## TO: El Paso County Planning Commission <br> Brian Risley, Chair

FROM: Ryan Howser, Planner I
Daniel Torres, PE Engineer II
Craig Dossey, Executive Director

## RE: Project File \#: PUDSP-20-004 <br> Project Name: The Estates at Rolling Hills Filing No. 2 <br> Parcel Nos.: 42000-00-407

| OWNER: | REPRESENTATIVE: |
| :--- | :--- |
| Meridian Ranch Investments, Inc. | NES, Inc. |
| P.O. Box 80036 | 619 N Cascade Avenue, Suite 200 |
| San Diego, CA, 92138 | Colorado Springs, CO 80903 |

## Commissioner District: 2

| Planning Commission Hearing Date: | $12 / 3 / 2020$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Board of County Commissioners Hearing Date | $12 / 22 / 2020$ |

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A request by Meridian Ranch Investments, Inc., for approval of a map amendment (rezoning) from an overall zoning and conceptual PUD (Planned Unit Development) to a site specific PUD (Planned Unit Development) to develop 98 single-family residential lots, rights-of-way, open space, and utility tracts within a 117.21-acre development area. In accordance with Section 4.2.6.E of the El Paso County Land Development Code (2019), a PUD Development Plan May be Approved as a Preliminary Plan, the applicant
requests the PUD development plan also be approved as a preliminary plan with a finding of sufficiency for water quality, quantity, and dependability. Approval by the Board of County Commissioners of the preliminary plan with a finding of sufficiency for water quality, quantity, and dependability authorizes the Planning and Community Development Department Director to administratively approve all subsequent final plat(s). The parcel is zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development) and is located west of Eastonville Road at the easternmost terminus of Rex Road and within Sections 19 and 20, Township 12 South, Range 64 West of the 6th P.M. The parcel is included within the boundaries of the Falcon/Peyton Small Area Master Plan (2008).

## A. REQUEST/MODIFICATIONS/AUTHORIZATION

Request: A request by Meridian Ranch Investments, Inc., for approval of a map amendment (rezoning) from an overall zoning and conceptual PUD (Planned Unit Development) to a site specific PUD (Planned Unit Development) to develop 98 single-family residential lots, rights-of-way, open space, and utility tracts within a 117.21-acre development area. In accordance with Section 4.2.6.E of the EI Paso County Land Development Code (2019), a PUD Development Plan May be Approved as a Preliminary Plan, the applicant is also requesting the PUD development plan be approved as a preliminary plan with a finding of sufficiency for water quality, quantity, and dependability.

## Modification of Existing Land Development Code (LDC) or Engineering Criteria Manual (ECM) Standard:

For approval of a modification of a general development standard in the LDC or standard of the ECM, the BoCC shall find that the proposal provides for the general health, safety, and welfare of the citizens and at least one of the following benefits:

- Preservation of natural features;
- Provision of a more livable environment, such as the installment of street furniture, decorative street lighting or decorative paving materials;
- Provision of a more efficient pedestrian system;
- Provision of additional open space;
- Provision of other public amenities not otherwise required by the Code; or
- The proposed modification is granted in exchange for the open space and/or amenity designs provided in the PUD development plan and/or development guide.

The applicant requests the following modification(s) of the LDC:
A PUD Modification of Section 8.4.3.B. 2 of the LDC is requested with this application in relation to the requirement to provide midblock pedestrian crossings at specific locations.

## PCD Executive Director Recommendation:

The PCD Executive Director recommends approval of the requested PUD modifications. The applicant has depicted a sidewalk design and layout that accommodates ADA accessibility for pedestrians throughout the proposed PUD/Preliminary plan.

The applicant is requesting the following modification(s) of the ECM:

1. The applicant is requesting a PUD modification to Section 2.5.2.C. 4 of the ECM to omit midblock pedestrian crossings on Rex Road, Crescent Creek Drive, Sunrise Ridge Drive and Highland Crest Drive.

Section 2.5.2.C. 4 states: "Access ramps on local roadways shall be spaced no greater than 600 feet apart. Where spacing is greater than 600 feet, mid-block access ramps shall be provided at spacing that minimize travel distances between access ramps."

## ECM Administrator Recommendation:

The ECM Administrator recommends approval of the requested PUD Modification. Per the PUD/Preliminary Plan, adequate pedestrian accessibility is provided by access ramps at all intersections. Additionally, the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has no requirements for maximum distance between pedestrian crossings that would necessitate mid-block pedestrian ramps.
2. The applicant has submitted a modification requesting a cul-de-sac length of 1,156 feet for Crescent Creek Drive, which is 406 feet longer than the ECM standard.

Section 2.3.8.A of the ECM states: "Cul-de-sacs shall have a minimum radius of 45 feet and a maximum length of 750 feet for urban conditions..."

ECM Administrator Recommendation:
The ECM Administrator recommends approval of the requested PUD modification since the Falcon Fire Protection District has provided a letter of support for the proposed design.
3. The applicant is requesting a PUD modification to Section 2.2.4.B.3 and 2.3.2 of the ECM to construct the extension of Rex Road east of Sunrise Ridge Drive as a half section of urban minor arterial road in lieu of the entire 4-lane roadway section as identified in the current 2016 Major Transportation Corridors Plan.

## ECM Administrator Recommendation:

The ECM Administrator recommends approval of the requested PUD Modification. The half section provides continuity of the existing 2-lane Rex Road section west of Sunrise Ridge Drive. The developer is dedicating an 80foot right-of-way with an additional 20 -foot wide reservation within a tract to accommodate the future full width section when the County determines it is necessary to construct the full width section.
4. The applicant is requesting a PUD modification to Section 2.2.5.C of the ECM to provide an intersection spacing between the proposed Estate Ridge Drive and the future Rolling Ranch Drive that is less than what is prescribed in the ECM.

As identified in the current 2016 Major Transportation Corridors Plan, Rex Road has been reclassified as an urban minor arterial roadway. The ECM standard indicates a $1 / 4$ mile intersection spacing requirement. The proposed intersection spacing exceeds that of that of an urban residential collector roadway, which is 330 feet when intersecting local roadways.

## ECM Administrator Recommendation:

The ECM Administrator recommends approval of the requested PUD modification. The roadway will operate similar to an urban residential collector roadway in the short term and long term. The projected long term (2040) ADT is estimated to be 7,470 vehicles per day, which is below the threshold for an urban residential collector. Rex Road west of Sunrise Ridge has been approved as an urban residential collector roadway. As stated in item \#3 above, the applicant will construct Rex Road east of Sunrise Ridge as a half section of urban minor arterial road and provide right-of-way reservation to accommodate the full width of the urban minor arterial should it be needed in the future.
5. The applicant has submitted a modification requesting shortened left turn lane and taper lengths than what is prescribed in Section 2.3.7.E of the ECM for the left turn lanes on Rex Road at the proposed Estate Ridge Drive and the future Rolling Ranch Drive.

The proposed westbound left turn lane will be 190 feet and the eastbound left turn lane will be 185 feet with a 90-oot taper between the two lanes. ECM criteria indicates that these turn lanes should be 205 feet with a 160 foot taper.

## ECM Administrator Recommendation:

The ECM Administrator recommends approval of the requested PUD modification. The spacing between the two intersections does not allow for the full length of the left turn lanes. The submitted traffic study provided a queuing analysis that indicated that the projected queues at these intersections could be accommodated with the proposed configuration.

Staff recommends that the deviation requests associated with the PUD (Planned Unit Development) Modifications from the ECM, as prepared, are acceptable contingent upon the approval of the PUD Modifications by the Board of County Commissioners.

Authorization to Sign: PUD Development Plan and any other documents required to finalize the approval

## B. PLANNING COMMISSION SUMMARY

Request Heard:

## Recommendation:

Waiver Recommendation:
Vote:
Vote Rationale:
Summary of Hearing:
Legal Notice:

## C. APPROVAL CRITERIA

The Planning Commission and BOCC shall determine that the following the criteria for approval outlined in Section 4.2.6, and Section 7.2.1 of the El Paso County Land Development Code (2019), have been met to approve a PUD zoning district:

- The proposed PUD district zoning advances the stated purposes set forth in this section.
- The application is in general conformity with the Master Plan;
- The proposed development is in compliance with the requirements of this Code and all applicable statutory provisions and will not otherwise be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the present or future inhabitants of El Paso County;
- The subject property is suitable for the intended uses and the use is compatible with both the existing and allowed land uses on the neighboring properties, will be in harmony and responsive with the character of the surrounding area and natural environment, and will not have a negative impact upon the existing and future development of the surrounding area;
- The proposed development provides adequate consideration for any potentially detrimental use to use relationships (e.g. commercial use adjacent to single family use) and provides an appropriate transition or buffering between uses of differing intensities both on-site and off-site which may include innovative treatments of use to use relationships;
- The allowed uses, bulk requirements and landscaping and buffering are appropriate to and compatible with the type of development, the surrounding neighborhood or area and the community;
- Areas with unique or significant historical, cultural, recreational, aesthetic or natural features are preserved and incorporated into the design of the project;
- Open spaces and trails are integrated into the development plan to serve as amenities to residents and provide reasonable walking and biking opportunities;
- The proposed development will not overburden the capacities of existing or planned roads, utilities and other public facilities (e.g. fire protection, police protection, emergency services, and water and sanitation), and the required public services and facilities will be provided to support the development when needed;
- The proposed development would be a benefit through the provision of interconnected open space, conservation of environmental features, aesthetic features and harmonious design, and energy efficient site design;
- The proposed land use does not permit the use of any area containing a commercial mineral deposit in a manner which would unreasonably interfere with the present or future extraction of such deposit unless acknowledged by the mineral rights owner;
- Any proposed exception or deviation from the requirements if the zoning resolution or the subdivision regulation is warranted by virtue of the design and amenities incorporated in the development plan and development guide; and
- The owner has authorized the application.

The applicant has requested the proposed PUD also be reviewed and considered as a preliminary plan. Compliance with the requirements identified in Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 of the El Paso County Land Development Code (2019) for a preliminary plan requires the Planning Commission and the BoCC shall find that the additional criteria for a preliminary plan have also been met.:

- The proposed subdivision is in general conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Master Plan;
- The subdivision is consistent with the purposes of this Code;
- The subdivision is in conformance with the subdivision design standards and any approved sketch plan;
- 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. $\S 30-28-133(6)(\mathrm{a})]$ and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code;
- 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. $\S 30-28-133(6)$ (b)] and the requirements of Chapter 8 of this Code;
- 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)];
- Adequate drainage improvements complying with State law [C.R.S. §30-28133(3)(c)(VIII)] and the requirements of this Code and the ECM are provided by the design;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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; (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 cost effective delivery of other services consistent with adopted plans, policies and regulations of the County; (3) incorporating physical design features in the subdivision to provide a transition between the subdivision and adjacent land uses; (4) incorporating identified environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to, wetlands and wildlife corridors, into the design; and (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;
- Necessary services, including police and protection, recreation, utilities, open space and transportation system, are or will be available to serve the proposed subdivision;
- 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 other applicable sections of Chapter 6 and 8 of this Code.


## D. LOCATION

| North: A-35 (Agricultural)/RR-2.5 (Residential Rural) | Vacant |
| :--- | :--- |
| South: PUD (Planned Unit Development) | Vacant |
| East: PUD (Planned Unit Development) | Residential |
| West: PUD (Planned Unit Development) | Vacant |

## E. BACKGROUND

The Meridian Ranch Sketch Plan (SKP-11-002) and Planned Unit Development zoning concept plan (PUD-11-003) were previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners. An amended Sketch Plan was approved by the Board of County Commissioners on March 13, 2018, to allow for the maximum residential density to increase from 4,000 to 4,500 dwelling units (SKP-17-001). Platting of the proposed 98 lots within the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing \#2 PUD/SP would bring the total number of platted lots up to 4,216 within the Meridian Ranch sketch plan area.

## F. ANALYSIS

## 1. Land Development Code Analysis

With the exception of the requested PUD Modifications, this application meets the preliminary plan submittal requirements, the standards for Divisions of Land in Chapter 7, and the standards for Subdivision in Chapter 8 as well as the Planned Unit Development (PUD) requirements outlined in Chapter 4 of the EI Paso County Land Development Code (2019).

## 2. Zoning Compliance

The PUD Development Plan identifies allowed and permitted uses; use, density, and dimensional standards such as setbacks, maximum lot coverage, and maximum building height; and overall landscaping requirements. The PUD Development Plan is consistent with the approved PUD zoning concept plan, the approved Sketch Plan, the proposed PUD development guidelines, and with the submittal and processing requirements of the Land Development Code.

## 3. Policy Plan Analysis

The El Paso County Policy Plan (1998) has a dual purpose; it serves as a guiding document concerning broader land use planning issues and provides a framework to tie together the more detailed sub-area elements of the County Master Plan. Relevant policies are as follows:

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

Policy 6.1.4 - Encourage the logical timing and phasing of development to allow for the efficient and economical provision of facilities and services.

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.

There are two adjacent parcels to the north of the subject site; one 39-acre single-family detached residential property and the other a 206-acre vacant tract. The platted lots located west of the subject parcel are located within the Meridian Ranch Estates Filing No. 3 subdivision with an average density of 0.5 dwelling units/acre. Property to the east comprises 471 acres of vacant land owned by Meridian Ranch Investments, Inc. The infrastructure needed to provide central services to the development are proposed to be extended from existing adjacent development within Meridian Ranch into the proposed subdivision. The Meridian Ranch Sketch Plan (PCD file no. SKP-11-002) and Planned Unit Development zoning concept plan (PCD file no. PUD-11-003) were previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners. The Sketch Plan was amended by the Board of County Commissioners on March 13, 2018 to allow for the maximum residential density to increase from 4,000 to 4,500 dwelling units (PCD file no. SKP-17-001). Platting of the Estates at Rolling Hills Filing No. 2 PUD/SP would bring the total number of platted lots up to 4,216 within the Meridian Ranch sketch plan area. The proposed densities and land uses are consistent with the approved sketch plan and overall Meridian Ranch development.

## 4. Small Area Plan Analysis

The property is located within the boundaries of the Falcon/Peyton Small Area Master Plan (2008). The Plan identifies this area as existing and approved urban density with lot sizes less than 2.5 acres in size.

Section 4.3.1 of the Plan states "Although the map may seem to show uniform urban density throughout the area, this is not the intent of this Plan. These urban
growth areas are meant to show the extent of where urban density clustered development would be acceptable. Anticipating the exact location of future urban clusters is very difficult, and this Plan does not seek to dictate where those clusters might arise. Urban growth in these areas will be intermixed with existing rural residential land uses, and new urban developments should be small and dense, surrounded by lower density uses, preferably open space."

Relevant policies are as follows:

Policy 4.5.3.1 - Generally encourage a well-planned mix of housing types and densities in identifies urban development and infill areas, with efficient access to supporting uses, parks, schools, and open space.

Policy 4.5.3.4 - Encourage the use of design standards that enable new development to fit the surrounding natural, historical, and built context.

Policy 4.5.8.7 - Encourage opportunities for pedestrian linkages especially to connect residential areas to schools, shopping, and significant trail corridors.

The parcels adjacent to the north are within the A-35 (Agricultural) and RR-2.5 (Rural Residential) zoning districts and are 39 acres and 206 acres in size, respectively. The platted lots located west of the subject parcel are located within the Meridian Ranch Estates Filing No. 3 subdivision with lot sizes varying from 1.1 to 1.9 acres.

The Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. 2 is proposed to have an average lot size of 0.65 acres and a net density of 1.53 dwelling units/acre. Additionally, the proposed PUD includes a 28-acre open space tract immediately adjacent to the A-35 and RR-2.5 zoned parcels to the north. This tract results in a minimum of a 340-foot wide buffer from the agricultural and residential parcels to the north. The applicant is proposing a pedestrian trail within the open space tract, which provides trail connections internal to the subdivision and to connect to the overall Meridian Ranch trail system.

The approved Meridian Ranch Sketch Plan established the mix of uses and interconnected roadway and trail system, as well as the provision of adequate school, park, and open space facilities. The Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. 2 PUD is consistent with the Sketch Plan and it establishes design standards
that are intended to help the development fit into the surrounding Meridian Ranch neighborhood.

## 5. Water Master Plan Analysis

The El Paso County Water Master Plan (2018) has three main purposes; better understand present conditions of water supply and demand; identify efficiencies that can be achieved; and encourage best practices for water demand management through the comprehensive planning and development review processes. Relevant policies are as follows:

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

Goal 1.2 - Integrate water and land use planning.
Policy 6.0.11 - Continue to limit urban level development to those areas served by centralized utilities.

The proposed development includes lots to be served by central water and wastewater with a minimum lot size of 21,780 square feet. Water sufficiency has been analyzed with the review of the proposed PUD/SP. Please see the Water section below for a summary of the water findings and recommendations for the proposed development. The State Engineer and the County Attorney's Office have recommended that the proposed development has an adequate water supply in terms of quantity and dependability.

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

Goal 1.2 - Integrate water and land use planning.

Goal 3.6 - Develop and maintain partnerships with water providers.

Policy 3.6.2 - Water providers should work with neighboring entities to provide and plan for growth between their respective boundaries.

Goal 3.7 - Encourage the interconnection of infrastructure owned by water providers and projects that will have access to more than one water source, both to foster conjunctive use and to better accommodate water supply emergencies.

Policy 4.1.1 - Protect and enhance the quality of drinking water in the County.

Policy 4.2.2 -Allow for the potential to import new and preferably renewable water supplies from outside the various planning areas, potentially including the Arkansas River, in order to reduce the dependency on non-renewable water supplies and accommodate new development.

Policy 4.2.3 - Support studies to determine options for how water providers can secure and deliver a more permanent, long-term water supply.

Goal 4.3 -Collaborate with the State and other stakeholders to extend the economic life of the Denver Basin aquifers.

Policy 4.3.5 - Encourage plans to recharge the Upper Black Squirrel Aquifer if such plans are based on sound science and can be demonstrated to not adversely impact water quality or water rights, with a preference for those plans which will maintain or enhance the available water supply at a regional scale.

Goal 4.6 - Promote collaboration among the County, municipalities, water and wastewater service providers and regional and State agencies through the use of Memoranda of Understanding or similar arrangements.

Policy 4.6.1 - Explore establishing Memoranda of Understanding to address shared source water protection and mutual concerns impacting water quality.

Policy 6.0.7 - Encourage the submission of a water supply plan documenting an adequate supply of water to serve a proposed development at the earliest stage of the development process as allowed under state law. The water supply plan should be prepared by the applicant in collaboration with the respective water provider.

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

The Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. 2 is an urban level development and is within Region 3, the Falcon Area, which primarily draws from nonrenewable resources from the Denver Basin. The Plan identifies the current demands for Region 3 to be 4,494 AFY (Figure 5.1) with the projected need at build-out in

2060 at 8,307 AFY (Figure 5.3). Region 3 currently has 7,164 AFY in supplies, which means by 2060 there is anticipated to be a deficiency of 1,143 AFY (Table $5-2)$.

The Water Resources Report submitted in support of the proposed development identifies that with the additional 98 lots, the total water demand within the Meridian Service Metropolitan District will be 1,701 AFY. The report identifies at full buildout of the Meridian Service Metropolitan District area the water demand will be 1,970 AFY. The District owns water rights for 2,119 AFY, which is in excess of the anticipated total demand. The water rights are comprised of several sources, one of which comes from the Guthrie Ranch, which is a renewable water source in the alluvial Upper Black Squirrel Creek Designated Groundwater Basin. The Meridian Service Metropolitan District has partnered with the Cherokee Metropolitan District to recharge the aquifer from their respective wastewater treatment plants.

The Plan specifically identifies this portion of the Meridian Service Metropolitan District as an anticipated area of development by 2040. The timing of the proposed development is in line with the anticipated growth schedule included in the Plan. Additionally, the applicant has provided a commitment letter and water resources report documenting that the District has adequate capacity to serve the additional lots.

## 6. Other Master Plan Elements

The El Paso County Wildlife Habitat Descriptors (1996) identifies the parcels as having a low wildlife impact potential. The Environmental Division of the El Paso County Community Services Department, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Colorado State Forest Service were each sent a referral and have no outstanding comments.

The Master Plan for Mineral Extraction (1996) identifies potential upland deposits in the area of the subject parcel. A mineral rights certification was prepared by the applicant indicating that, upon researching the records of El Paso County, no severed mineral rights exist.

Please see the Parks Section below for information regarding conformance with The El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013).

Please see the Transportation Section below for information regarding conformance with the 2016 Major Transportation Corridor Plan (MTCP).

## G. PHYSICAL SITE CHARACTERISTICS

## 1. Hazards

No hazards were identified during the review of the PUDSP application that would impede development.

## 2. Wildlife

The El Paso County Wildlife Habitat Descriptors (1996) identifies the parcels as having a low wildlife impact potential.

## 3. Floodplain

The property is not located within a defined floodplain as determined from the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map panel number 08041C0552G, dated December 7, 2018.

## 4. Drainage and Erosion

The property is located in the Geick Ranch (CHMS0400) drainage basin. The Geick Ranch drainage basin planning study has not been approved to date and there are no drainage and bridge fees at this time.

The site generally drains to the southeast. Stormwater runoff will be conveyed by public storm sewer systems and discharge into an existing drainageway continuing into an offsite full spectrum detention pond (Pond $G$ ) that will be constructed with Rolling Hills Ranch Filing Nos.1-3 at Meridian Ranch.
Construction drawings for Pond G were previously approved with Rolling Hills Ranch Filing Nos. 1-3 at Meridian Ranch. Pond G was designed to account for this project and no additional improvements are anticipated to this pond. Pond G is owned and maintained by the Meridian Service Metropolitan District.

Per the associated drainage report, the development of this project will not adversely affect the downstream properties.

The applicant has submitted a grading and erosion control plan with the concurrent final plat application (PCD File No. SF2018). The grading and erosion control plan identifies construction best management practices (BMPs) to prevent sediment and debris from affecting adjoining properties and the public stormwater system before and during grading activities.

## 5. Transportation

Access to the development is provided via the extension of Rex Road consistent with the 2016 Major Transportation Corridor Plan. All streets are planned to be public roads and will be dedicated to the County. Specific modification requests from the design standards in the Engineering Criteria Manual are described in Section A above.

Rex Road was anticipated to be an urban residential collector when the Estates at Meridian Ranch Filing No. 2 and Meridian Ranch Filing No. 9 were platted, leaving a 60 -foot right-of-way corridor west of Sunrise Ridge Drive. The 2040 Roadway Plan (Classification and Lanes) exhibit in the 2016 Major Transportation Corridor Plan (MTCP) reclassified Rex Road as a 4-lane urban minor arterial. The County Engineer was amenable to the developer constructing half of the standard urban minor arterial for the Rex Road extension as the trip generation for Meridian Ranch is not expected to require the full 4-lane roadway. The applicant will provide a tract (Tract D) along the north side of Rex Road for right-of-way reservation should the construction of the full width of the roadway be needed at a future date. The half section of the Rex Road extension constructed by the developer may be an eligible improvement for reimbursement through the Road Impact Fee program. It is the developer's responsibility to submit any reimbursement request to the Traffic Impact Fee Advisory Committee.

The submitted traffic study indicates that signal warrants are projected to be met at the intersection of Rex Road and Meridian Road following the build-out of the currently proposed Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. 2. The applicant is working on a partnership with the El Paso County Department of Public Works for the design and construction of the necessary intersection and signal improvements at Rex Road and Meridian Road.

The development is within the boundaries of the Woodmen Road Metropolitan District. New construction is subject to payment of traffic impact fees to the District as reimbursement for roadway improvements previously constructed by Woodmen Road Metropolitan District. Pursuant to Board Resolution 13-041, resolution adopting the first amendment to the intergovernmental agreement concerning Woodmen Road, final plat approvals through December 31, 2020 are not subject to participation in the El Paso County Road Impact Fee Program, but will instead trigger payment of fees to the Woodmen Road Metropolitan District. Final plat approvals within the period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending on

December 31, 2027 will be subject to payment of traffic impact fees to the County.

## H. SERVICES

1. Water

The Meridian Service Metropolitan District provides water service and has committed to serve the property.

Sufficiency:
Quality: Sufficient
Quantity: Sufficient
Dependability: Sufficient
Attorney's summary: The State Engineer's Office has made a finding of adequacy and has stated water can be provided without causing injury to decreed water rights. The County Attorney's Office has recommended a finding of sufficiency with regards to water quantity and dependability. El Paso County Public Health has made a favorable recommendation regarding water quality.

## 2. Sanitation

Wastewater is provided by Meridian Service Metropolitan District. The District has provided a report demonstrating adequate capacity to serve the additional 98 single-family residential lots.

## 3. Emergency Services

The property is within the Falcon Fire Protection District. The district was sent a referral for the proposed development and responded with no objection.

## 4. Utilities

Mountain View Electric Association (MVEA) will provide electrical service to the property. Black Hills Energy will provide natural gas services to the property.

## 5. Metropolitan Districts

The development area is within the Meridian Ranch Metropolitan District, Meridian Ranch Metropolitan 2018 Subdistrict, and Woodmen Road Metropolitan Districts, which have a combined mill levy of 49.178 mills. The Meridian Ranch District provides water and wastewater service and maintains landscaping, open space, and drainage facilities within the District. The Woodmen Road Metropolitan District was established to finance roadway improvements in the area. Pursuant to Board Resolution 13-041, resolution adopting the first amendment to the intergovernmental agreement concerning the Woodmen Road Metropolitan District, final plat approvals through December 31, 2020 are not subject to participation in the El Paso County Road Impact Fee Program but will
instead trigger payment of fees to the Woodmen Road Metropolitan District. Final plat approvals within the period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31, 2027 will be subject to payment of traffic impact fees to the County.

## 6. Parks/Trails

The open space dedication proposed with this PUDSP is approximately 39 acres, or 33 percent of the subdivision. The proposed PUD depicts trails and sidewalks, which will connect with and continue the existing pedestrian system. The applicant is proposing a pedestrian trail within the open space tract to be owned and maintained by the Meridian Ranch Metropolitan District.

The El Paso County Parks Master Plan (2013) depicts the parcel as being adjacent to the Falcon Regional Park. The Board of County Commissioners approved a development and park lands agreement between El Paso County and the applicant for the applicant to convey approximately 215 acres of open space to the County for the Falcon Regional Park (Resolution 14-313). With that agreement the developer satisfied all regional park dedication requirements. No land dedication or fees in lieu of dedication are required for a map amendment (rezoning) or preliminary plan application. Fees in lieu of urban park land dedication will be due at the time of recording the final plat.

## 7. Schools

The property is located within Falcon School District No. 49. Two school sites have been dedicated within the Meridian Ranch Development. Therefore, no fees will be required at the time of final plat recordation.

## I. APPLICABLE RESOLUTIONS

See Attached Resolution

## J. STATUS OF MAJOR ISSUES

There are no major outstanding issues.

## K. RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS AND NOTATIONS

Should the Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners find that the request meets the criteria for approval outlined in Section 4.2.6, and Section 7.2.1 of the El Paso County Land Development Code (2019), staff recommends the following conditions and notations:

## CONDITIONS

1. Development of the property shall be in accordance with this PUD development plan. Minor changes in the PUD development plan, including a reduction in residential density, may be approved administratively by the Director of the Planning and Community Development Department consistent with the Land Development Code. Any substantial change will require submittal of a formal PUD development plan amendment application.
2. Approved land uses are those defined in the PUD development plan and development guide.
3. All owners of record must sign the PUD development plan.
4. The PUD development plan shall be recorded in the office of the El Paso County Clerk \& Recorder prior to scheduling any final plats for hearing by the Planning Commission. The development guide shall be recorded in conjunction with the PUD development plan.
5. Developer shall comply with federal and state laws, regulations, ordinances, review and permit requirements, and other agency requirements, if any, of applicable agencies including, but not limited to, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Endangered Species Act, particularly as it relates to the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse as a listed threatened species.
6. Applicable park, school, drainage, bridge, and traffic fee shall be paid to El Paso County Planning and Community Development at the time of final plat(s) recordation.

## NOTATIONS

1. Subsequent final plat filings may be approved administratively by the Planning and Community Development Director.
2. If a zone or rezone petition has been disapproved by the Board of County Commissioners, resubmittal of the previously denied petition will not be accepted for a period of one (1) year if it pertains to the same parcel of land and is a petition for a change to the same zone that was previously denied. However, if evidence is presented showing that there has been a substantial change in physical conditions or circumstances, the Planning Commission may reconsider
said petition. The time limitation of one (1) year shall be computed from the date of final determination by the Board of County Commissioners or, in the event of court litigation, from the date of the entry of final judgment of any court of record.
3. Rezoning requests not forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration within 180 days of Planning Commission action will be deemed withdrawn and will have to be resubmitted in their entirety.
4. Preliminary plans not forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners within 12 months of Planning Commission action shall be deemed withdrawn and shall have to be resubmitted in their entirety.
5. Approval of the preliminary plan will expire after two (2) years unless a final plat has been approved and recorded or a time extension has been granted.
6. The development is subject to payment of traffic impact fees to the Woodmen Road Metropolitan District. Pursuant to Board Resolution 13-041, resolution adopting the first amendment to the intergovernmental agreement concerning Woodmen Road, final plat approvals through December 31, 2020 are not subject to participation in the El Paso County Road Impact Fee Program, but will instead trigger payment of fees to the Woodmen Road Metropolitan District. Final plat approvals within the period beginning January 1, 2021 and ending on December 31,2027 will be subject to payment of traffic impact fees to the County.

## L. PUBLIC COMMENT AND NOTICE

The Planning and Community Development Department notified six (6) adjoining property owners on November 16, 2020, for the Planning Commission meeting. Responses will be provided at the hearing.

M. ATTACHMENTS<br>Vicinity Map<br>Letter of Intent<br>PUD Development Plan / Preliminary Plan<br>State Engineers Letter<br>County Attorney's Letter

E1 Paso County Parcel Information
PARCEL NAME
4200000407 MERIDIAN RANCH INVESTMENTS INC

File Name:
PUDSP-20-004

Zone Map No.

Date: November 12, 2020



## MERIDIAN RANCH: Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2

## PUD DEVELOPMENT, PRELIMINARY PLAN AND FINAL PLAT

## LETTER OF INTENT

JULY 2020
Revised November 2020

## Property Owner:

Meridian Ranch Investments Inc.
PO BOX 80036,
San Diego, CA 92138

## DEVELOPER:

GTL Development, Inc. 3575 Kenyon Street, San Diego, CA 92110

Consultant:
N.E.S. Inc.

619 North Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

## LOCATION

The Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 is located northeast of the intersection of Rex Road and Sunrise Ridge Drive, Peyton, Colorado. The site comprises of approximately 117 acres and is zoned PUD. To the west is the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 1 residential development and to the south, Rolling Hills Ranch of Meridian Ranch.


## Request

GTL Inc. is requesting approval of the following applications:

1. A PUD Development/Preliminary Plan for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No.2, consisting of 98 single-family dwelling lots, landscaping, open space, and trails on approximately 117 acres.
2. A Final Plat for Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 , consisting of 98 lots and 5 tracts for landscaping, open space, and utilities on approximately 38 acres.
3. The following PUD Modifications for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2

|  | LDC/ECM Section | Category | Standard | Modification | Justification |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | LDC Chapter 8.4.3(B)(2) and ECM Section 2.5.2.C. 4 | Mid-block crossings | Access ramps on local roadways shall be spaced no greater than 600 feet apart. | The deviation would eliminate mid-block pedestrian crossings between on the following streets: Rex <br> Road, Crescent Creek Drive, Sunrise Ridge Drive and Highland Crest Drive. | Adequate pedestrian accessibility is provided on both sides of the ROW with proper access ramps at the southern intersection. <br> There are no Federal ADA maximum distances allowed between pedestrian crossing along street that would necessitate midblock pedestrian ramps. <br> The development has a focus on the trail system that meanders in an out of open space and local park space, the desire is to encourage the use of the trails instead of the interior |
| 2 | $\begin{gathered} \text { ECM Section } \\ \text { 2.3.8.A } \end{gathered}$ | Roadway terminations -cul-de-sac length | Cul-de-sacs shall have a maximum length of 750 feet for urban conditions. | The request for a deviation is to allow the proposed 1,156-foot-long cul-desac on Crescent Creek Drive northwest of the intersection of Rex Rd and Estate Ridge Dr. | A belief the cul-de-sac provides a superior product that is desirable to the general public without sacrificing safety to the residents and users of the area. The attached letter from the Falcon Fire Protection District indicates that the local fire district believes the longer cul-de-sac does not create undue safety issues. |
| 3 | $\begin{gathered} \text { ECM Section } \\ \text { 4.4.5.E } \end{gathered}$ | Minimum Intersection Spacing | Roadway Access <br> Criteria-Minor <br> Arterial Access <br> Standards. The <br> standard <br> requires <br> intersection <br> spacing of onequarter mile between street intersections. | The distance between the two intersections along Rex Road is less than criteria for a minor arterial but meets that of a collector road. | The deviation request is necessary due to early agreements concerning the future of Rex Road, in particular the Arterial Half section and intersection spacing as approved by the Rolling Hills Ranch 1-3 PUD (attached). The proposed intersection spacing is sufficient to accommodate the 2040 projected traffic volumes as identified in the Traffic Impact Statement. |

File \#: PUD SP 204
Page 2 of 11

| 4 | $\begin{gathered} \text { ECM Section } \\ \text { 2.2.4.B.3 \& 2.3.2 } \end{gathered}$ | Design Standards by Functional Classification | Construct Rex <br> Road east of Sunrise Ridge Dr as an Urban 4lane Minor <br> Arterial based on the 2016 MTCP Map I4: 2040 Roadway Plan classification | The alternative design is to construct Rex Road east of Sunrise Ridge Drive as a half section of the Urban Minor Arterial. <br> Transition from a Residential Urban Collector to the half section east of Sunrise Ridge Dr continuing east to proposed Estate Ridge Drive.. | The previously recorded final plats for Estates at Meridian Ranch Filing 2 and Meridian Ranch Filing 9, located west of this project create a corridor of only 60 ' wide. This restriction provides sufficient room for an Urban Residential Collector and restricts the ability to construct the Urban Minor Arterial in this section west of the proposed project. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ECM Section } \\ & \text { 2.3.7.e } \end{aligned}$ | Turn Lane Designs | The taper is 160 per criteria and the turn lane lengths as recommended by the Traffic Impact Statement are 212' for the westbound left and 189' for the eastbound left. | The opposing left turn lanes on Rex Road between the proposed Estate Ridge Drive and future Rolling Ranch Drive will have shortened lane and taper lengths then what is prescribed in the criteria | The lane lengths provided nearly meet criteria at 190' for the westbound (90\% of criteria) and $185^{\prime}$ for the eastbound left ( $98 \%$ of criteria). |

Chapter 4.2.6.F.2.h of the Land Development Code (LDC) allows for a PUD modification of a general development standard in the LDC or criteria of the Engineering Criteria Manual (ECM). The proposed PUD modifications allow for a more efficient layout that enhances the open space characteristics and benefits to the proposed community. The modification in addition minimizes grading in an area that based on early soil investigation shows areas of shallow sandstone bedrock, making lowering for future connections difficult. These two development implications and decisions guiding the request for the modification support two of the identified benefits in Chapter 4.2.6.F.2.h - preserving natural features and providing more accessible open space within the development. Supportive of the modification request, the site layout has been reviewed and approved by the Fire Department for safety based on the proposed cul-de-sac lengths and a necessary Will Serve Approval letter has been provided.

## 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 Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 as MR-R2 (2 du/ac).

The PUD Development/Preliminary Plan for Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 comprises 98 lots on approximately 117 acres, which represents a density of 0.84 dwellings per acre. The net density, excluding the tracts and right-of-way is 1.53 dwellings per acre. The PUD Development/ Preliminary Plan is, therefore, in accordance with the approved Sketch Plan.
b. County Policy Plan, Water Master 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 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.

The proposed development supports the overall Sketch Plan intent and approved densities. The development is keeping and supportive of adjacent development proposals with regard to access and overall land uses. The proposed PUD density proposed in addition is contiguous with the existing developments to the west.

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.

The PUD proposes to implement a compatible use that contextually is in keeping with past development proposals for similar size lots. Proper landscaping, buffering and access, support the overarching development context and greater community vision that allow for the variety of densities in an accessible, and compatible manner.

The proposed residential subdivision satisfies the following policies of the County Water Master Plan:

Policy 5.2.4 - Encourage the locating of new development where it can take advantage of existing or proposed water supply projects that would allow shared infrastructure costs.

The proposed subdivision is located within the Meridian Service Metropolitan District (MSMD) and a supportive Will Serve Letter noting the Districts ability to serve the proposed development in an efficient manner with the current infrastructure has been provided.

Policy 5.5.1 - Discourage individual wells for new subdivisions with 2.5 acre or smaller average lot sizes, especially in the near-surface aquifers, when there is a reasonable opportunity to connect to an existing central system, alternatively, or construct a new central water supply system when the economies of scale to do so can be achieved.

The proposed development is located within the MSMD and is proposed to connect to the existing central water and wastewater. Will Serve Letters have been provided for the proposed development.

Policy 6.0.1 - Continue to require documentation of the adequacy or sufficiency of water, as appropriate, for proposed development.

An appropriate Will Serve Letter has been provided noting the MSMD ability to serve the noted subdivision adequately and noting their current capacities to serve.

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."

Full build out of the Meridian Service Metropolitan District (District) is anticipated within the 2040 timeframe. The Water Resources Report indicates that the District has sufficient supply to meet the expected need at full build out by 2040 and 2060. 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. As stated in the Water Resources Report, this development is projected to need 32.5 -acre feet of water per year and a planning need of 1,701 -acre feet per year. Current supply is 2,119-acre feet on a 300 year basis.
The District currently incorporates a $15 \%$ reserve into their future planning. Based on the needs, current supply, and reserve the District has sufficient water to meet the needs expected now and into the future with no shortages anticipated.

A Will Serve Letter for water and wastewater commitments has been provided by the District. Meridian Ranch is situated in the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Designated Groundwater Basin which is managed by the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Management District. MSMD currently services over 12,000 in equivalent population in several filings within Meridian Ranch, Falcon High School and portions of Latigo Trails as an out of district user.

The service area is located in the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Groundwater Management District and the water bearing formations in descending stratigraphic order are the Dawson, Denver, Arapahoe, and

Laramie Fox Hills. These four aquifers are collectively known as the Denver Basin aquifers and are found approximately at depths of $500,1,400,1,900$, and 2,500 feet below the ground surface.

The water system that serves Meridian Ranch is classified as a "public water system", and meets all the applicable requirements of the CDPHE.

The water system uses groundwater as its primary source of supply. Filtration and disinfection facilities have been constructed at a central location to ensure good water quality. Elevation differences that exist throughout the property require that the distribution system is divided into two pressure zones to ensure that the water is delivered at no less than 40 psi during peak hour flow and at no more than 120 psi during periods of low use. Storage facilities and distribution piping are provided to ensure that the residual pressure requirements are achieved both during peak hour demands and during maximum day demands with a superimposed fire flow of 1500 gpm for the residential areas and up to 3500 gpm for commercial areas. The upper pressure zone (Zone 1) is a closed loop distribution system served by pumps that provide the required pressures, these are located in the same location as the filtration and disinfection facilities. The lower pressure zone (Zone 2 ) is a conventional gravity system served by storage tanks to provide the required pressures.

MSMD currently provides water service to 117 Latigo Trails home sites as out of district users. Latigo Trails is located within Zone 1 north of and adjacent to Meridian Ranch. The water used to provide this service comes from a Laramie Fox Hills well under permit no. 46406-F. This well is permitted for use within the Meridian Service Metropolitan District as well.

The District's current use is based on an average of 20\% renewable water sources and is actively seeking renewable sources and replacement sources with Cherokee Metro Water District to date.

## c. Parks and Open Space Requirement

Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 includes open space tracts approximately 38.8 acres in size trail connection to the extensive trail and open space provision within Meridian Ranch. The proposed Open Space dedication for the project of 38.8 acres achieves an $33 \%$ dedication exceeding the $10 \%$ requirement as noted in the Land Development Code Section 4.2.6.F.8b.

As required by Section 8.5.3 of the Land Development Code, the fees in lieu of park land dedication are $\$ 288$ per subdivision lot for Urban Parks and \$456 per subdivision lot for Regional Parks. The required fees in lieu for this project are:

|  | Estates at Rolling Hills <br> Ranch No.2 |
| :--- | :---: |
| Urban | $\$ 28,224$ |
| Regional | $\$ 44,688$ |
| Total | $\$ 72,912$ |

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. Drainage

A Preliminary/Final Drainage Report for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 is submitted with this application package.

## e. Traffic

A Traffic Report prepared by LSC is submitted in support of this application. Based on the projected 2040 total traffic volumes shown in Figure 11 and the criteria contained in the ECM, an eastbound leftturn lane is required on Rex Road approaching Estate Ridge Drive.

## f. Geotechnical Report

A Geotechnical Report prepared by Entech Engineering Inc. is submitted in support of this application. In areas that shallow ground water is identified foundations perimeter drains are recommended when foundations are not able to be located above the identified groundwater levels.

## g. 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.
h. Wildlife

Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 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.

## Criteria for Approval:

PUD Zoning:

- The application is in general conformity with the Master Plan;

The proposed application is in keeping the with the most recent 2017 Approved Sketch Plan and County Wide Master Plans as noted above.

- The proposed development is in compliance with the requirements of this Code and all applicable statutory provisions and will not otherwise be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of the present or future inhabitants of El Paso County;
The proposed development is in compliance with all County Code requirements and applicable statutory provisions and not detrimental to the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of el Paso County. The proposed development continually provides needed housing, adequate access to services, infrastructure and beneficial active community open space opportunities.
- The subject property is suitable for the intended uses and the use is compatible with both the existing and allowed land uses on the neighboring properties, will be in harmony and responsive with the character of the surrounding area and natural environment; and will not have a negative impact upon the existing and future development of the surrounding area;
The proposed development is per the Approved Sketch Plan and supports an approved land use intention for the propose PUD development. The development continually promotes the access to and increased development of the surrounding natural environment that is sensitive to the impacts of the character of the community and neighboring communities through the promotion of increased access to open space and development of such.
- The proposed development provides adequate consideration for any potentially detrimental use to use relationships (e.g. commercial use adjacent to single family use) and provides an appropriate transition or buffering between uses of differing intensities both on-site and off-site which may include innovative treatments of use to use relationships;
No incompatible uses are shown with the proposed development. Additional buffering is provided for density considerations with the similar residential uses to the north with increased open space dedications.
- The allowed uses, bulk requirements and required landscaping and buffering are appropriate to and compatible with the type of development, the surrounding neighborhood or area and the community; The proposed development is consistent with surrounding neighborhoods and use designations. Additional buffering is provided for density considerations with the similar residential uses to the north with increased open space dedications.
- Areas with unique or significant historical, cultural, recreational, aesthetic or natural features are preserved and incorporated into the design of the project;
No significant preservation areas exist on site. Recreational open space opportunities are consistently incorporated into the Meridian Ranch development for a consistent and growing community need.
- Open spaces and trails are integrated into the development plan to serve as amenities to residents and provide a reasonable walking and biking opportunities;
The proposed Open Space dedication for the project of 38.8 acres achieves an 33\% dedication exceeding the $10 \%$ requirement as noted in the Land Development Code Section 4.2.6.F.8b.
- The proposed development will not overburden the capacities of existing or planned roads, utilities and other public facilities (e.g., fire protection, police protection, emergency services, and water and sanitation), and the required public services and facilities will be provided to support the development when needed;
Appropriate infrastructure from the Meridian Service Metropolitan District provides 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.
- The proposed development would be a benefit through the provision of interconnected open space, conservation of environmental features, aesthetic features and harmonious design, and energy efficient site design;
The proposed development provides a 33\% land dedication for open space. Recreational open space opportunities are consistently incorporated into the Meridian Ranch development for a consistent and growing community need.
- The proposed land use does not permit the use of any area containing a commercial mineral deposit in a manner which would unreasonably interfere with the present or future extraction of such deposit unless acknowledged by the mineral rights owner;
The proposed development does not propose or permit the use of land for mineral extraction.
- Any proposed exception or deviation from the requirements of the zoning resolution or the subdivision regulations is warranted by virtue of the design and amenities incorporated in the development plan and development guide;
Proposed deviations are consistent with past approvals and warranted based on past development regulations and design intents consistent with the County Land Development Code requirements.
- The owner has authorized the application.

Application is being submitted by the current land owner and developer.
Final Plat:

- The subdivision is in conformance with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Master Plan; The proposed application is in keeping the with the most recent 2017 Approved Sketch Plan and County Wide Master Plans as noted above.
- The subdivision is in substantial conformance with the approved preliminary plan; The proposed application is in keeping with past development applications and seeks both a Preliminary Plan/ PUD Plan Approvals.
- The subdivision is consistent with the subdivision design standards and regulations and meets all planning, engineering, and surveying requirements of the County for maps, data, surveys, analyses, studies, reports, plans, designs, documents, and other supporting materials;
The proposed plan is consistent with the current County Land Use and County Subdivisions Criteria.
- 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;
An appropriate Will Serve Letter has been provided noting the MSMD ability to serve the noted subdivision adequately and noting their current capacities to serve.
- 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;
An appropriate Will Serve Letter has been provided noting the MSMD ability to serve the noted subdivision adequately and noting their current capacities to serve.
- All areas of the proposed subdivision which may involve soil or topographical conditions presenting hazards or requiring special precautions have been identified and that the proposed subdivision is compatible with such conditions [C.R.S. § 30-28-133(6)(c)];
A Geotechnical Report prepared by Entech Engineering Inc. is submitted in support of this application. In areas that shallow ground water is identified foundations perimeter drains are recommended when foundations are not able to be located above the identified groundwater levels.
- Adequate drainage improvements are proposed that comply with State Statute [C.R.S. § 30-28133(3)(c)(VIII)] and the requirements of this Code and the ECM;
A Preliminary/Final Drainage Report for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch No. 2 is submitted with this application package addressing all appropriate drainage improvements.
- Legal and physical access is provided to all parcels by public rights-of-way or recorded easement, acceptable to the County in compliance with this Code and the ECM;
Appropriate access and Right-of-Way improvements are proposed per current County Criteria.
- Necessary services, including police and fire protection, recreation, utilities, and transportation systems, are or will be made available to serve the proposed subdivision;
Appropriate Will Serve Letters for Fire and Utilities have been provided along with necessary community service needs related to recreation and transportation.
- The final plans provide evidence to show that the proposed methods for fire protection comply with Chapter 6 of this Code;
A Will Serve Letter and Fire Protection Report showing ability to serve the development adequately has been provided.
- Off-site impacts were evaluated and related off-site improvements are roughly proportional and will mitigate the impacts of the subdivision in accordance with applicable requirements of Chapter 8; All off-site impacts have adequately mitigated for the proposed development.
- Adequate public facilities or infrastructure, or cash-in-lieu, for impacts reasonably related to the proposed subdivision have been constructed or are financially guaranteed through the SIA so the impacts of the subdivision will be adequately mitigated;
Adequate infrastructure is being providing to support the current Metro Districts ability to serve the proposed development and an appropriate Will Serve Letter has been provided noting the MSMD ability to serve the noted subdivision adequately and noting their current capacities to serve.
- The subdivision meets other applicable sections of Chapter 6 and 8 ; and The proposed development meets all County Land Development Code requirements.
- The extraction of any known commercial mining deposit shall not be impeded by this subdivision [C.R.S. §§ 34-1-302(1), et seq.]
The proposed development does not propose or permit the use of land for mineral extraction.

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Chapter 4.2.6.F.2.g of the Land Development Code (LDC) allows for a PUD modification of a general development standard in the LDC or criteria of the Engineering Criteria Manual (ECM), provided at least one of the benefits identified in Chapter 4.2.6.F.2.h are met. Section 5.8 of the ECM establishes an additional mechanism whereby an engineering design standard can be modified provided the limits of consideration in ECM Section 5.8.6 are met and the modifications meets the criteria for approval in ECM Section 5.8.7.

The following deviations to the ECM are requested for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch PUD (numbers correspond to PUD modification table on the PUD cover sheet and in the Letter of Intent).

## \#1- Mid Block Crossings

Nature of Request:
Section of ECM from which Deviation Is Sought: 2.5.2.C.4

Specific Criteria from which a Deviation Is Sought: 2.5.2.C.4 Access ramps on local roadways shall be spaced no greater than 600 feet apart.

Proposed Nature and Extent of Deviation: The PUD modification to remove the need for a midblock crossing is consistent with the following considerations identified in Section

### 4.2.6.F.2.h of the Land Development Code:

- Provision of a more efficient pedestrian system - pedestrian circulation within Meridian Ranch is focused on the provided trail system, which connects the residential areas to the parks and open space. The project is designed to encourage the use of the trail system, rather than the sidewalks, where possible. On the streets where mid-block crossings are not provided, there are no pedestrian destinations or trails that would necessitate a midblock crossing to connect to amenities.
- Provision of additional open space - by encouraging the residents to use the trail system, the project provides better access to the open space in the development.
- The deviation would eliminate mid-block pedestrian crossings between on the following street: Rex Road, Crescent Creek Drive, Sunrise Ridge Drive and Highland Crest Drive.

There are no Federal ADA maximum distances allowed between pedestrian crossing along street that would necessitate midblock pedestrian ramps.

ECM Section 5.8.6: Limits of Consideration:
The ECM Administrator may only consider a project-specific deviation to an existing standard when one of the following conditions is met:

- The ECM standard is inapplicable to a particular situation.
- Topography, right-of-way, or other geographical conditions or impediments impose an undue economic hardship on the applicant, and an equivalent alternative that can accomplish the same design objective is available and does not compromise public safety or accessibility. N/A
- A change to a standard is required to address a specific design or construction problem, and if not modified, the standard will impose an undue hardship on the applicant with little or no material benefit to the public.
The change is desired to achieve a specific design characteristic within the project. The development has a focus on the trail system that meanders in an out of open space and local park space, the desire is to encourage the use of the trails instead of the interior sidewalks. The design limits the use of mid-block pedestrian crossings that can create safety hazards by blocking or
hindering sight lines and placing pedestrians in danger. The design concept also creates an aesthetically pleasing, consistent sidewalk offset from the curb to sidewalk. Pedestrians will generally cross the street at any location regardless of the presence of a pedestrian ramp due to the typically low traffic volume found on local streets. A suggested revision would be to revise the criteria such that mid-block pedestrian ramps are required as deemed necessary to provide access to schools, shopping, transportation facilities or other community facilities and services similar to the City of Colorado Springs standards.


## ECM Section 5.8.7: Criteria for Approval

Per ECM section 5.8 .7 the request for a deviation may be considered if the request is not based exclusively on financial considerations. The deviation must not be detrimental to public safety or surrounding property. The applicant must include supporting information demonstrating compliance with all of the following criteria:

- The deviation will achieve the intended result with a comparable or superior design and quality of improvement;
Provision of a more efficient pedestrian system - pedestrian circulation within Meridian Ranch is focused on the provided trail system, which connects the residential areas to the parks and open space. The project is designed to encourage the use of the trail system, rather than the sidewalks, where possible. On all the streets where mid-block crossings are not provided, there are no pedestrian destinations or trails that would necessitate a midblock crossing to connect to amenities.
- The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations;

The design enhances safety by eliminating potential dangerous mid-block crossings, where pedestrians enter the roadway from behind parked vehicles where lines of sight are limited or blocked. The deviation will also eliminate mid-block ramps where changes in direction of the sidewalk and/or grade could produce a tripping or stumbling hazard.

- The deviation will not adversely affect maintenance and its associated cost; and

The deviation will not adversely affect the maintenance cost or the ability for maintenance vehicles to work on the street or within the right-of-way. Reducing mid-block pedestrian ramps will reduce the cost of maintenance due to eliminating signage and pavement markings

- The deviation will not adversely affect aesthetic appearance.

The deviation will improve the aesthetic appearance by creating unswerving smooth offset line of the sidewalk from curb.

- The deviation meets the design intent and purpose of the ECM standards.

The deviation meets the design intent and purposes of the ECM standards by meeting all other aspects of the standards with respect road design, road safety and pedestrian safety. There are no Federal ADA maximum distances allowed between pedestrian crossing along street that would necessitate mid-block pedestrian ramps.

- The deviation meets the control measure requirements of Part I.E. 3 and Part I.E. 4 of the County's MS4 permit, as applicable.
The proposed design does not inhibit the program requirements with respect to water quality and storm water runoff during construction and future permanent facilities.


## \#2- Roadway terminations - cul-de-sac length

Nature of Request:
Section of ECM from which Deviation Is Sought: 2.3.8.A

Specific Criteria from which a Deviation Is Sought: 2.3.8.A Exceed the maximum length between of a cul-de-sac on an Urban Local street

Proposed Nature and Extent of Deviation: The requested cul-de-sac length is 1,156 feet, which is 406 feet longer than the ECM standard of 750 feet.

The Falcon Fire Protection District has provided a letter in support of this design alternative stating the district does not have any restricting regulation with regard to cul-de-sac lengths other than the requirement to have the necessary surface material and the means to turnaround that meets the county requirements.

## ECM Section 5.8.6: Limits of Consideration:

The ECM Administrator may only consider a project-specific deviation to an existing standard when one of the following conditions is met:

- The ECM standard is inapplicable to a particular situation.

Several cul-de-sacs in the last few subdivisions have been deemed too long by this criterion. The ECM seems to indicate a safety concern from the perspective of the access by emergency
services, in particular fire protection. However, the Falcon Fire Protection District has indicated in every case that approval of lengths exceeding 750 are acceptable if a proper surface is provided, the means of access and turnaround is sufficient and the location is not within the wildland fire interface. This project is not located within the wildland interface.

- Topography, right-of-way, or other geographical conditions or impediments impose an undue economic hardship on the applicant, and an equivalent alternative that can accomplish the same design objective is available and does not compromise public safety or accessibility. N/A
- A change to a standard is required to address a specific design or construction problem, and if not modified, the standard will impose an undue hardship on the applicant with little or no material benefit to the public.


## N/A

## ECM Section 5.8.7: Criteria for Approval

Per ECM section 5.8.7 the request for a deviation may be considered if the request is not based exclusively on financial considerations. The deviation must not be detrimental to public safety or surrounding property. The applicant must include supporting information demonstrating compliance with all of the following criteria:

- The deviation will achieve the intended result with a comparable or superior design and quality of improvement;
Homes on a cul-de-sac are desirable to most home purchasers, this design provides what the perspective purchaser is seeking without adversely impacting the public safety nor surrounding property. The proposed design in addition creates unique and desired community enclaves while also providing sufficient vehicular and pedestrian access to open space links.
- The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations;

The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations; as mentioned above the Falcon Fire Protection District has no objections for this design so long as the roadway is built wide enough for their firefighting apparatus to traverse the length of the street and has sufficient space to turn around, and the project is not located within the wildland fire interface. The design provides both width and turn-around space. The Falcon Fire Protection District has no regulations limiting the length of a cul-de-sac, just additional provisions that certain lengths be approved and proper surfacing provided.

- The deviation will not adversely affect maintenance and its associated cost; and The deviation will not adversely affect maintenance and its associated costs, since in all other aspects, such as roadway width, slope, pavement type, turn around space, etc. meet El Paso County criteria. Since it meets all other criteria the impacts to maintenance is insignificant.

Conversely, if the long cul-de-sac were not allowed, a street would be required to be added increasing maintenance and cost to the County.

- The deviation will not adversely affect aesthetic appearance.

The deviation will not adversely affect the aesthetic appears of the project.

- The deviation meets the design intent and purpose of the ECM standards.

The deviation meets the design intent and purpose of the ECM standards by meeting all other aspects of the standards except the length of the cul-de-sac.

- The deviation meets the control measure requirements of Part I.E. 3 and Part I.E. 4 of the County's MS4 permit, as applicable.
The deviation meets the control measure requirements by leaving more area in its natural condition promotes more infiltration and less runoff. By allowing a long cul-de-sac, additional disturbance of the surrounding area for an additional roadway for the sole purpose of connecting this cul-de-sac with a future cul-de-sac can be avoided.


## \#3- Minimum Intersection Spacing

Nature of Request:
Section of ECM from which Deviation Is Sought: 2.2.5.C

Specific Criteria from which a Deviation Is Sought: Roadway Access Criteria-Minor Arterial Access Standards. The standard requires intersection spacing of one-quarter mile between street intersections. This standard is also reflected in Table 2-6 Roadway Design Standards for Urban Expressways and Arterials and reflected in Section 2.4.1.D. 2 Entering Site Distance on Minor Arterial, Table 2-35.

Proposed Nature and Extent of Deviation: The distance between the two intersections along Rex Road is less than criteria for a minor arterial but meets that of a collector road. The road will essentially function as a collector due to the estimated total daily traffic counts. The intersection spacing has been previously agreed to at the time of the Rolling Hills Ranch 1-3 PUD approval.

ECM Section 5.8.6: Limits of Consideration:
The ECM Administrator may only consider a project-specific deviation to an existing standard when one of the following conditions is met:

- The ECM standard is inapplicable to a particular situation.


## N/A

- Topography, right-of-way, or other geographical conditions or impediments impose an undue economic hardship on the applicant, and an equivalent alternative that can accomplish the same design objective is available and does not compromise public safety or accessibility. The deviation request is necessary due to early agreements concerning the future of Rex Road, in particular the Arterial Half section and intersection spacing as approved by the Rolling Hills

Ranch 1-3 PUD (attached). The proposed intersection spacing is sufficient to accommodate the 2040 projected traffic volumes as identified in the Traffic Impact Statement.

- A change to a standard is required to address a specific design or construction problem, and if not modified, the standard will impose an undue hardship on the applicant with little or no material benefit to the public.
N/A


## ECM Section 5.8.7: Criteria for Approval

Per ECM section 5.8.7 the request for a deviation may be considered if the request is not based exclusively on financial considerations. The deviation must not be detrimental to public safety or surrounding property. The applicant must include supporting information demonstrating compliance with all of the following criteria:

- The deviation will achieve the intended result with a comparable or superior design and quality of improvement;
Given the constraints of the intersection spacing provides the best design alternative for providing sufficient sight distance for vehicle entering Rex Road from the adjacent local roadways.
- The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations;

The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations since the sight distance available between the two intersections meets the minimum requirements for the posted speed limit.

- The deviation will not adversely affect maintenance and its associated cost; and There are no adverse impacts of this design that would affect maintenance in this area.
- The deviation will not adversely affect aesthetic appearance.

The deviation provides the necessary sight distance for the two intersections and the general appearance to a typical driver or nearby resident will appear no different than any other intersection. There will be no adverse aesthetic appearance.

- The deviation meets the design intent and purpose of the ECM standards.

The design meets the spirit and intent of the ECM standards in limiting access points onto Minor Arterials.

- The deviation meets the control measure requirements of Part I.E. 3 and Part I.E. 4 of the County's MS4 permit, as applicable.
The proposed deviation is not different than any other proposed roadway within El Paso County matching all other requirements for similarly classified roads and meets all requirements associated with the MS4 permit.
\#4- Design Standards by Functional Classification
Nature of Request:
Section of ECM from which Deviation Is Sought: 2.2.4.B.3 \& 2.3.2

Specific Criteria from which a Deviation Is Sought: 2.3.2 Design Standards by Functional Classification, Table 2-6

Proposed Nature and Extent of Deviation: Construct the portion of Rex Road to be located between Pyramid Peak Drive and Sunrise Ridge Drive as a Residential Urban Collector in lieu of the Urban Minor Arterial as identified in the current 2040 Major Transportation Corridor Plan.

The alternative design is to construct Rex Road east of Sunrise Ridge Drive as a half section of the Urban Minor Arterial. Transition from a Residential Urban Collector to the half section east of Sunrise Ridge Dr continuing east to proposed Rolling Ranch Drive..

ECM Section 5.8.6: Limits of Consideration:
The ECM Administrator may only consider a project-specific deviation to an existing standard when one of the following conditions is met:

- The ECM standard is inapplicable to a particular situation. N/A
- Topography, right-of-way, or other geographical conditions or impediments impose an undue economic hardship on the applicant, and an equivalent alternative that can accomplish the same design objective is available and does not compromise public safety or accessibility.
The previously recorded final plats for Estates at Meridian Ranch Filing 2 and Meridian Ranch Filing 9, located west of this project create a corridor of only 60' wide. This restriction provides sufficient room for an Urban Residential Collector and restricts the ability to construct the Urban Minor Arterial in this section west of the proposed project. This portion of Rex Road would require Rex Road to be constructed with lane tapers and redirects which could create confusion for the driver and pose unnecessary risk to future accidents. Any other alternative would require the acquisition of property for public and private entities in order to secure sufficient land to construct the Urban Minor Arterial west of the project and additional cost to the County as this roadway is identified in the 2040 Major Transportation Corridor Plan making Rex Road construction a reimbursable project.
- A change to a standard is required to address a specific design or construction problem, and if not modified, the standard will impose an undue hardship on the applicant with little or no material benefit to the public.
N/A

ECM Section 5.8.7: Criteria for Approval
Per ECM section 5.8.7 the request for a deviation may be considered if the request is not based exclusively on financial considerations. The deviation must not be detrimental to public safety or surrounding property. The applicant must include supporting information demonstrating compliance with all of the following criteria:

- The deviation will achieve the intended result with a comparable or superior design and quality of improvement;

The deviation will provide a comparable design in that the estimated ADTs for this section fall more than 50\% below the threshold for an Urban Minor Arterial roadway section.

The design provides the southern half of the roadway (centerline to southern curb. This provides a better design in that when and if the roadway is widened to the full width Urban Minor Arterial, all of the improvements south of the centerline will provide a future cost savings without the need to redesign and/or remove/replace large portions of the roadway.

- The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations;

The Engineering Criteria Manual identifies 20,000 ADTs as the maximum volume of traffic that can be safely conveyed on an Urban Minor Arterial Street section, the estimated 2040 ADT is sufficiently below at 7,470 to justify a half section. Constructing a full width Urban Minor Arterial would require lane drop, tapers and redirects to accommodate the existing narrower section to the west of Sunrise Ridge Dr. The design will have the travel lanes east and west of Sunrise Ridge match eliminating the need to include lane drops east of Sunrise Ridge Dr.

Merging traffic at lane drops and redirects create a potential risk for accidents east of the intersection. The half section will safely carry the anticipated total traffic volume from Eastonville Road to Mt. Gateway at the projected total traffic volume.

- The deviation will not adversely affect maintenance and its associated cost; and

The proposed deviation will not adversely impact maintenance for this street section in that it will not receive traffic higher than normal for this type of roadway classification

- The deviation will not adversely affect aesthetic appearance.

The deviation will not adversely affect the aesthetics of the area as it will match an already established street section.

- The deviation meets the design intent and purpose of the ECM standards.

The proposed deviation and design allows for the accommodation of the future widening of Rex Road to full width Urban Minor Arterial if and when it is deemed necessary due to any unforeseen increase traffic volume closer to the 20,000 ADTs

- The deviation meets the control measure requirements of Part I.E. 3 and Part I.E. 4 of the County's MS4 permit, as applicable.
The proposed deviation is not different than any other proposed roadway within El Paso County matching all other requirements for similarly classified roads and meets all requirements associated with the MS4 permit.


## \#5- Turn Lane Designs

Nature of Request:
Section of ECM from which Deviation Is Sought: 2.3.7.E
Specific Criteria from which a Deviation Is Sought: 2.3.7.E Turn Lane Designs

Proposed Nature and Extent of Deviation: The opposing left turn lanes on Rex Road between the proposed Estate Ridge Drive and future Rolling Ranch Drive will have shortened lane and taper lengths then what is prescribed in the criteria

ECM Section 5.8.6: Limits of Consideration:
The ECM Administrator may only consider a project-specific deviation to an existing standard when one of the following conditions is met:

- The ECM standard is inapplicable to a particular situation.

N/A

- Topography, right-of-way, or other geographical conditions or impediments impose an undue economic hardship on the applicant, and an equivalent alternative that can accomplish the same design objective is available and does not compromise public safety or accessibility.
The deviation request is necessary due to early agreements concerning the future of Rex Road, in particular the Arterial Half section and intersection spacing as approved by the Rolling Hills Ranch 1-3 PUD (attached). The proposed left turn lengths, both eastbound and westbound, are sufficient to accommodate the 2040 projected traffic volumes as identified in the Traffic Impact Statement.
- A change to a standard is required to address a specific design or construction problem, and if not modified, the standard will impose an undue hardship on the applicant with little or no material benefit to the public.


## $N / A$

## ECM Section 5.8.7: Criteria for Approval

Per ECM section 5.8.7 the request for a deviation may be considered if the request is not based exclusively on financial considerations. The deviation must not be detrimental to public safety or surrounding property. The applicant must include supporting information demonstrating compliance with all of the following criteria:

- The deviation will achieve the intended result with a comparable or superior design and quality of improvement;
Given the constraints of the sight and the design parameters, the shortened taper and near criteria lane lengths provide the best design alternative for providing the exclusive the left turn lanes.
- The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations;

The deviation will not adversely affect safety or operations since the total deceleration length is available between the two intersections and there are no sight distance issues associated with this area.

- The deviation will not adversely affect maintenance and its associated cost; and There are no adverse impacts of this design that would affect maintenance in this area.
- The deviation will not adversely affect aesthetic appearance.

The deviation provides the necessary left turn configurations for the two intersections and the general appearance to a typical driver or nearby resident will appear no different than any other intersection. There will be no adverse aesthetic appearance.

- The deviation meets the design intent and purpose of the ECM standards.

The design meets the spirit and intent of the ECM standards in providing exclusive left turn lanes, deceleration lengths and tapers.

- The deviation meets the control measure requirements of Part I.E. 3 and Part I.E. 4 of the County's MS4 permit, as applicable.
The proposed deviation is not different than any other proposed roadway within El Paso County matching all other requirements for similarly classified roads and meets all requirements associated with the MS4 permit.



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ROLLING HILLS RANCH FILING NO. 2
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SECTION 19 AND 20, IN TOWNSHIP 12 SOUTH, RANGE 64 WEST OF

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| State of Colorado) ${ }^{\text {)ss. }}$. Paso County ) <br> I hereby certify that this Plan was filed in my office on this $\quad$ (month), 20 octlock a.m./p.m. and was |
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PUD MODIFICATION TABLE
AS ALOWED BY LDC SECTION 4.2.6.(F)(2)(g))


Sheet index map



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PUD SP 204

August 27, 2020
Ryan Howser
El Paso County Development Services Department
DSDcomments@elpasoco.com

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\begin{array}{ll}
\text { RE: } & \text { Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. } 2 \\
\text { PUDSP204 and SF2018 } \\
\text { Part of the NW } 1 / 4,20 \text { T12S, R64W, } 6^{\text {th }} \text { P.M. } \\
\text { Water Division 2, Water District } 10 \\
\text { Upper Black Squirrel Creek Designated Basin }
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Dear Mr. Howser:
We have reviewed your August 10, 2020 submittal concerning the above referenced proposal for the development of 117 acres into 98 single family lots and tracts for landscaping, open space and utilities.

## Water Supply Demand

According to the Water Supply Information Summary, the total estimated water demand is 32.5 acre-feet/year.

## Source of Water Supply

Meridian Service Metropolitan District ("District") is the proposed water supplier. The District has provided a letter dated June 8, 2020 committing to serve the 98 lots within the proposed Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing 2 subdivision at the estimated demand of 32.5 acre-feet per year. The subdivision lies within the allowed place of use of the District's water supplies.

The District's sources of water are a combination of bedrock aquifer allocations from the Denver Basin as well as alluvial sources. The State Engineer's Office does not have evidence regarding the length of time for which the bedrock aquifer sources will be a physically and economically viable source of water. According to 37-90-107(7)(a), C.R.S., "Permits issued pursuant to this subsection (7) shall allow withdrawals on the basis of an aquifer life of 100 years." Based on this allocation approach, the annual amounts of water determined are equal to one percent of the total amount, as determined by rule 5.3.2.1 of the Designated Basin Rules, 2 CCR 410-1. Therefore, the water may be withdrawn in those annual amounts for a maximum of 100 years.

In the El Paso County Land Development Code, effective November, 1986, Chapter 5, Section 49.5, (D), (2) states:
"- Finding of Sufficient Quantity - The water supply shall be of sufficient quantity to meet the average annual demand of the proposed subdivision for a period of three hundred (300) years."

The State Engineer's Office does not have evidence regarding the length of time for which the bedrock aquifer sources will "meet the average annual demand of the proposed subdivision." However, treating El Paso County's requirement as an allocation approach based on three hundred
years, the annual amounts of water available from the bedrock aquifers that may be withdrawn from a maximum period of 300 years are equal to one-third of one percent of the total amount.

Information available in our files indicates the District's water rights total approximately 2,088 acre-feet/year for a period of 300 years ( 1,888 acre-feet/year from bedrock aquifers and 200 acre-feet/year from the alluvial aquifer), and it has approximately 1,671 acre-feet/year committed to supplying subdivisions and 30.2 acre-feet/year committed to replacement obligations, for a total commitment of 1,701 acre-feet/year.

The uncommitted annual water supply of 387 acre-feet/year is more than the estimated annual demand of 32.5 acre-feet/year for Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch, Filing No. 2.

## State Engineer's Office Opinion

Based upon the above and pursuant to Section 30-28-136(1)(h)(II), C.R.S., it is our opinion that the proposed water supply is adequate and can be provided without causing injury to decreed water rights.

Our opinion that the water supply is adequate is based on our determination that the amount of water required annually to serve the subdivision is currently physically available, based on current estimated aquifer conditions.

Our opinion that the water supply can be provided without causing injury is based on our determination that the amount of water that is legally available on an annual basis, according to the statutory allocation approach, for the proposed uses on the subdivided land is greater than the annual amount of water required to supply existing water commitments and the demands of the proposed subdivision.

Our opinion is qualified by the following:
The Ground Water Commission has retained jurisdiction over the final amount of water available pursuant to the above-referenced decree, pending actual geophysical data from the aquifer.

The amounts of water in the Denver Basin aquifer, and identified in this letter, are calculated based on estimated current aquifer conditions. The source of water is from a non-renewable aquifer, the allocations of which are based on a 100 year aquifer life. The county should be aware that the economic life of a water supply based on wells in a given Denver Basin aquifer may be less than the 100 years (or 300 years) used for allocation due to anticipated water level declines. We recommend that the county determine whether it is appropriate to require development of renewable water resources for this subdivision to provide for a long-term water supply.

If you, or the applicant, have any questions, please contact Ailis Thyme at 303-866-3581 ext. 8216.

# Sincerely, <br>  

Keith Vander Horst
Chief of Water Supply, Designated Basins
cc: Upper Black Squirrel Creek GWMD
Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing 2.docx
SEO referral no. 27262

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY
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Lisa A. Kirkman Steven A. Klaffky
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Bryan E. Schmid Nathan J. Whitney
Michael J. Desmond
Christopher M. Strider

October 23, 2020
Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. 2
SF-20-18
Final Plat
PUDSP-20-4 PUD Development Plan/Preliminary Plan
Reviewed by: Lori Seago, Senior Assistant County Attorney Edi Anderson, Paralegal, ACP


## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS:

1. This is a PUD Development Plan/Preliminary Plan and Final Plat proposal by GTL Development, Inc. ("Applicant"), to subdivide an approximately 117 acre parcel into 98 single-family lots. The property is zoned PUD (Planned Unit Development).
2. The Applicant has provided for the source of water to derive from the Meridian Service Metropolitan District ("District"). Pursuant to the Water Supply Information Summary, the Applicant estimates its annual water needs to serve household use for the entire subdivision at 32.5 acre-feet, based on the District's 0.33 annual acrefeet per single-family equivalent, plus irrigation in the amount of 0.2 acre-feet/year. Based on these figures, the Applicant must be able to provide a supply of 9,750 acre-feet of water ( 32.5 acre-feet/year $\times 300$ years) to meet the County's 300 year water supply requirement.
3. The District's General Manager provided a letter of commitment for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing 2 Subdivision dated June 8, 2020, in which the District committed to providing water service to the subdivision of 98 residential lots at an annual amount of water of 32.5 acre-feet. The District Manager identified that the District currently has 2,119 acre-feet per year of water available for developments, with approved commitments in the amount 1,669 acre-feet. The Manager states that the "additional 32.5 Ac-Ft demand results [in] an overall demand of 1,701 Ac-Ft which leaves a surplus of 418 Ac-Ft per year."
4. Applicant also provided a Water Resources Report for Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing 2 PUD dated September 2020 ("Water Resources Report") which detailed the District's water supply. The Report notes that the District's water supply includes both "renewable sources and Denver Basin non-renewable sources." The District's total legal supply on a 300-year basis is 2,119 annual acre-feet.
5. In a letter dated August 27, 2020, the State Engineer reviewed the application to subdivide the 117 acres into 98 single-family residential lots. The Engineer reviewed this proposal which estimated a water demand of 32.5 acre-feet/year, including the District's commitment to supply the same. The State Engineer indicated that information in their files indicates "the District's water rights total approximately 2,088 acre-feet/year for a period of 300 years (1,888 acre-feet/year from bedrock aquifers and 200 acre-feet/year from the alluvial aquifer), and it has approximately 1,671 acre-feet/year committed to supplying subdivisions and 30.2 acre-feet/year committed to replacement obligations, for a total commitment of 1,701 acre-feet/year." And further, an "uncommitted annual water supply of 387 acre-feet/year ${ }^{1}$ is more than the estimated annual demand of 32.5 acre-feet/year for Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch, Filing No. 2." Finally, the Engineer stated that "pursuant to Section $30-28-136(1)(h)(I I)$, C.R.S., it is our opinion that the proposed water supply is adequate and can be provided without causing injury to decreed water rights."
6. Analysis: As indicated above, the Applicant provided a Water Resources Report dated September 2020, detailing the sources of the District's water supply, which is based on both renewable and non-renewable sources. With a proposed annual demand of 32.5 acre-feet, plus the current commitments of the District of 1,669 acre-feet per year, the available resulting water supply of 2,119 acre-feet, and the remaining surplus of 387 acre-feet per year (based on the State Engineer's figures), it appears the proposed water supply will be sufficient for the Estates at Rolling Hills Ranch Filing No. 2.
7. Section $8.4 .7(\mathrm{~B})(10)(\mathrm{g})$, of the El Paso County Land Development Code allows for the presumption of acceptable water quality for projects such as this where water is supplied by an existing Community Water Supply operating in conformance with Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations unless there is evidence to the contrary.
8. Therefore, based upon the finding of sufficiency and no injury by the State Engineer, the District's commitment, and based on the requirements below, the County Attorney's Office recommends a finding that the proposed water supply is sufficient in terms of quantity and dependability. The El Paso County Health Department may wish to confirm that the District is in compliance with the water quality regulations.
[^0]
## REQUIREMENTS:

A. Applicant and all future owners of lots within this filing shall be advised of, and comply with, the conditions, rules, regulations, limitations, and specifications set by the District.
cc: Ryan Howser, Project Manager, Planner I


[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ This number ( 387 acre-feet) differs slightly from the number provided by the District ( 418 acre-feet). Notwithstanding, the amounts set forth by both entities reflect an adequate water supply available for this subdivision.

