

IMPACT IDENTIFICATION

COMPATIBILITY/TRANSITIONS: The site is surrounded by residential development, or vacant land zoned for residential. To the east is vacant land zoned RR-5. To the north are RR-2.5 lots. Sterling Ranch Filing No. 2 is to the west, zoned RS-5000.

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION: A full-movement access is provided at the intersection of Alzada Drive and Outcrop Point. A ¾ movement access is provided at the intersection of Bynum Drive and Salt Fork Point. Alzada Drive and Bynum Drive are both planned to be constructed as Urban Local streets as part of Sterling Ranch Filing No. 2.

TRAFFIC: A Traffic Impact Analysis was prepared by LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. for the entirety of the Phase One Preliminary Plan (*Sterling Ranch Phase One, Traffic Impact Analysis, February 2015*). An updated Traffic Memo has been prepared in support of Copper Chase at Sterling Ranch, which incorporates subsequent analysis related to traffic estimates generated by buildout of Sterling Ranch Phase I and Phase II, and The Retreat at Timber Ridge. Sterling Ranch Filing No. 2 includes the construction of Marksheffel Road between Vollmer Road and Sterling Ranch Road, and Sterling Ranch Road will be constructed from Marksheffel Road to Dines Boulevard, thereby connecting it to the southern point of Filing No. 1.

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

WATER: Sterling Ranch Metro District #1 has sufficient supply and infrastructure in the area to serve this development. The total commitment of the Sterling Ranch System includes 1,087.5 SFE in the Sterling Ranch Service Area and 167 SFE in the Retreat service area. The total Sterling commitments stand at 442.52 acre-feet and available supply is now 697.39 acre-feet.

This specific site of 138 single family lots includes 143 SFE. The total commitment is 50.45 acre-feet. A Water Resources Report, provided by RESPEC, is included in this submittal.

WASTEWATER: The wastewater commitment is for 22,704 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 Cooper Chase represents roughly 2.34 % of the contractual capacity available to the Falcon Area Water and Wastewater Authority (FAWWA). FAWWA therefore has more than adequate wastewater treatment capacity to provide service to Copper Chase. Public sewage disposal is further addressed in the Wastewater Report prepared by JDS Hydro.

NOISE: The Land Development Code requires the impacts of noise pollution to residents be mitigated. A noise study conducted by LSC in December of 2021 is included with this submittal. The Noise Study found that with a minimum 6-foot-high noise barrier all noise levels in the development will be below 67 decibels. The noise barrier referenced by the study determined to be a rigid material, with a density of at least four pounds per square foot. It identifies a 6-foot sound wall adjacent to Marksheffel Road and Vollmer Rd to address this recommendation.

WILDLIFE: Wildlife that has been viewed on the site and surrounding areas including rodents, deer, and carnivores. Potential for several species of mammals, rodents, fish, and vegetation is possible but unlikely to be impacted by the project. As development occurs within Sterling Ranch, care will be taken to minimize human and wildlife conflicts within reasonable limits.

FLOODPLAIN: This site, 8335 Vollmer Road is not within a designated F.E.M.A. Floodplain as determined by the flood insurance rate map, community panel number 08041C0529G, effective 12.07.2018.

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. 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.

WILDFIRE: The primary wildland fuel type is grassland with scattered trees. The Colorado State Forest Service has determined a moderate-high wildfire hazard potential and listed as a moderate risk with one small pocket of high risk near the northeast corner.

SCHOOLS: Two school sites are identified on the Sketch Plan within the District 20 boundary. The Branding Iron Filing 2 Plat includes a site for an elementary school which is consistent with the Sketch Plan. Recent discussions with School District 20 indicate that they still have a need for the Branding Iron school site and that the 11.53 acres identified and the proposed location northwest of Sterling Ranch Road and Dines Boulevard is acceptable. A second 35-acre K-8 school site located east of the Sand Creek Channel on Briargate Parkway is identified on the Sketch Plan and is anticipated to serve this development in the future.

TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE: The Sterling Ranch Phase I Preliminary Plan included an interconnected system of trails, open spaces and neighborhood parks to allow for a recreation-oriented community. This system of open spaces, trails and parks 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. Landscape trail buffers are provided along the Marksheffel and Vollmer right of ways, providing buffers of 30' at Marksheffel and 50' at Vollmer between the roadways and this development. Parks will be maintained by the Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District. Copper Chase at Sterling Ranch provides connections to this parks, trails, and open space system. There is 60,755 SF of open space provided in this PUD (21,425 SF required).

DRAINAGE: The drainage improvements associated with the Copper Chase at Sterling Ranch are consistent with the Master Development Drainage Plan and Preliminary Drainage Report 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.

UTILITIES: The property is located within the boundaries of Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District No. 2. Water, wastewater, storm water and park/recreational services will be provided by Sterling Ranch

Metropolitan District No. 1 pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement with Sterling Ranch
Metropolitan District No. 2.

Mountain View Electric Association, Inc. will supply electricity service and Colorado Springs Utilities will supply natural gas. The utility commitment letters are submitted with this application.

DISTRICTS SERVING THE PROPERTY:

The following districts will serve the property:

- Academy School District 20
- Mountain View Electric Association
- City of Colorado Springs Utilities Department – Gas
- Sterling Ranch Metro District
- Black Forest Fire Protection District

RELATIONSHIP TO THE ADOPTED COUNTY MASTER PLANS

The relevant County Plans for Sterling Ranch are the Your El Paso Master Plan, the Water Master Plan, and the Black Forest Preservation Plan, the 2040 Major Transportation Corridor Plan, and the Parks Master Plan. A detailed analysis of the relationship of the Sterling Ranch Sketch Plan and the goals and objectives of these plans was previously provided with the Sketch Plan. These include the provision of adequate buffers and transitions from lower, rural density residential development, the provision of adequate urban services by Sterling Ranch Metropolitan District, an interconnected system of trails, open spaces and neighborhood parks, and the preservation of open space.

YOUR EL PASO MASTER PLAN

The new County Master Plan denotes the site as a suburban residential placetype, which consists of predominantly single-family homes while supporting multi-family, neighborhood commercial, and parks. The Copper Chase at Sterling Ranch PUD Preliminary Plan proposes 138 single family detached residential units, which aligns with this placetype. This plan also aligns with the curvilinear pattern of streets that characterizes the suburban residential placetype.

This area is located within a priority development area, and is denoted as a “new development area” on the Areas of Change map. New development areas take place on land largely undeveloped, adjacent to built out areas. These areas are to be designed to integrate with and compliment adjacent development.

The PUD Preliminary Plan is also consistent with Core Principle 1, Land Use and Development, which seeks to “manage growth to ensure a variety of compatible land uses that preserve all character areas of the county,” in addition to goal 1.1, “ensure compatibility with established character and infrastructure capacity.”

It is also consistent with Core Principle 2, Housing & Communities, which seeks to “preserve and develop neighborhoods with a mix of housing types”, as well as Goal 2.1 to “Promote development of a mix of housing types in identified areas.”

BLACK FOREST PRESERVATION PLAN GOALS & POLICIES

The project area is primarily within the Gateway unit boundary of the Black Forest Preservation Plan and is specifically described as “area is perceived as more urban in nature”. The Gateway area borders the Transition unit providing a buffer in land uses and densities from the forested timbered area and the urbanizing area proposed.

Goal 1.2 Allow nodes of higher density residential, commercial, and industrial development only in those areas designated on the Concept Plan and described in the Land Use Scenario.

Goal 1.4 Provide for a mix of compatible uses within designated urban density areas.

Goal 3.2 Give careful consideration to clustering alternatives in areas appropriate for subdivision as a means of preserving more open space, minimizing costs and environmental impacts and promoting aesthetic quality.

Goal 3.5 Generally support residential development which compliments and enhances the area’s terrain, vegetation, and natural resources.

The zoning provides for an additional housing option and transition in density for this urbanizing area. The proposed single-family residential zoning and density is compatible with the recently approved and developing subdivisions. By providing smaller lots and clustering them near the intersection of Vollmer and Marksheffel, the project provides preservation of the Sand Creek Channel and opportunity for trail connections and open space in the 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.

Sterling Ranch Metro District has sufficient supply and infrastructure in the area to serve this development. The total commitment of the Sterling Ranch System includes 1,087.5 SFE in the Sterling Ranch Service Area and 167 SFE in the Retreat service area. The total Sterling commitments stand at 442.52 acre-feet and available supply is now 697.39 acre-feet.

The Sterling Ranch System includes both decrees and determinations. Local groundwater rights are associated with three service area portions; Sterling Ranch, The Retreat, and The Ranch. The system includes a central system and some well and septic systems. The Water Resources report primarily focuses on the central supply and does not include the 41 rural style lots in the Retreat served by wells in the calculations.

The project is located within Region 3, Falcon Area, containing 4 growth areas projected to be completed by 2040, three areas to be completed by 2060, and two other growth areas located on the north and south sides of Falcon Highway directly east of Falcon. Specifically, the Water Master Plan states:

“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.”

Region 3 has a current water supply of 7,164-acre feet per year and a current demand of 4,494-acre feet per year. The 2040 water supply is projected to be 7,921-acre feet per year and the project demand is 6,403-acre feet. The 2060 water supply is projected to be 8,284-acre feet per year and the projected demand is 8,307-acre feet.

The Sterling Ranch System is expected to serve 3,710 single-family equivalent (SFE) homes in the year 2040 requiring 1,310 annual acre-feet. In the year 2060 the system is expected to serve 7,310 single-family equivalent homes requiring 2,580-acre feet per year.

In order to meet future demands, contractual arrangements have been made to obtain additional legal and physical supply including contracts with McCune Water SR Water LLC. And the Bar X Water. In addition to adding off-site sources, additional priority is to acquire and invest in additional renewable water supplies. Future supply has been contracted for and implementation is under way. A substantial amount of Not Non-tributary water is available on the Sterling Ranch site and is the purpose of a pending augmentation plan. This water rights case will result in a gain of 9,215 acre-feet of water. This case is expected to be needed by 2029 and expected to be completed by 2022. This provides adequate service for the development of 1,828 SFE. Beyond the 1,828 will require the completion of the Bar X Northern Delivery Project providing physical and legal water to Sterling.

The Sterling System has opportunity to connect with both the Cherokee Metro District and Woodmen Hills Metro District storage and delivery facilities. Sterling wastewater is discharged into the Meridian System which in turn has potential to convert some reusable flows to available physical supplies.

2040 MAJOR TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PLAN

The 2040 Functional Classification map shows adjacent roads Vollmer and Black Forest Roads as minor arterials. Woodmen Road is an expressway.

The 2040 Improvements map identified the most proximate roadway improvement to the site is the county road capacity improvements to Vollmer Rd between Marksheffel Rd and Stapleton Drive. There will be rural county road upgrades to Vollmer Rd north of the site. The extension of Briargate Parkway will add a new roadway connection just north of the site. The 2060 corridor preservation plan depicts that Briargate Pkwy will become a principal arterial. Vollmer Road is expected a minor collector by 2040.

EL PASO COUNTY PARKS MASTER PLAN

The Parks Master Plan does not identify any proposed parks or candidate open space on this site or in the vicinity. The site is 5 miles from the Pinerias Open Space and 7 miles from Black Forest Regional Park. It is in close proximity to various trailheads as well. There is a proposed county trail going through the site on the El Paso County Master Plan, however, this trail is being diverted through The Ranch and Sterling Ranch developments, as the current location necessitates going through multiple 5-acre lots to the south.