

## VARIANCE STAFF REPORT OFFICE OF PLANNING & ZONING

2 Tab Number: **Public Hearing Date:** April 5, 2023 Case No. and Project Name: VAR-22-58-3, Las Colinas Mission Inn Owners: Sonoma Constructors Ltd. & Packing House By-Products Co. Applicant: Suresh Gupta, Park Square Homes Requested Action: Variance to Land Development Regulation (LDR) Section 9.02.10(F)(2) for the removal of twenty-one (21) heritage trees; and to LDR Section 6.01.04(A)(1) to allow for a proposed cul-de-sac, cart path, roadway, and lift station to be located less than 50-feet from the jurisdictional wetland line. Janie Barron, Chief Planner Case Manager: Subject Property Information Size: 83.91 +/- acres construction area Location: Southwest of County Road 48, in the unincorporated Yalaha / Howey-in-the-Hills area 1209064, 1404363, 1801788, 3293657, 3800444, 1209056, 1209048, 1081173, and Alternate Key No.: 3380762 Future Land Use: Urban Low Density and Rural Transition **Current Zoning District:** Planned Unit Development (PUD) – by Ordinance #2005-107 Flood Zones: "A" and "X" Joint Planning Area (JPA) / ISBA: Howey-in-the-Hills ISBA **Overlay Districts:** N/A

### Adjacent Property Land Use Table

Direction	Future Land Use	Zoning	Existing Use	Comments
North	Rural Transition, Urban Low Density, and Planned Unit Development	Agriculture (A), and Planned Unit Development (PUD)	Residential and Agricultural	Bella Vista / Sarabande PUD, Drake Point PUD, and Agriculturally Exempt parcels; adjacent to CR 48
South	Urban Low Density and Rural Transition	Agriculture (A), and Planned Unit Development (PUD)	Residential and Agricultural	Mission Inn PUD, and undeveloped Agriculturally-Exempt parcels with wetlands
East	Urban Low Density, Howey-in-the-Hills	Planned Unit Development (PUD), Howey-in-the-Hills	Residential and Agricultural	Mission Inn PUD and Agriculturally-Exempt parcels annexed into the Town of Howey- in-the-Hills; adjacent to CR 48
West	Rural Transition	Agriculture (A) and Estate Residential (R-2)	Residential and Vacant	Single-Family Residences and Vacant and Undeveloped Tracts with Wetlands

### Summary of Request.

The subject development areas comprise a combined 83.91 +/- acres, and takes in portions of Alternate Key Numbers 1209064, 1404363, 1801788, 3293657, 3800444, 1209056, 1209048, 1081173, and 3380762. The parcels are zoned Planned Unit Development (PUD) in accordance with PUD Ordinance #2005-107, and are designated with an Urban Low Density and Rural Transition Future Land Use Category by the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. Generally, the subject properties are located southwest of County Road 48, in the unincorporated Yalaha / Howey-in-the-Hills area; the subject properties are part of the Mission Inn Planned Unit Development.

A development application for a 247-lot single-family residential subdivision is currently under Preliminary Plat review by the Office of Planning and Zoning (Project No. 2022040011, Application No. 4832). The tree removal plan and landscape plan (Attachment "A") indicates the proposed removal of 21 heritage trees in varied conditions with a cumulative total of 1080-caliper inches; the applicant submitted a summary of the heritage trees to be removed to supplement the application (Attachment "B"). Additionally, during review of the Preliminary Plat, staff advised the applicant that several proposed impervious infrastructure improvements (culde-sac, cart path, roadway, and lift station) encroached upon the 50-foot wetland setback, required by LDR Section 6.01.04(A)(1); the proposed encroachments are depicted in the Plan Sheets of the affected development area (Attachment "C").

The applicant has requested a variance to LDR Section 9.02.10.F(2), to allow for the removal of 21 heritage trees with a cumulative total of 1080-caliper inches. Pursuant to LDR Section 9.02.10.B(1), trees with a 40-inch or greater trunk are considered heritage trees; removal of a heritage tree is prohibited under LDR Section 9.02.10.F(2), unless it poses a danger to persons or property. However, LDR Section 9.02.05.A(4) states that a tree removal permit may be issued when the location of the protected tree restricts use of the property consistent with all other County and state codes, statutes, ordinances, and resolutions, and site location modifications are not feasible or reasonable. The PUD and FLUC for the subject property are consistent with applicant's proposed use and site plan but require the removal of the protected trees that cannot be reasonably modified. Applicant is requesting a tree removal permit as part of seeking approval of their landscape plan. LDR Section 9.02.10.F(2) authorizes such a variance if approved by the Board of Adjustments. Pursuant to LDR Section 9.02.06.B, 100-percent of the total caliper inches of a removed heritage tree must be replaced or mitigated.

In addition, the applicant has requested a variance to LDR Section 6.01.04(A)(1) to allow for a proposed cul-de-sac, cart path, roadway, and lift station to be located less than 50-feet from the jurisdictional wetland line. Pursuant to LDR Section 6.01.04(A)(1), principal structures, structures, buildings, and impervious surfaces, excluding water dependent structures, shall be located at least (50) feet from the ordinary high water line, mean high water line, or jurisdictional wetland line, whichever is further landward.

The application was reviewed by the Lake County Public Works Department; the Public Works Department indicated that they have no comments nor objections to the request.

#### Staff Analysis.

LDR Section 14.15.02 states that variances will be granted when the person subject to a Land Development Regulation demonstrates that the purpose of the Land Development Regulation will be or has been achieved by other means, and when application of a Land Development Regulation would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness.

#### 1. The purpose of the Land Development Regulation will be or has been achieved by other means.

The intent of the Code, LDR Section 9.02.10, is to acknowledge the existence of certain trees within the County that are significant or unique due to factors such as age, size, historic significance, or type and to protect such trees through their designation as heritage trees.

The intent of the Code, LDR Section 6.01.04, is to conserve and protect wetlands, to ensure that the natural structure and functional values are maintained, and to maintain no net loss of wetlands

The Applicant provided the following statements as proof that the intent of the Code will be or has been achieved by other means:

"Procedures to mitigate the removal of Trees specified in Lake County LDC Chapter IX, Section 9.02.06 Replacement Requirements will be complied with. Compliance with these procedures have been determined by Lake County to provide satisfactory mitigation for the removal of trees."

"Procedures governing 'wetland buffers' are found in Lake County LDC Chapter IV Resource Protection Standards; 6.01.04 Development near Wetlands and Waterbodies. Passive recreation is an identified and allowed use within 'wetland buffers.' Pedestrian, bike and golf cart passive recreational use is an extremely low impact activity that can be carried out with little or disruption to that surrounding area. The proposed path shall not be accessible by vehicle and is located in the Upland 25' of the proposed wetland buffer."

2. The application of a Land Development Regulation would create a substantial hardship or would violate principles of fairness. For purposes of this Section, "substantial hardship" means a demonstrated economic, technological, legal, or other type of hardship to the person requesting the variance. For purposes of this Section, "principles of fairness" are violated when the literal application of a Land Development Regulation affects a particular person in a manner significantly different from the way it affects other similarly situated persons who are subject to the Land Development Regulation.

The Applicant provided the following statements as proof of a substantial hardship:

"The unavoidable removal for trees is necessary and justified due to the mass grading and site development to construct Surface Water Management System, required infrastructure, and comply with site drainage requirement of Lake County. To retain the trees on site would impose a significant adverse economic impact upon the land owner. The subject development will provide the Tree Mitigation required by Lake County."

"The unavoidable encroachment into the upland 25' of Lake County's 50' buffer is necessary and justified to provide pedestrian pathways and sidewalks associated with the subject development. No impacts are proposed to the 25' buffer directly adjacent to the jurisdictional wetlands. Lake County realizes the essential importance of walkways, pathways, and pedestrian connectivity. Pursuant to Policy III-2.5.13 Establish Minimum Buffer Requirements of Lake County's Comprehensive Plan "walkways" are an allowed use within the 50' Buffer."

- 3. Pursuant to LDR Section 14.15.04, a variance to the setback requirements from an ordinary high water line, mean high water line, or jurisdictional wetland line may be granted if the following conditions are met:
  - A. The lot is a developable Lot of Record, or the lot was legally created through a development order prior to March 2, 1993.

The Mission Inn PUD was originally approved on December 21, 1993, by PUD Ordinance #44-93. On August 24, 2004, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved Ordinance #2004-61, which amended Ordinance #44-93 to allow the recognition of approximately twenty-one (21) project areas and multifamily townhome residential condominium units. Furthermore, on December 20, 2005, the BCC approved Ordinance #2005-107, which amended Ordinance #2004-61 to allow the recognition of two-hundred five (205) project areas and revise the density, setbacks, recreational facilities, commercial space, building height and open space.

### B. All other remedies have been exhausted, such as a variance to all other setback requirements.

The applicant has located residential lots and other non-infrastructure improvements outside of the 50-foot setback; the applicant is mitigating the wetland impacts with the relevant State agency.

C. The maximum developable area shall be limited to 30-feet in width or depth.

Wetland impact areas exceed 30' X 30, but the applicant is mitigating the wetland impacts with the relevant State agency.

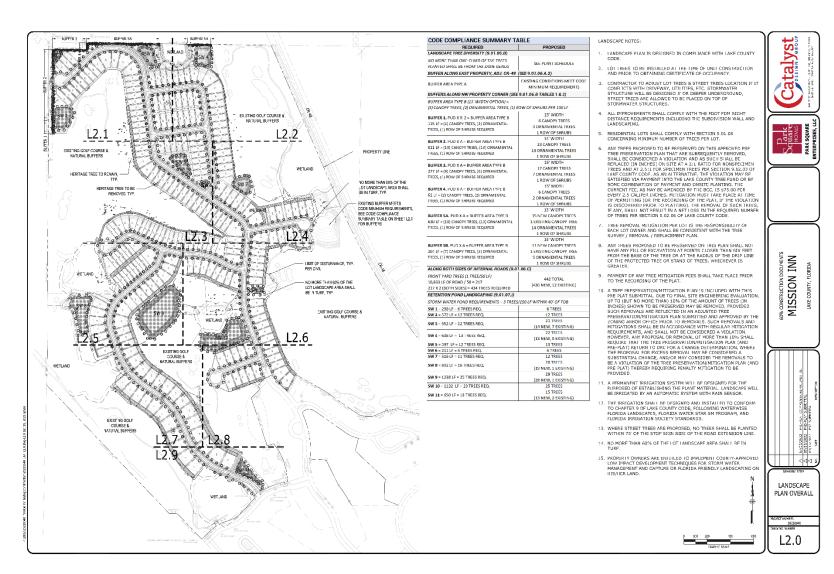
D. The first one inch (1") of storm water runoff shall be captured on site.

This requirement has been addressed by a condition within the draft development order.

E. Development is constructed as far landward on the lot as possible.

The majority of development meets the wetland setback, and the proposed encroachments are located on the upland portion of the wetland buffer.



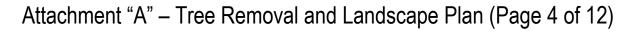


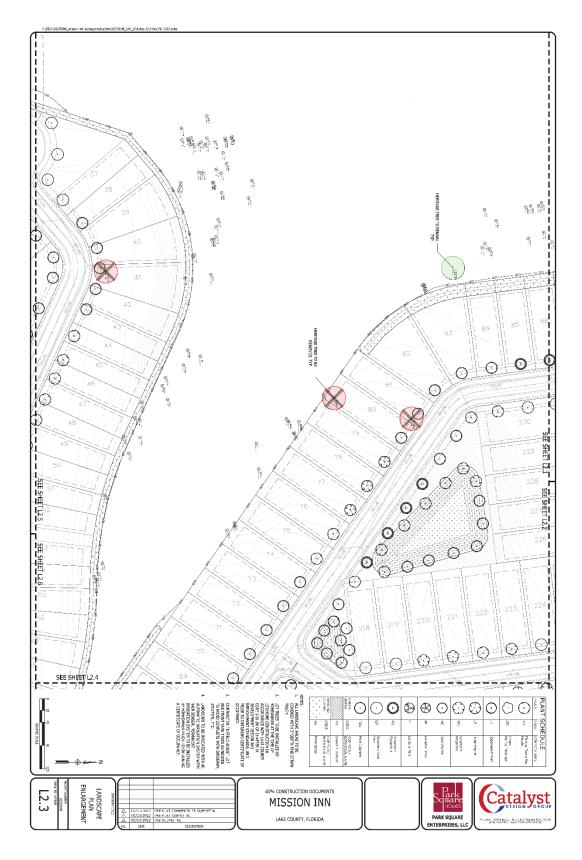
## Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 2 of 12)

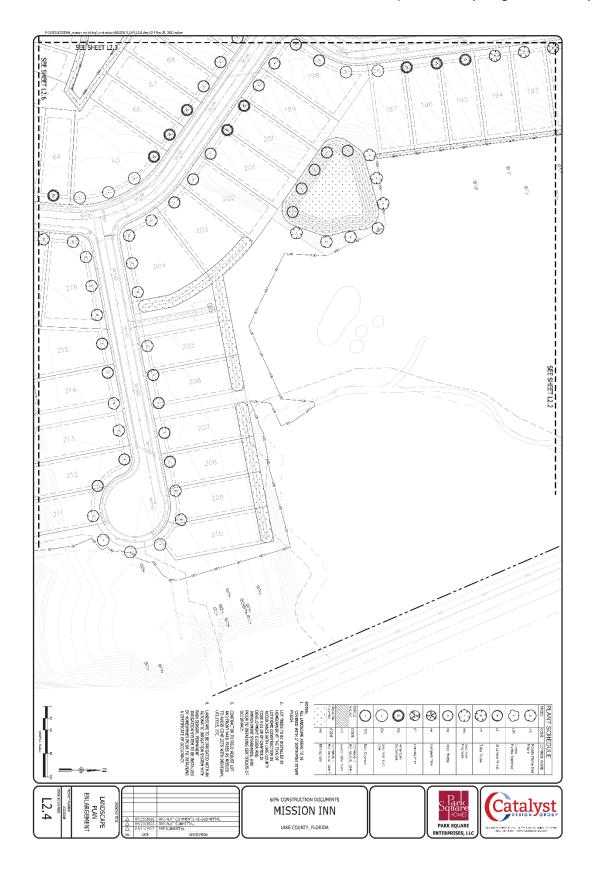




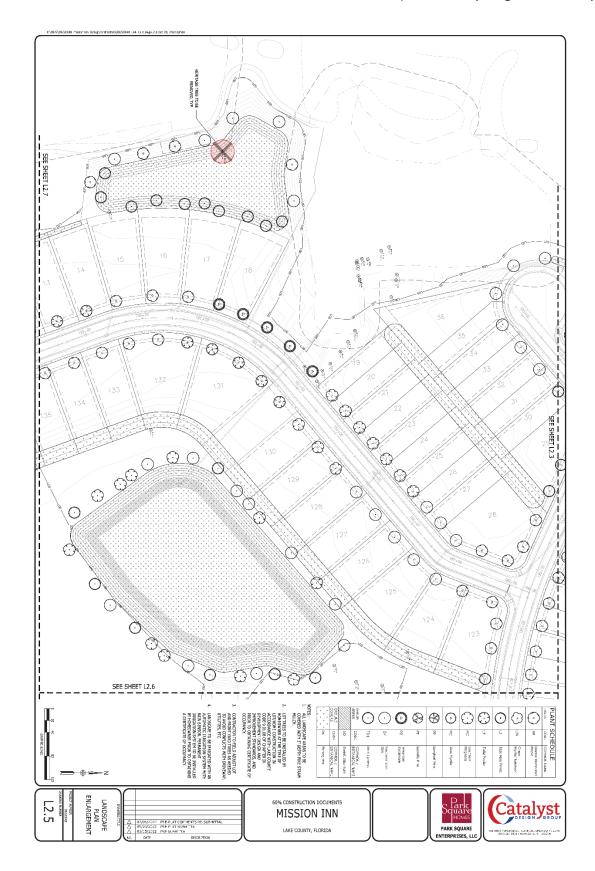
Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 3 of 12)







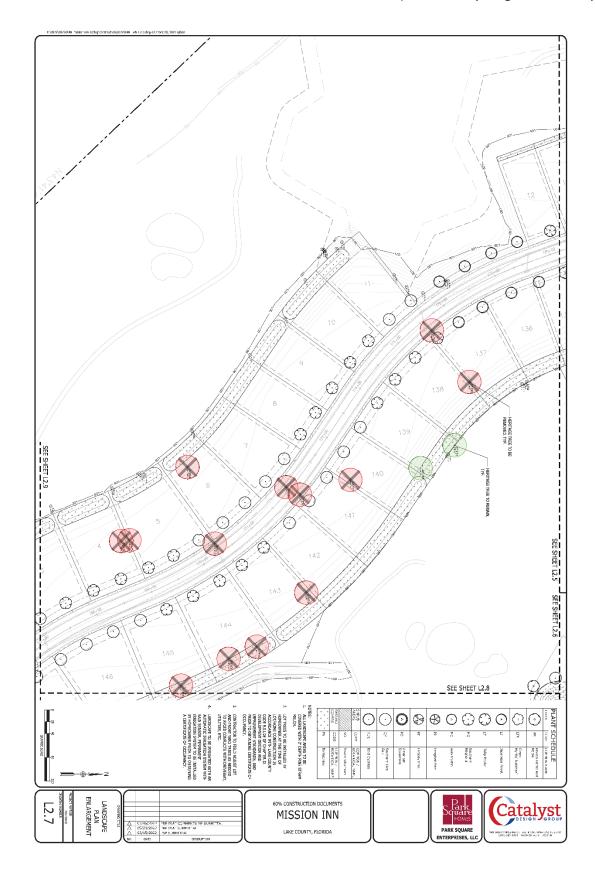
## Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 5 of 12)



## Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 6 of 12)



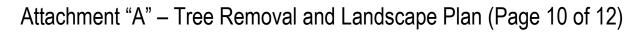
Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 7 of 12)

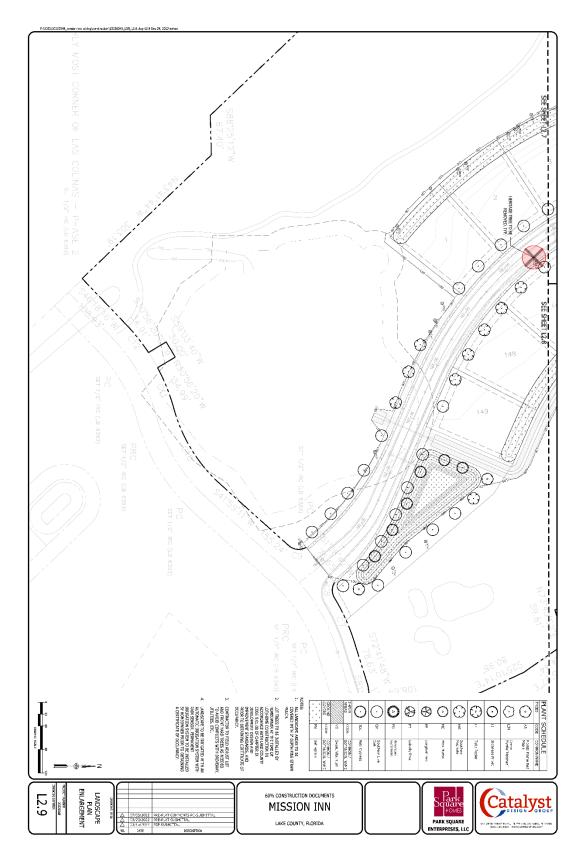


Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 8 of 12)



Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 9 of 12)

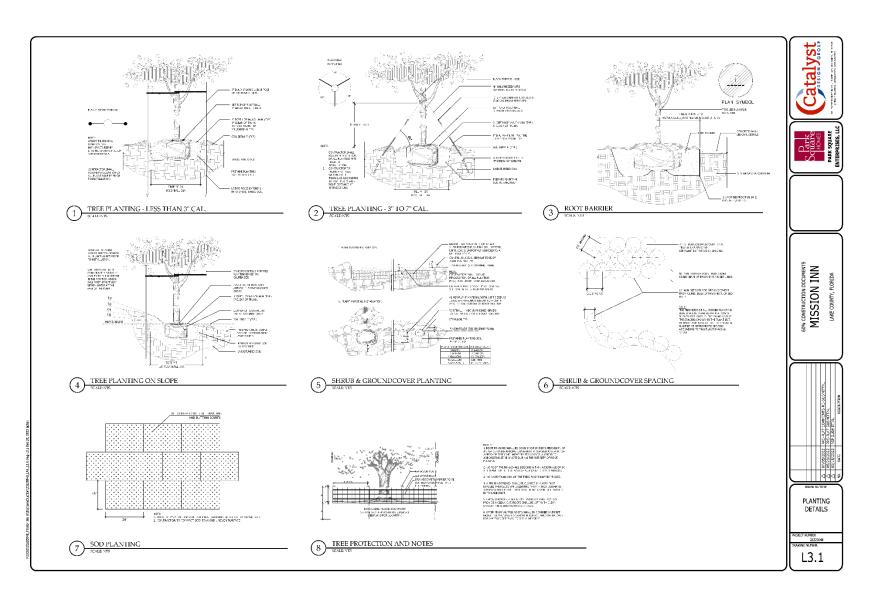




# Attachment "A" – Tree Removal and Landscape Plan (Page 11 of 12)

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## Attachment "B" – Heritage Tree Summary



January 2, 2022

#### Re: Las Colinas Mission Inn

This letter serves as a written statement explaining any tree mitigation or replacement as proposed in regard to the heritage trees.

#### **Findings Summary**

There were originally a total of 39 Heritage Trees shown on the survey and landscape plans. Following field work conducted on 12/3/2022 and 12/4/2022, the Arborist discovered (9) of the trees were misidentified as either multiple smaller trees and/or miscalculated DBHs, and did not qualify for Heritage Tree status, which resulted in a new total of (30) Heritage Trees on site. Of the (30) Heritage Trees, (21) Heritage Trees are being proposed for removal. We are kindly proposing removal of the (21) Heritage Trees and for some of these trees to have their mitigation fees and replacement requirements waived due to poor health and/or unverifiable existence in the field. Please see below and review the included Arborist Report, dated December 8, 2022, which provides additional data regarding all Heritage Trees on site. Report for full documentation.

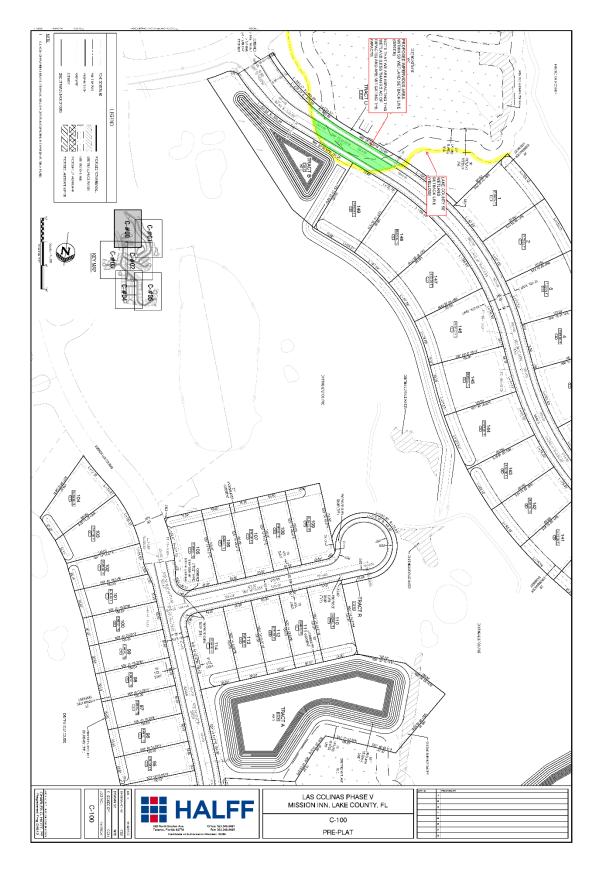
#### Heritage Trees and Reason for Removal

TREE #	SPECIES	TOTAL DBH	REASON FOR REMOVAL	REQUEST FOR MITIGATION FEE / REPLACEMENT REQ. TO BE WAIVED
6259	OAK	57	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – POOR HEALTH
42125	OAK	40	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
81654	OAK	43	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
81865	OAK	42	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – POOR HEALTH
81869	OAK	79	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
81981	OAK	54	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
82636	OAK	56	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
82684	OAK	52	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
82725	OAK	51	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
82854	OAK	58	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
82945	OAK	42	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – POOR HEALTH
82977	OAK	41	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
82994	OAK	43	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – NOT FOUND IN FIELD
82996	OAK	60	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – POOR HEALTH
83019	OAK	60	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
83029	OAK	62	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
83030	OAK	47	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES – POOR HEALTH
83131	OAK	50	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
83198	OAK	43	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO
83265	OAK	56	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	YES - NOT FOUND IN FIELD
83363	OAK	44	IN CONFLICT WITH DEVELOPMENT	NO

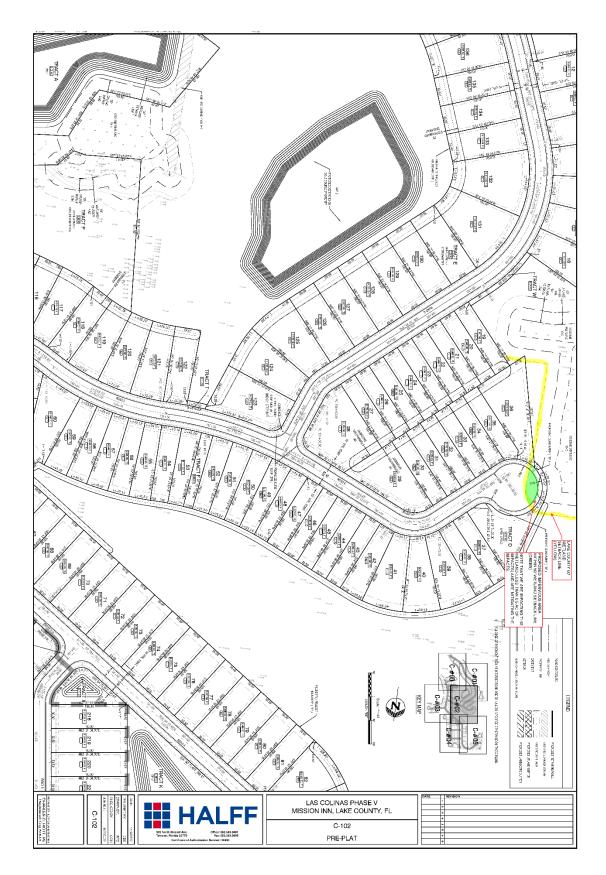
Best Regards,

**Catalyst Design Group** 

NASHVILLE | MURFREESBORO | ORLANDO 941 West Morse Boulevard, Suite 100, Winter Park, FL 32789 689.219.8900 | www.catalyst-dg.com



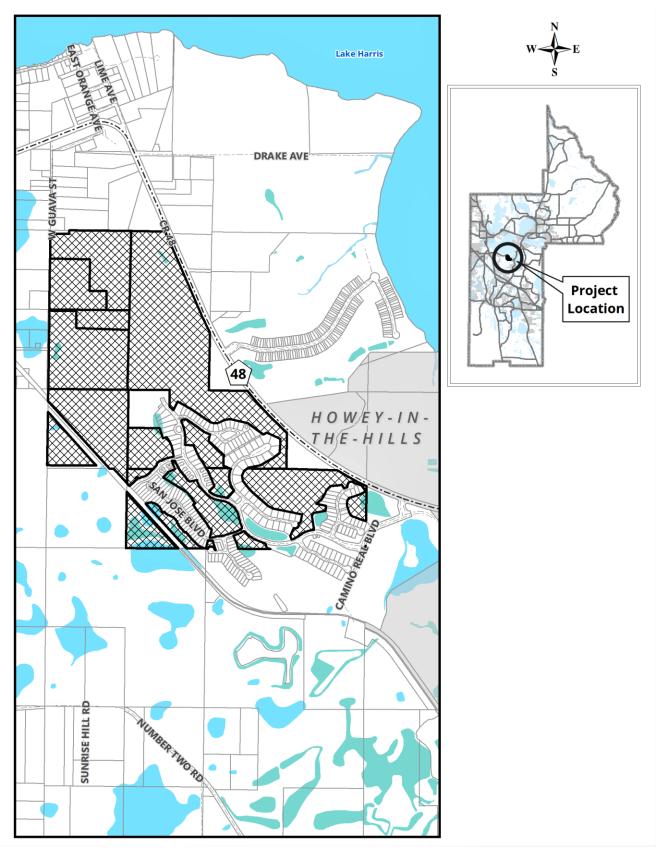
Attachment "C" – Wetland Encroachments (Page 1 of 2)



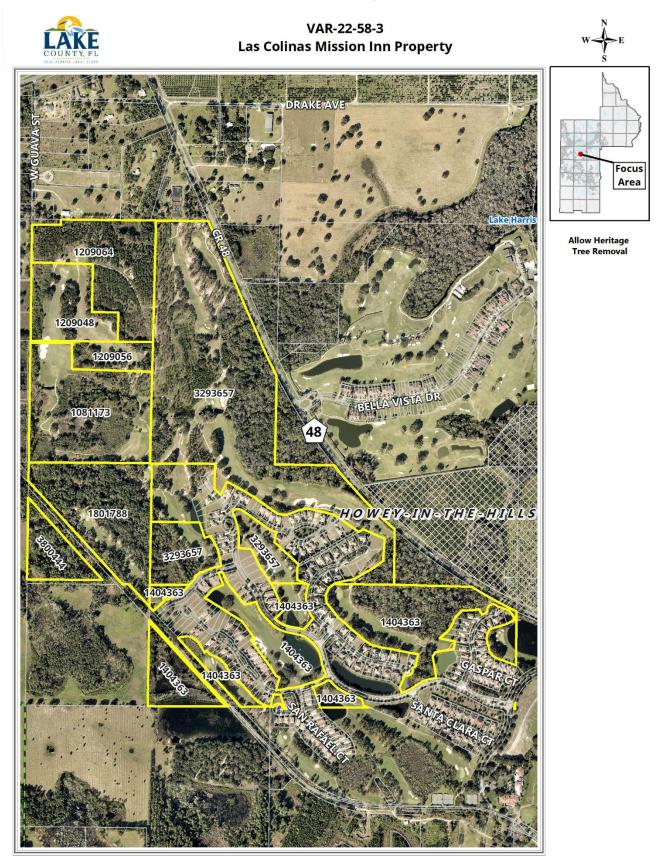
# Attachment "C" – Wetland Encroachments (Page 2 of 2)

Page 18 of 20

# Subject Property Map



# Aerial Map



## Final Development Order VAR-22-58-3 Las Colinas Mission Inn

**WHEREAS**, Suresh Gupta, Park Square Homes (the "Applicant), on behalf of Sonoma Constructors Ltd. & Packing House By-Products Co. (the "Owners") requested a variance to Land Development Regulation (LDR) Section 9.02.10(F)(2) for the removal of twenty-one (21) heritage trees; and to LDR Section 6.01.04(A)(1) to allow for a proposed cul-de-sac, cart path, roadway, and lift station to be located less than 50-feet from the jurisdictional wetland line; and

WHEREAS, the subject development area consists of 83.91 +/- acres and is located southwest of County Road 48, in the unincorporated Yalaha / Howey-in-the-Hills area, in Section 22, Township 20 South, Range 25 East, having Alternate Key Numbers 1209064, 1404363, 1801788, 3293657, 3800444, 1209056, 1209048, 1081173, and 3380762, and more particularly described in Exhibit "A" – Legal Description; and

**WHEREAS**, after giving notice of a hearing on a petition for a variance to the Lake County Land Development Regulations, including notice that the request for a variance would be presented to the Board of Adjustment of Lake County, Florida, on April 5, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Adjustment reviewed the petition, staff report and any comments, favorable or unfavorable, from the public and surrounding property owners at a public hearing duly advertised; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 5, 2023, the Lake County Board of Adjustment approved the variance for the above property.

**DONE AND ORDERED** by the Board of Adjustment of Lake County, Florida, that:

**Section 1.** Variance Granted: A variance to Section 9.02.10(F)(2) for the removal of twenty-one (21) heritage trees, is hereby granted with the following condition: 100-percent of the removed heritage tree caliper inches must be replaced or mitigated.

**Section 2.** Variance Granted: A variance to Section 6.01.04(A)(1) to allow for a proposed cul-de-sac, cart path, roadway, and lift station to be located less than 50-feet from the jurisdictional wetland line, is hereby granted with the following condition: The first one inch (1") of storm water runoff shall be captured on site.

## BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Addie Owens, Chairman

State of Florida

County of Lake

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of  $\Box$  physical presence or  $\Box$  online notarization, this <u>5<sup>th</sup></u> day of <u>April</u> 2023, by <u>Addie Owens, as Chairman of the Lake County</u> <u>Board of Adjustment</u>.

Personally Known OR Produced Identification

Type of Identification Produced \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Signature (SEAL)

Pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, if any person desires to appeal any decision with respect to a matter considered at a public meeting or hearing of the Board of Adjustment, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record for such purpose is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is based.

A final administrative order of the Board of Adjustment may be appealed to the Circuit Court in Lake County, Florida. Such an appeal shall be filed within thirty (30) days of the execution of this Order. Those filing an appeal of an administrative order must comply with all applicable Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure.