#### STERLING RANCH EAST FILING 5 PRELIMINARY PLAN

#### **LETTER OF INTENT**

Please see comments provided by engineering on the Letter of Intent for Sterling Ranch East Filing 5, P237, and update accordingly.

#### **AUGUST 2023**

#### OWNER/APPLICANT:

CLASSIC SRJ LAND, LLC 2138 FLYING HORSE CLUB DR. COLORADO SPRINGS. CO 80921

#### **CONSULTANT:**

N.E.S. INC.
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General comment this letter appears to focuses on preliminary plan please verify it also addresses the rezone request and criteria for approval. rezone is approved before a preliminary plan at hearings.

There is now one LOI that addressed both the Rezone and the

Acknowledged

Preliminary Plan, and includes criteria for both applications.

Revised

#### **SITE DETAILS:**

**TSN:** 5233000018, 5200000552

ACREAGE: 47.17 ACRES CONTAINING A CALCULATED AREA OF 42.033 ACRES ← Revised

(1,830,966 SF)/ legal description rezone

**CURRENT ZONING: RR-5** 

PROPOSED ZONING: RS-5000 CONTAINING A CALCULATED AREA OF 47.168 ACRES Revised

for preliminary plan

**CURRENT USE: VACANT LAND** 

PCD FILE #: P

P237 & SP235"

Revised can you state why there different

acreages for reader

please

N.E.S. Inc. on behalf of Classic SRJ Land LLC requests approval of the following applications:

1. 47.17AC Preliminary Plan for Sterling Ranch East Filing 5; a 160 lot detached single-family development including a 4.63AC community park site, 1.34AC for parks, open space and drainage and a 4.56AC detention basin

2. Rezone of 42.033AC from RR-5 to RS-5000

and a concurrent preliminary plan request. (rezone is first in the order of requests)

3. A finding of water sufficiency with the Preliminary Plan and subsequent Final Plats to be approved administratively.

. Acknowledged

Did you want to request early grading so you dont have to come back later to the BOCC?

- No

File #:

Has the RR0.5 land already been used in another density calculation? It can only be used once- is that why the prelim is larger than the rezone? address please.

Yes, so this needs to be excluded when calculating density.

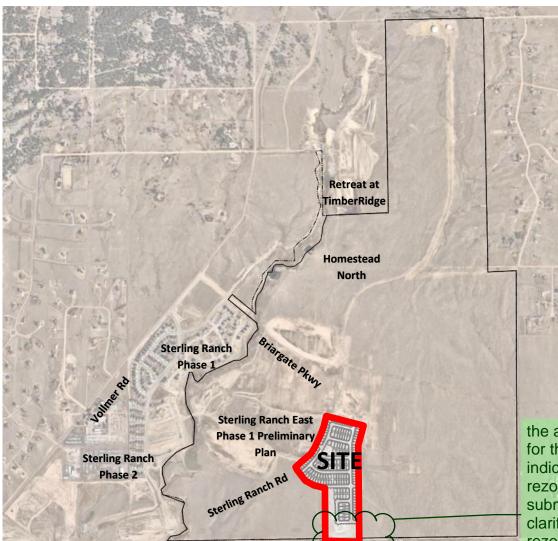
**LOCATION** 

Agreed, not needed. Removed.

4. Waiver request from LDC 8.4.4.D. to allow for 27 lots south of Lake Tahoe Drive to be accessed from a single access point as interim condition until future phases of Sterling Ranch provide a connection. Mets discuss this- This is fil 5 east- sterling ranch road is to be completed with filing 1 east

so this should not be needed (this is the 5th east plat-2 access points will be needed we this plat after 1-4 are recorded). We did temp access through platted lots that went away we Homestead North which was successful

Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan encompasses 47.17AC and is part of the overall Sterling Ranch Master Planned Community located east of Vollmer Road and east of the Sand Creek Channel. This development lies directly adjacent to the recently approved Sterling Ranch East Phase 1 Preliminary Plan Filings 1-4. The proposed development lies south of the proposed extension of Briargate Parkway and west and south of the proposed extension of Sterling Ranch Road. Sterling Ranch East Filing 3 is directly west and southwest of the proposed development. The site is bounded to the north by future Oak Park Drive and the future extension of Sterling Ranch Road to the northwest. Sterling Ranch East Phase 1 Preliminary Plan Filing 1-4 is east and north of the proposed development. East of the project is zoned RR-5 and planned as a future filing within the Sterling Ranch Community. This area is shown as 3-5 DU/AC on the approved Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan. The Pawnee Rancheros existing subdivision is



Pawnee Rancheros &

File #:

Addressed, this area has been removed, and clarification provided.

the application form for the prelim plan indicates a second rezone is to be submitted? Please clarify when this was rezoned from RR5 to RR-0.5; would a existing zone map clarify request? directly south and zoned RR-5. Tract A, which will serve as a detention basin, abuts the southernmost edge of the project boundary. This tract is currently zoned RR-0.5 and will serve to transition from the RS-5000 to the RR-5 Pawnee Rancheros to the south.

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION & CONTEXT**

rezoning from RR-5 to RS-5000 is first in order of approvals and then a concurrent preliminary plan

Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan proposes 160 detached single-family lots on 47.17AC. The development includes 27.67AC of detached single-family lots, 8.97AC ROW, 4.63AC Community Park, 1.34AC for parks, open space and drainage and 4.56AC to serve as detention. The gross density of the project is 3.4 DU/AC and the net density is 5.8 DU/AC. Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 will be platted as a single filing to be known as Sterling Ranch East Filing 5

This project includes a concurrent rezoning for 42.033AC from RS-5000 from RR-5. Tract A, a 4.6AC detention basin, is currently zoned RR-0.5. Tract A provides approximately 1,815FT of separation from the RS-5000 rezoning boundary of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 to the Pawnee Rancheros. This tract will serve to transition the existing RR-5 uses of the Pawnee Rancheros south of the project to the proposed RS-5000 uses of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 to the north. The preliminary plan thereby exceeds the 150FT average building setback and 50FT buffer shown along the southern boundary of the approved

Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan. this paragraph is difficult to understand maybe a graphic would be helpful Graphics added

The project proposes a 10FT landscape setback on Sterling Ranch Road. All building setbacks, heights and lot coverage will meet the RS-5000 zoning standards.

A finding of water sufficiency is requested with the Preliminary Plan and administrative approval of the subsequent final plat.

**SKETCH PLAN CONSISTENCY:** The Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan for 4,800 dwelling units on 1,444 acres was approved December 19, 2022. The Sketch Plan identifies the area included within this proposed preliminary plan as residential at a density of 3-5 du/ac per acre. Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 proposes 160 lots with a gross density of 3.4 du/ac which is consistent with the approved Sketch Plan.

Along the south boundary of the site, the Sketch Plan identifies 2 du/ac per acre residential density, a 50-foot buffer and a 100-foot setback with 150FT average setback. This lower density and buffer were intended as a transition between the suburban density within the rest of the Sterling Ranch—added development and the lower density 5-acre lots in the Pawnee Rancheros subdivision to the south. Tract A, located in the southernmost portion of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan, is zoned RR-0.5 and planned as a 4.6AC detention basin. Tract A provides a 1,815FT separation between the proposed RS-5000 boundary line and the existing Pawnee Rancheros. The 1,815FT depth of Tract A exceeds the 50FT buffer, and 150FT average building setback along the south boundary shown on approved Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan.

A 5FT wide concrete community trail is proposed within Tract A, this trail will connect to a 5FT community trail within Sterling Ranch East Filing 3. The community trail connects the Sand Creek trails to the west and a future community trail extension to the east. The inclusion of a 5-foot trail within the 50-foot buffer tract along the south boundary is consistent with the approved Sketch Plan. This trail will

**3** | P a g e

Please

this w

coordinate

provide connectivity from the eastern portion of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 to the Regional Trail on the Addressed. west side of Sand Creek and the community parks, trails and open space within Sterling Ranch. discuss the rezone compatibility also-COMPATIBILITY/TRANSITIONS: This Preliminary Plan continues the suburban density approved within Sterling Ranch to date and anticipated in the remainder of the Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan area. Directl

north of the project is The Villages, a high-density single-family PUD development offering a range of unit types. The higher density of the Villages PUD transitions the lower density of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 to the higher intensity uses of Sterling Ranch Road and Briargate Parkway.

The future extension of Sterling Ranch Road bounds the project to the northwest with Sterling Ranch East Filing 1, zoned RS-5000 and approved for 294 lots to the immediate northwest of Sterling Ranch MP so its not Road. Directly west of the preliminary plan is Sterling Ranch East Filing 3 which is zoned RS-5000 and language in contradictor pproved for 187 single family lots. The proposed zoning and uses of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 are within the density range and use characteristics of adjacent properties. Nearly 6AC of community park,

open space, drainage and trails are allocated within Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 creating connectivity to

coordinated. Sterling Ranch parks and trails coordinated. of the rural residential RR0.5 zone property which buffers fthe RR-5 zone property

The Pawnee Rancheros RR-5 subdivision lies to the south, Tract A, a 4.6AC detention basin, is located along the southern boundary of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5. The 1,815FT depth of Tract A provides separation and transition from the existing RR-5 uses of the Pawnee Rancheros and the proposed RS-5000 density proposed within Sterling Ranch East Filing 5. A 5FT wide concrete community trail is proposed within Tract A. This trail connects to a 5FT wide community trail along the south which provides connectivity to the Sand Creek Regional Trail to the west and community trails within Sterling Ranch to the east. This connection is consistent with the intent of the approved Sketch Plan.

TRAFFIC: A Traffic Impact Analysis for Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 was prepared by LSC in July of 2023. The report incorporates multiple traffic studies completed within the area since 2008. Appendix Table 1 of the TIS includes a list of traffic studies withing Sterling Ranch and in the vicinity of area of study completed within the past five years for reference. The Traffic Impact Study indicated: Added.

- rezone and preliminary plan Sterling Ranch East Filibe 5 Preliminary Plan is projected to generate about 1,509 new external trips on the average weekday, with about half entering and half existing the site during a 24hour period. During the morning peak hour, which generally occurs for one hour between 6:30 and 8:30am, about 28 vehicles would enter and 84 vehicles would exist the site. During the afternoon peak hour, which generally occurs for one hour between 4:15 and 6:15pm, about 95 vehicles would enter and 56 vehicles would exit the site.
- Intersection improvement needed for Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan include the reconstruction of Vollmer/Burgess to a modern one-lane roundabout. As a modern roundabout, it is projected to operate at LOS C or better for all approaches during the peak hours, based on is this to completed with the fil 5 plat or the projected short-term and 2043 traffic volumes. earlier filing? (is Burgess correct)
- The intersections of Vollmer/Briargate, Briargate/Sterling Ranch are projected to operate at a satisfactory level of service as stop-sign controlled intersections in the short-term future. By 2043 these intersections will be signal controlled.

Villages is not approved-nor under review. PC has no idea what this project is

Added.

Added.

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Sterling Ranch Eas Letter of Intent Include section for deviation requests. The TIS states the cul-de-sac on Lake Tahoe Drive will be different from county standards. Please clarify.

Agreed, not required. pared by N.E.S. Inc. August 2023

- Some of the movements at the intersections of Marksheffel/Vollmer and Marksheffel/Sterling
  Ranch Road are projected to operate at LOS E or LOS F during the peak hours. Once signalized,
  all movements at these intersections are projected to operate at LOS D or better, based on the
  projected short-term and 2043 total traffic volumes.
- Sterling Ranch Road/lake Tahoe Drive and Sterling Ranch Road/Newport Beach Drive are projected to operate at a satisfactory level of service (LOS D or better) during the peak hours as stop-sign controlled intersections, based on the projected short term and 2043 traffic volumes.
- By 2043, it was assumed that Oak Drive would be constructed between Sterling Ranch Road and Banning Lewis Parkway.

The Preliminary Plan includes a waiver request from LDC 8.4.4.D.2 to allow for 27 lots south of Lake Tahoe Drive to be accessed from a single access point as an interim condition until future road connections are made to future development to the east. Per the LDC, no more than 25 lots shall be accessed from a single access point. Future phases of Sterling Ranch Road which will provide secondary access to the 27 lots.

<u>AIR QUALITY:</u> The proposed residential use will not negatively impact air quality. The proposed development is located within a developing area with convenient access to Vollmer Road, E Woodmen Road, and Highway 24, providing shorter travel time to employment and commercial facilities.

**NOISE:** Chapter 8.4.2(B)(2)(b)(ii) of the Land Development Code states that noise mitigation shall be required for single-family and duplex residential subdivisions, which contain lots that will be individually owned, and are located adjacent to expressways, principal arterials or railroads. Mitigation shall reduce the existing or projected exterior noise levels to 67 dBA Leq. A noise study to determine the area of potential impact is required where a subdivision includes or borders an expressway, principal arterial or railroad.

Sterling Ranch Road does not require noise mitigation as it is classified as a collector, but the 6' concrete panel noise wall is continued along Sterling Ranch Road screening for privacy and to provide a consistent development identify. A detail of the 6' concrete panel wall is provided in the preliminary plan set (sheet 18).

<u>WATER:</u> Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 is to be provided central and sewer services through the Falcon Area Water and Wastewater Authority (FAWWA). Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 includes 160 lots, 52 of which fall into high-density development ratios for small lots, and roughly 2.42 annual acre-feet of water set aside for irrigated landscaping. It is expected that an urban residential home in Sterling Ranch will require an average of 0.353 annual acre-feet, which is the adopted user characteristic for FAWWA. The resulting user demand is 57.08 acre-feet.

Water rights adjudications have been decreed by the State of Colorado, Water Division 2 District Court, Water Division 1 District Court, and the Colorado Groundwater Commission. The comprehensive rights for the FAWWA service include both decrees and determinations. The most recent water rights added to the Sterling Ranch Inventory are three acquisitions: McCune Ranch 391.33 AC for 300 YRs, Bar-X Ranch 592.78 AF for 300 YRs, and Shamrock West 220.10 AF for 300 yrs. These acquisitions leave a net excess

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of 972.19AF for 300 years of currently available water, and therefore is more than sufficient water supply to meet the needs of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 on the 300-year basis.

Agreed, revised.

FAWWA-owned and currently available on-site non-tributary (NT) and adjudicated not non-tributary (NNT) water totals are 1930.03 AF for 300 YRs which would be adequate supply to meet the needs of 5,468 SFE. This leaves a net excess of currently available water of 972.19 AF for 300 YR and therefore there is more than sufficient water supply to meet the needs of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 on the 300-year basis. i dont think you need to go into such detail here-they can view a water resource report-this may open questions up at hearings and you list in water MP section The FAWWA water system has only been in operation for three years, so little-to-no usable historic information would be reliable for unique, long-term planning. However, substantial nearby data from the Falcon area is available for use. As of the end of 2021, the system had approximately only 350 active users. Therefore, initial projections have been based on area-wide water user characteristics and a linear buildout rate. This rate is considered to be an average annual rate that might be reasonably maintainable over a 10-year period. The average growth rate is projected as 180 units added per year.

• **2040 Scenario**: Based on the above factors, the FAWWA system might conservatively anticipate serving 3,710 SEEs in the year 2040. This number is a service area projection and includes the Retreat and The Ranch, as well as the main Sterling Ranch residents. This would require no additional water.

**2060 Scenario**: Based on the same factors, the Sterling system might be expected to serve 7,310 SFEs within its expanded service area, which includes the Retreat and The Ranch. This would be substantially greater than the actual Sterling Ranch. The annual acre-foot requirement might be 679 annual AF, but supply would include water from The Ranch which has not yet been added to inventory.

In addition to adding off-site sources, potential, additional supplies include renewable resources and/or regional projects bringing new water to the area FAWWA's main supply source is centralized at a point that both Cherokee Metropolitan District and Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District have adjacent major storage and delivery facilities. There are currently no arrangements in place to make connections, but in the future, SRMD may seek to have interconnections and possibly share supply. Other actions include conducting cooperative actions with CSU and SRMD to potentially share centralized facilities.

Municipal water demand for Sterling Ranch would be met using primarily Arapahoe and Laramie-Fox Hills formation wells in the SRMD area. The first well site will be drilled with an Arapahoe Well (A-1) and Laramie-Fox Hills Well (LFH-1); well site #1 includes both an Arapahoe and a Laramie-Fox Hills well. Additional permits will be obtained as needed to ultimately continue to add to the system as needed. Existing well permits are included in the Water Resources Report completed by JDS Hydro in August of 2023.

<u>WASTEWATER</u>: The wastewater commitment is for 27.520 gal/day on an average daily- maximum monthly basis. Sufficient supply is available as demonstrated by the water and sewer service commitment letter. The loading projected from this preliminary plan represents roughly 2.74% of the contractual capacity available to FAWWA. FAWWA therefore has more than adequate wastewater

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treatment capacity to provide service to this preliminary plan area. Public sewage disposal is further addressed in the Wastewater Report prepared by JDS Hydro August in 2023.

**OTHER UTILITIES:** The site is within the service area of Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. for electricity supply, and within the service area of Colorado Springs Utilities (south of Briargate Parkway) for natural gas supply. Will serve letters are included with the submittal.

<u>DRAINAGE:</u> The drainage improvements associated with the Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan are consistent with the Master Development Drainage Plan for Sterling Ranch. The drainage improvements are designed to the most current El Paso County Engineering Criteria Manual, the Sand Creek Drainage Basin Study, the City of Colorado Springs/El Paso County Drainage Criteria Manual, and the Urban Storm Drainage Criteria Manual. Classic Engineering includes recommendation concerning necessary improvements that will be required as a result of the development of this property. The points of storm water release from the proposed site are required to be at or below the calculated historic flow quantities. The report concludes the development of the site does not significantly impact any downstream facility or property to an extent greater than which currently exists in the predevelopment conditions.

**FLOODPLAIN:** The entirety of the site is located within Zone x flood hazard zone on FEMA Floodplain Map No. 08041C0533G effective December 7, 2018. Zone X indicates an approximate one percent (1%) annual risk of flooding.

<u>WETLANDS:</u> The Natural Features and Wetlands Report created by Bristlecone Ecology in June of 2023 found that there are no existing wetlands or aquatic habitat. There are extensive wetlands present along the Sand Creek channel. These are located to the west of the project site and associated with a different project. The development of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 will not impact the wetlands associated with the Sand Creek Channel.

WILDLIFE: Bristlecone Ecology's Natural Features and Wetlands Report found that in general the site provides moderate to poor quality habitat for some grassland and woodland wildlife, including birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. The site vicinity provides little potential nesting habitat for raptors as there are no trees, and poor habitat for Northern harrier, which nests on the ground in dense, midstory grasslands. The site has potential to provide foraging and breeding habitat for coyote, red fox, and potentially black bear; it is also listed as a potential human conflict area for mountain lion though this species is unlikely to occur. Development of the site would inevitably affect some habitat for wildlife; impacts on grassland species is expected to be moderate to low. Impacts on woodland species is negligible. Impacts on reptiles and amphibians is low. Species that prefer suburban habitats, including some species of birds, are expected to benefit from an increase in planted trees and bird feeders in yards. Designated open spaces will conserve some of the open grassland habitats that are currently available. Implementation of a stormwater management plan will assist in protecting water quality in downstream reaches, which will benefit aquatic species including invertebrates. Detention facilities may add seasonal water features that could support additional wildlife such as waterfowl and amphibians. Deer, foxes, bears, raccoons, and skunks may experience adverse effects from the increase in urbanization in close proximity to wildland areas. Few sensitive species were present and only in small

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numbers, and thus are not expected to be affected any more than other species. No state listed species were present. Federally listed T&E species are not expected to occur on the project site.

<u>WILDFIRE:</u> Approximately 80% of the project area is mapped as "moderate" wildfire risk while the remaining 12% is mapped "high risk." High risk areas of the site include the areas on the southern side of the site, where the site has been previously disturbed. The primary wildland fuel type is dry climate grass. The Colorado State Forest Service has determined a high-risk wildlife hazard potential. Development of the site will reduce available wildfire fuels in this area.

GEOLOGIC HAZARDS: The site was found to be suitable for development. Some areas of the proposed subdivision have been found to be impacted by geologic conditions such as expansive soils, hydrocompaction, shallow bedrock, and seasonally shallow groundwater areas. These conditions impose some constraints on development, which can be mitigated by avoidance, regrading or through proper engineering design and construction methods. A map of the hazard areas and proposed mitigation measures can be found in the Soils, Geology, and Geologic Hazard Study prepared by Entech Engineering Inc included in this submittal.

No, we met with them.
Ongoing discussions.

<u>Schools:</u> Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 is within Falcon School District 49. A 10AC elementary school site is identified on the Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan immediately east of the project site. School land cedication will be ratified at the time of the final plat in lieu of fees. is this a D49 site? has D49 accepted that location? do you have an email in agreeance?

Trails system. All of sterling ranch is served by an interconnected system of trails which create a recreation-orientated community. In total the 96.8AC system of parks, open spaces and trails is intended to provide a comprehensive off-street pedestrian circulation system to supplement the standard sidewalks along streets. Parks have been located so that residents have a ten-minute walk or less to these facilities. All parks and trails will be owned and maintained by the Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District.

Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 includes a 4.63AC centralize neighborhood park and 1.34AC of connected open spaces and 4.6AC of detention. The 4.63AC park is located central to the development with access provided by attached sidewalks and a direct connection to the community trail. A 5ft concrete community trail serves to connect the park and open spaces to the southern community trail which provides connection to the Sand Creek Regional Trail and 29AC Community Park.

#### **DISTRICTS/ENTITIES SERVING THE PROPERTY:**

The following districts will serve the property:

- Falcon School District 49
- Sterling Ranch Metro District
- Black Forest Fire Protection District
- Mountain View Electric Association
- City of Colorado Springs Utilities Department Gas

you could delete the information above and put here- no need to repeat info...

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#### RELATIONSHIP TO THE ADOPTED COUNTY MASTER PLANS

The relevant County master plan documents for the Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan are Your El Paso County Master Plan, the El Paso County Water Master Plan, the El Paso County Major Transportation Corridor Plan, and the El Paso County Parks Master Plan.

added

YOUR EPC MASTER PLAN What is the density approved adjacent to this if this a supporting density are the surrounding densities 5-8 per Placetype? what is proposed density north and east?

The project site is denoted as a Suburban Residential placetype within a priority development area in the County Master Plan. The primary land use in this placetype is single family detached residential with lot sizes smaller than 2.5 acres and up to a 5 du/ac density. Supporting land uses include single-family attached, multifamily residential, commercial retail, commercial service, institutional, parks, and open space. The Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan, which will accommodate densities of less than 5 du/ac, is consistent with the Suburban Residential placetype land uses and characteristics. The proposed schools, parks and open space areas are consistent with the supporting land uses for this placetype.

In the Key Area Influences chapter, this site is also designated as a potential area for annexation. This is indicative of the sites' suburban character and need for centralized services. The Owner/developer has chosen not to annex into the City as the Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District is already created and bonded.

In the Areas of Change chapter of the County Master Plan, the Preliminary Plan area is identified as a "New Development" area, which will be significantly transformed as new development takes place. These areas are often on undeveloped or agricultural areas, and are expected to be complimentary to adjacent development. The Sterling Ranch East Phase Filing 5 preliminary plan will implement this transformation through new development that is consistent with the densities and uses for the Suburban Residential placetype and in the already approved Sketch Plan.

Core Principle 1, Land Use and Development, seeks to "manage growth to ensure a variety of compatible land uses that preserve all character areas of the county," and Goal 1.1 seeks to, "ensure compatibility with established character and infrastructure capacity." The Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan is compatible with adjacent residentially zoned areas and continues the suburban density approved with the Sterling Ranch East Phase 1 Preliminary Plan Filings 1-4, FourSquare PUDSP, and the remainder of the Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan area.

#### **WATER MASTER PLAN**

Goal 1.1 – Ensure an adequate water supply in terms of quantity, dependability and quality for existing and future development.

Goal 6.0 – Require adequate water availability for proposed development.

Policy 6.0.8 – Encourage development patterns and higher density, mixed use developments in appropriate locations that propose to incorporate meaningful water conservation measures.

Policy 6.0.11– Continue to limit urban level development to those areas served by centralized utilities.

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Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 is to be provided central and sewer services through the Falcon Area Water and Wastewater Authority (FAWWA), which will become the overall service entity for, not only Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District, but the Retreat and future Ranch as well.

Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 includes 160 lots, 52 of which fall into high-density development ratios for small lots, and roughly 2.42 annual acre-feet of water set aside for irrigated landscaping. It is expected that an urban residential home in Sterling Ranch will require an average of 0.353 annual acre-feet, which is the adopted user characteristic for FAWWA. This is consistent with historic needs for nearby developments. Note that for smaller high-density lots, FAWWA has adopted an SFE equivalency ratio to account to account for substantially reduced water needs, although this is partially offset by estimation of common area irrigation needs. The resulting water demand is 57.08 acre-feet.

Water rights adjudications have been decreed by the State of Colorado, Water Division 2 District Court, Water Division 1 District Court, and the Colorado Groundwater Commission. The comprehensive rights for the FAWWA service include both decrees and determinations. The most recent water rights added to the Sterling Ranch Inventory are three acquisitions: McCune Ranch 391.33 AC for 300 YRs, Bar-X Ranch 592.78 AF for 300 YRs, and Shamrock West 220.10 AF for 300 yrs. These acquisitions leave 972.19AF for 300 years net excess of currently available water, and therefore is more than sufficient water supply to meet the needs of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 on the 300-year basis.

"Region 3 contains four growth areas west of Falcon projected to be completed by 2040. Other areas of 2040 growth are projected for the north-central part of the region west of Highway 24 extending from Falcon to 4-Way Ranch. North of Falcon along Highway 24, growth is projected by 2060 on both sides of the highway. Just west of Falcon, another small development is projected by 2060 on the north and south sides of Woodmen Road. On the east side of Highway 24, three separate areas of growth are projected for development by 2060, with the largest of the three spanning from south of Judge Orr Road to east of Peyton Highway into Region 4c. This development will likely consist of 35-acre lots that will require individual wells to use Denver Basin groundwater. The other two growth areas will be located on the north and south sides of Falcon Highway directly east of Falcon. See Figure 5.5 for Region 3 growth map projections."

FAWWA-owned and currently available on-site non-tributary (NT) and adjudicated not non-tributary (NNT) water totals are 1930.03 AF for 300 YRs which would be adequate supply to meet the needs of 5,468 SFE. This leaves a net excess of currently available water of 972.19 AF for 300 YR and therefore there is more than sufficient water supply to meet the needs of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan on the 300-year basis.

The FAWWA water system has only been in operation for three years, so little-to-no usable historic information would be reliable for unique, long-term planning. However, substantial nearby data from the Falcon area is available for use. As of the end of 2022, the system had approximately only 350 active users. Therefore, initial projections have been based on area-wide water user characteristics and a linear buildout rate. This rate is considered to be an average annual rate that might be reasonably maintainable over a 10-year period. The average growth rate is projected as 180 units added per year.

it has committed to much more through the BoCC approvals-

Agreed. Reference is to "active" uses.

- **2040 Scenario**: Based on the above factors, the FAWWA system might conservatively anticipate serving 3,710 SFEs in the year 2040. This number is a service area projection and includes the Retreat and The Ranch, as well as the main Sterling Ranch residents. This would require no additional water.
- 2060 Scenario: Based on the same factors, the Sterling system might be expected to serve 7,310 SFEs within its expanded service area, which includes the Retreat and The Ranch. This would be substantially greater than the actual Sterling Ranch. The annual acre-foot requirement might be 679 annual AF, but supply would include water from The Ranch which has not yet been added to inventory.

In addition to adding off-site sources, potential, additional supplies include renewable resources and/or regional projects bringing new water to the area FAWWA's main supply source is centralized at a point that both Cherokee Metropolitan District and Woodmen Hills Metropolitan District have adjacent major storage and delivery facilities. There are currently no arrangements in place to make connections, but in the future, FAWWA may seek to have interconnections and possibly share supply. Other actions include conducting cooperative actions with CSU and SRMD to potentially share centralized facilities.

Municipal water demand for Sterling Ranch would be met using primarily Arapahoe and Laramie-Fox Hills formation wells in the SRMD area. The first well site will be drilled with an Arapahoe Well (A-1) and Laramie-Fox Hills Well (LFH-1); well site #1 includes both an Arapahoe and a Laramie-Fox Hills well. Additional permits will be obtained as needed to ultimately continue to add to the system as needed. Existing well permits are included in the Water Resources Report completed by JDS Hydro in August, 2023.

#### EL PASO COUNTY MAJOR TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PLAN (MTCP)

The MTCP identifies the extension of Briargate Parkway as a 4-Lane Principal Arterial between Black Forest Rd and Meridian Road by 2040. No additional change of classification or widening is identified on the 2060 Corridor Preservation Map. Construction of this road is facilitated through the Sterling Ranch East Phase 1 Preliminary Plan and Sterling Ranch Development. The County has commissioned a consultant to initiate the design of this road extension and the Sterling Ranch developer has met with the consultant to coordinate intersection locations along Briargate Parkway.

#### **EL PASO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN**

The Trails Master Plan map identifies a proposed Regional Trail adjacent to Sand Creek through Sterling Ranch. This has been accommodated in the Sterling Ranch filings already approved or in progress on the west side of the creek. There are no proposed regional trails in this portion of Sterling Ranch. Multiple community trails are included for circulation and recreational use with connections provided to the Sand Creek Regional Trail. The Preliminary Plan includes a 4.63AC community park and other smaller open space tracks to serve residents. Parks and open space within the Sterling Ranch total 96.8 acres. All parks, trails, and open spaces will be owned and maintained by the Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District.

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#### **PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

The Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan is consistent with the preliminary plan approval criteria set forth in Chapter 7.2.1.D.2.e of the LDC as follows:

1. The proposed subdivision is in general conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Master Plan;

The relevant County Plans for Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan are Your El Paso County Master Plan, the County Water Master Plan, the 2040 Major Transportation Corridor Plan, and the County Parks Master Plan. Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan is in general conformity with these plans as described above.

2. The subdivision is consistent with the purposes of this Code;

The stated purpose of the Code is to preserve and improve the public health, safety and general welfare of the citizens and businesses of El Paso County. The proposed subdivision of 160 residential lots, parks, open space and community trails, is consistent with the County Master Plan and provides a compatible land use to the lower density single-family lots to the south, and the higher density and commercial uses within the rest of Sterling Ranch. The development will provide much needed new housing opportunities for existing and future County residents that is supported by an appropriate level of services, utilities, and recreational opportunities. The accompanying traffic report indicates that the proposed site-generated traffic resulting from this development is not expected to create a negative impact to traffic operations for the existing or proposed surrounding roadway network. Intersection improvements needed for the development of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 are shown in Table 5 of the Traffic Impact Study completed by LSC, July 27, 2023.

4. A sufficient water supply has been acquired in terms of quantity, quality, and dependability for the type of subdivision proposed, as determined in accordance with the standards set forth in the water supply standards [C.R.S. § 30-28-133(6)(a)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code (this finding may not be deferred to final plat if the applicant intends to seek administrative final plat approval);

A sufficient water supply is available as demonstrated by the water supply commitment letter provided by the FAWWA and the Water resources report provided by JDS Hydro. A water

File #: 12 | Page

commitment letter for 57.08 acre-feet/year and waste water commitment for 27.520 gal/day has been included with the submittal.

5. A public sewage disposal system has been established and, if other methods of sewage disposal are proposed, the system complies with state and local laws and regulations, [C.R.S. § 30-28-133(6) (b)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code;

The wastewater commitment is for 25,570 gal/day on an average daily- maximum monthly basis. This commitment includes both school sites and all proposed residential lots. Sufficient supply is available as demonstrated by the water and sewer service commitment letter. Public sewage disposal is further addressed in the Wastewater Report prepared by JDS Hydro. A water and waste water commitment letter has been included with this submittal.

6. All areas of the proposed subdivision, which may involve soil or topographical conditions presenting hazards or requiring special precautions, have been identified and the proposed subdivision is compatible with such conditions. [C.R.S. § 30-28-133(6)(c)];

The site was found to be suitable for development. Some areas of the proposed subdivision have been found to be impacted by geologic conditions such as expansive soils, hydrocompaction, shallow bedrock, and seasonally shallow groundwater areas. These conditions impose some constraints on development, which can be mitigated by avoidance, regrading or through proper engineering design and construction methods. Foundations in areas of high groundwater must have a minimum 30-inch depth for frost protection. In areas where high subsurface moisture conditions are anticipated periodically, subsurface perimeter drains are recommended to help prevent the intrusion of water into areas below grade. Fill added to these areas further raise foundations above groundwater levels. Foundations should be kept as high as possible. Where shallow groundwater is encountered, under slab drains or interceptor drains may be necessary. It is anticipated that shallow water areas will be mitigated with site grading and the installation of sewer underdrains. Specific recommendation should be made after additional investigation and site grading has been completed.

7. Adequate drainage improvements complying with State law [C.R.S. § 30-28-133(3)(c)(VIII)] and the requirements of this Code and the ECM are provided by the design;

These matters are addressed in the Drainage Report prepared by Classic Engineering.

8. The location and design of the public improvements proposed in connection with the subdivision are adequate to serve the needs and mitigate the effects of the development;

The public improvements proposed with this subdivision are all adequate to serve the needs of the proposed development. The accompanying traffic report indicates that the proposed site-generated traffic resulting from this development is not expected to create a negative impact to traffic operations for the existing or proposed surrounding roadway network. Intersection improvements needed for the development of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 are shown in Table 5 of the Traffic Impact Study completed by LSC, July 27, 2023.

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9. Legal and physical access is or will be provided to all parcels by public rights-of-way or recorded easement, acceptable to the County in compliance with this Code and the ECM;

All lots will be accessible by new public streets that comply with the LDC, ECM and PPRBD. All lots have the required minimum 30 feet of frontage to the public streets.

- 10. The proposed subdivision has established an adequate level of compatibility by
  - (1) incorporating natural physical features into the design and providing sufficient open spaces considering the type and intensity of the subdivision;

The natural Features and Wetlands report created by Bristlecone Ecology in June of 2023 found that in general the site was comprised of dry grassland. The project contains no Colorado Natural Heritage Conservation Areas or Potential Conservation Areas according to the CNHP, and according the USFWS' information for the Planning and Conservation, does not contain Wildlife Refuges or Hatcheries. The area has been used historically as rangeland, but residential and commercial development is increasing steadily. The Sand Creek Channel serves as the nearest primary natural physical feature, Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 provides community trail connections to Sand Creek regional trails and Sterling Ranch Park and Open spaces. Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 includes 4.63AC of centralized community park space, 1.34AC of open space and drainage areas and 4.56AC of detention. A 5FT wide community trail loops through the community, connecting to the Sterling Ranch interconnected parks and trails system.

(2) incorporating site planning techniques to foster the implementation of the County's plans, and encourage a land use pattern to support a balanced transportation system, including auto, bike and pedestrian traffic, public or mass transit if appropriate, and the costeffective delivery of other services consistent with adopted plans, policies and regulations of the County;

Recreation and open space areas within Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 Preliminary Plan will provide a variety of recreational opportunities, internal trails and parks. A proposed 5FT concrete community trail loops through the development. This trail provides connection to the 4.63AC community park, 1.34AC of open space/drainage areas, and connection to the Sterling Ranch interconnected parks and trails system. The southern segment of the community trail provides a direct connection to the Sand Creek Regional Trail and 29AC community park.

(3) incorporating physical design features in the subdivision to provide a transition between the subdivision and adjacent land uses;

This Preliminary Plan continues the suburban density approved in Sterling Ranch East Phase 1 Preliminary Plan Filings 1-4. The Preliminary Plan is compatible with the existing RS-5000 zoning to the west, northwest and future uses east of the site. The proposed high density

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uses of the Villages to the north serve to transition the higher intensity uses of Briargate Parkway and Sterling Ranch Road to the lower intensity uses of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5.

The Pawnee Rancheros RR-5 subdivision lies to the south. Tract A, a 4.6AC detention basin, is located along the southern boundary of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5. The 1,815FT depth of Tract A provides separation and transition from the existing RR-5 uses of the Pawnee Rancheros and the proposed RS-5000 density proposed within Sterling Ranch East Filing 5. A 5FT wide concrete community trail is proposed within Tract A to provide connectivity to the Sand Creek Regional Trail to the west and community trails within Sterling Ranch to the east. This is consistent with the intent of the approved Sketch Plan.

## (4) incorporating identified environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to, wetlands and wildlife corridors, into the design; and

The Natural Features and Wetlands report created by Bristlecone Ecology in June of 2023 found few aquatic resources on the site. Two ponds are present, both considered preamble wetlands and therefore presumed to be non-jurisdictional. As such, impacts to regulated aquatic resources will not occur and a Section 404 permit from the USACE is not expected to be necessary. Few sensitive species were present on site and only in small numbers, and thus are not expected to be affected anymore than other species. Development of the site would inevitably affect some habitat for wildlife; impacts on grassland species is expected to be moderate to low. Impacts on woodland species is negligible. Impacts on reptiles and amphibians is low. Species that prefer suburban habitats, including some species of birds, are expected to benefit from an increase in planted trees and bird feeders in yards. The site vicinity provides little potential nesting habitat for raptors as there are no trees, and poor habitat for Northern harrier, which nests on the ground in dense, midstory grasslands. No big game migratory routes traverse the Project, and only a few pronghorn have been observed. Ranges for several migratory birds, including the state-threatened burrowing owl, overlap the project area, though habitat for burrowing owls is not present based on the lack of prairie dog presence.

The Sand Creek Channel serves as the nearest primary natural physical feature, Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 provides community trail connections to Sand Creek regional trails and Sterling Ranch Park and Open spaces. Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 includes 4.63AC of centralized community park space, 1.34AC of open space and drainage areas and 4.56AC of detention. A 5FT wide community trail loops through the community, connecting to the Sterling Ranch interconnected parks and trails system.

# (5) incorporating public facilities or infrastructure, or provisions therefore, reasonably related to the proposed subdivision so the proposed subdivision will not negatively impact the levels of service of County services and facilities;

A Traffic Impact Analysis for Sterling Ranch East Filing 5, prepared by LSC in July of 2023, is included in this submittal. There are 4 access points provided to the preliminary plan area at

File #: 15 | Page

full build out. The accompanying traffic report indicates that the proposed site-generated traffic resulting from this development is not expected to create a negative impact to traffic operations for the existing or proposed surrounding roadway network. Intersection improvements needed for the development of Sterling Ranch East Filing 5 are shown in Table 5 of the Traffic Impact Study completed by LSC, July 27, 2023.

11. Necessary services, including police and fire protection, recreation, utilities, open space and transportation system, are or will be available to serve the proposed subdivision;

12. The subdivision provides evidence to show that the proposed methods for fire protection comply with Chapter 6 of this Code; and

The proposed subdivision meets the applicable sections of these parts of the Code. The site lies within the Black Forest Fire Protection District. A service commitment letter from the District and a Fire Protection Report are included with the submittal.

13. The proposed subdivision meets other applicable sections of Chapter 6 and 8 of this Code.

All applicable sections of Chapter 6 and 8 are met.

This application includes a waiver request from LDC 8.4.4.D.2 to allow for 27 lots south of Lake Tahoe Drive to be accessed from a single access point as an interim condition until future road connections are made by future development to the east. Per the LDC, no more than 25 lots shall be accessed from a single access point. Future phases of Sterling Ranch will provide secondary access to the 27 lots.

Include a section detailing any proposed or approved deviations from the County's ECM. If no deviations are proposed/requested please state so.

Include a discussion summarizing all proposed public and private improvements, including onsite and offsite improvements, and the plan for ongoing ownership and maintenance of each improvement. (Detention basins, traffic signals, roadways, etc).

Include a statement if early grading is proposed if no early grading is proposed please state so.

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File #: 16 | Page

## V1\_LOI comments.pdf Markup Summary

#### Carlos (6) SED ZONING: RS-5000 Subject: Text Box "P237 & SP235" IT USE: VACANT LAND Page Label: 1 Author: Carlos Date: 9/18/2023 5:25:26 PM nc. on behalf of Classic SRJ Land LLC re Status: Color: Layer: Space: to serve as actention. Subject: Callout "to" Sterling Ranch East Filin Page Label: 3 "to" Author: Carlos AC from RS-5000 from R Date: 9/18/2023 5:11:31 PM ides approximately 1,8 Status: Color: Layer: Space: Subject: Text Box Include section for deviation requests. The TIS Page Label: 5 states the cul-de-sac on Lake Tahoe Drive will be Author: Carlos different from county standards. Please clarify. Date: 9/20/2023 3:48:32 PM Status: Color: Layer: Space: Subject: Text Box Include a section detailing any proposed or Page Label: 16 approved deviations from the County's ECM. If no Author: Carlos deviations are proposed/requested please state Date: 9/18/2023 5:20:39 PM Status: Color: Layer: Space: Subject: Text Box Include a discussion summarizing all proposed Page Label: 16 public and private improvements, including onsite Author: Carlos and offsite improvements, and Date: 9/18/2023 5:20:49 PM the plan for ongoing ownership and maintenance Status: of each improvement. (Detention basins, traffic Color: signals, roadways, etc). Layer: Space: Subject: Text Box Include a statement if early grading is proposed if Page Label: 16 no early grading is proposed please state so. Author: Carlos Date: 9/18/2023 5:24:03 PM Status: Color: Layer: Space:

#### dsdparsons (28)

Subject: Text Box Page Label: 1 Author: dsdparsons

Date: 9/19/2023 3:23:24 PM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

CONTAINING A CALCULATED AREA OF 42.033 ACRES (1,830,966 SF)/ legal description rezone

Subject: Text Box Page Label: 1 Author: dsdparsons

Date: 9/19/2023 3:23:45 PM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

**CONTAINING A CALCULATED AREA OF 47.168** ACRES for preliminary plan

Subject: Planner Page Label: 1 Author: dsdparsons

Date: 9/19/2023 3:27:28 PM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

can you state why there different acreages for reader please

Subject: Planner Page Label: 1 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/19/2023 3:27:46 PM

Status: Color: Layer:

Did you want to request early grading so you dont have to come back later to the BOCC?

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Subject: Planner Page Label: 1 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/19/2023 3:27:38 PM

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and a concurrent preliminary plan request. (rezone is first in the order of requests)



Subject: Planner Page Label: 1 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:38:34 AM

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General comment this letter appears to focuses on preliminary plan - please verify it also addresses the rezone request and criteria for approval. rezone is approved before a preliminary plan at hearings.

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rezone & preliminary plan
n LDC 8.4.4.D. to allow for 27 lots south of Lake

Subject: Planner Page Label: 2 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:39:03 AM

Status: Color: ■ Layer: Space: rezone & preliminary plan

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Subject: Planner Page Label: 3 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/19/2023 3:43:56 PM

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Status: Color: Layer: Space: this paragraph is difficult to understand maybe a graphic would be helpful

Subject: Planner Page Label: 3 Author: dsdparsons

Date: 9/20/2023 7:26:40 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

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Subject: Planner Page Label: 4 Author: dsdparsons

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Status: Color: Layer: Space:

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Subject: Planner Page Label: 4 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 7:29:07 AM

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Subject: Text Box Page Label: 4 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:16:48 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

rezone and preliminary plan



Subject: Callout Page Label: 4 Author: dsdparsons

Date: 9/21/2023 12:38:50 PM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

is this to completed with the fil 5 plat or earlier

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Subject: Callout Page Label: 4 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:45:49 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

Please coordinate this w language in MP so its not contradictory



Subject: Callout Page Label: 6 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:39:42 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

i dont think you need to go into such detail herethey can view a water resource report- this may open questions up at hearings and you list in water MP section



Subject: Callout Page Label: 8 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:29:26 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

is this a D49 site? has D49 accepted that location? do you have an email in agreeance?



Subject: Callout Page Label: 8 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:30:05 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

you could delete the information above and put here- no need to repeat info...



Subject: Callout Page Label: 9 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:43:27 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

What is the density approved adjacent to this if this a supporting density are the surrounding densities 5-8 per Placetype? what is proposed density north and east?



Subject: Callout Page Label: 10 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:34:30 AM

Status: Color: Layer: Space:

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Subject: Callout rezone criteria shall be addressed first Page Label: 12 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:35:07 AM Status: Color: Layer: Space: Subject: Callout discussion to be had Page Label: 12 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:35:37 AM Status: Color: Layer: Space: Subject: Callout electric by? Page Label: 16 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/20/2023 8:37:03 AM Status: Color: Layer: Space: Subject: Callout osed methods for fire protection comply nese parts of the Code. The site lies amitment letter from the District and a Page Label: 16 Author: dsdparsons is of Chapter 6 and 8 of this Code. Date: 9/20/2023 8:37:10 AM Status: D.2 to allow for 27 lots south of Lake Color:

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rezone & preliminary plan

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Subject: Planner Page Label: 3 Author: dsdparsons Date: 9/19/2023 3:41:43 PM

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