechnical Report

A Geotechnical Report prepared by Entech Engineering Inc. is submitted in support of this application.

h. Utilities

Meridian Service Metropolitan District will provide central water and sanitary sewer service to the project. Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. will supply electricity service and Black Hills Energy will supply natural gas.

i. Wildlife

Rolling Hills Ranch is in a developing area and there is no significant impact to wildlife.

In accordance with the impact identification report of the Meridian Ranch Sketch Plan, in 2009 the property was assessed for Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse and Ute Ladies'-tresses Orchid habitat but was found to be unsuitable for these threatened species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the studies and agreed with these findings.

At the time of the 2009 Sketch Plan approval, the Colorado Division of Wildlife Impact Maps indicated that Pronghorn Antelope may range within the Sketch Plan area. Pronghorn Antelope are rated as being subject to potentially moderate impacts from the effects of development. The two drainage corridors within the Meridian Ranch Sketch Plan may allow for the migration of the Pronghorn Antelope. The fencing used within Meridian Ranch is compatible with the wildlife needs.