

Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: November 5, 2013

Prepared By: Michael Hettenhausen, Planner Phone #: (512) 854-7563

Division Director/Manager: Anna Bowlin, Division Director - Development

Services and Long Range Planning

Department Head/Title: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: Commissioner Todd, Precinct Two

AGENDA LANGUAGE:

Consider and take appropriate action on the following requests in Precinct Two:

- A) A variance from Title 30-2-159 private streets for the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin Preliminary Plan;
- B) A variance from Title 30-2-151 for the internal streets within McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin to not connect with existing streets;
- C) A variance from Title 30-3-191 for Phases 1 and 3 of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin to not construct sidewalks; and
- D) A variance from Title 30-2-158 for Granite Shoals Road in Phase 3 of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin Preliminary Plan to be greater than 2,000 feet in length.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin Preliminary Plan consists of 146 total lots (131 residential lots, 11 greenbelt/drainage lots, 3 private street/drainage easement/public utility easement lots, and 1 cemetery lot) on 211.6 acres. The property fronts on Selma Hughes Park Road, and includes 12,722 linear feet of proposed private streets. Water and wastewater service will be provided by Water Control and Improvement District #17 (WCID). However, this agenda request is for variances only.

- A) Title 30-2-159(A) states the platting board may approve a variance allowing a private street in a subdivision if the requirements of this section are met. The developer has submitted final plats out of the pending preliminary plan that comply with the requirements. For instance, the developer is in the process of preparing private covenants, conditions, and restrictions that provide for the ownership, maintenance, fee assessment, and association dues, as well as bylaws that provide for membership and voting rights.
- B) Title 30-2-151 states streets of a new subdivision shall be aligned with existing streets on adjoining property. As proposed, the internal streets of McCormick Ranch

on Lake Austin do not connect with the existing streets, namely Merlene Drive, which exists as a stub out west of the proposed preliminary plan. The developer's engineer has designed the internal streets in this manner to avoid encroachment on a Critical Environmental Feature (CEF).

- C) Title 30-3-191 states a person who subdivides property shall install sidewalks, however the developer is requesting a variance from this section of the land development code for Phases 1 and 3 of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin Preliminary Plan. Phases 1 and 3 of the proposed preliminary plan consist of large residential lots, and no pedestrian generators exist within one half mile of these phases. Phase 2, which consists, of smaller residential lots, proposes sidewalks on one side of internal streets, as allowed under 30-3-191(C).
- D) Title 30-2-158(C) states a new subdivision may have one access street if the access street meets certain requirements, one of which is the street cannot be greater than 2,000 feet in length. Granite Shoals Road is proposed to be 3,223 feet in length and as such requires a variance from this section.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends items A, B, C, and D for approval since the developer has met all requirements for the variances.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

Staff has not received any inquiries from adjacent property owners.

Upon approval of the variances, the preliminary plan will be scheduled for approval by the City of Austin Zoning and Platting Commission and the Travis County Commissioners Court.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

None.

EXHIBITS/ATTACHMENTS:

Location map
Precinct map
Proposed preliminary plan
Variance request letter

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	(512) 854-4239
Steven M. Manilla	County Executive	TNR	(512) 854-9429

CC:							

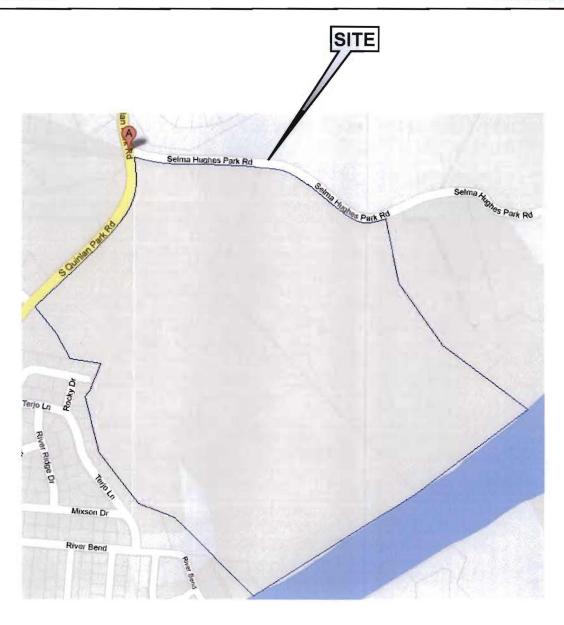
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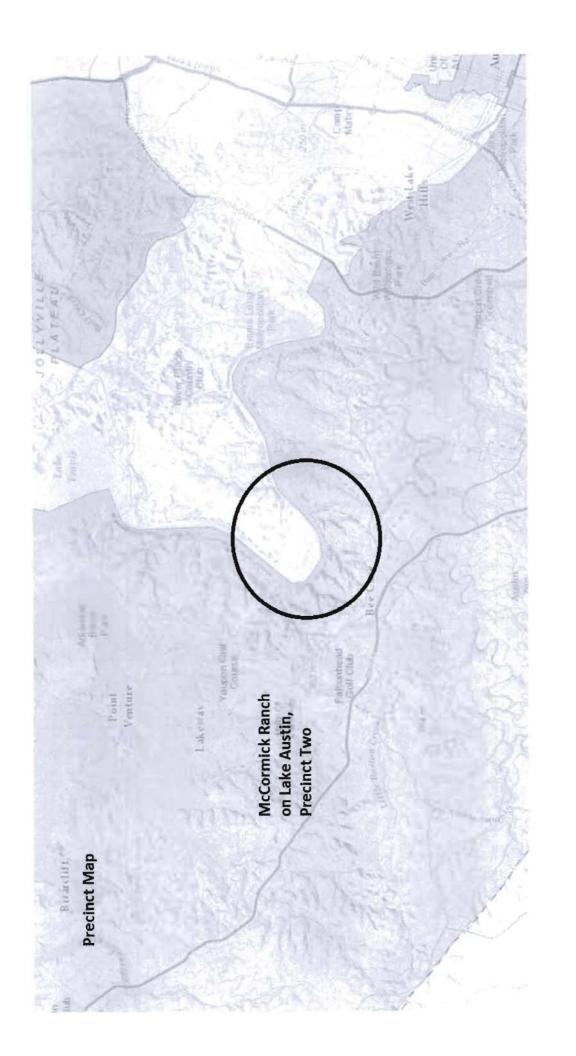
1101 - Development Services Long Range Planning- McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin Preliminary Plan - Variances Only

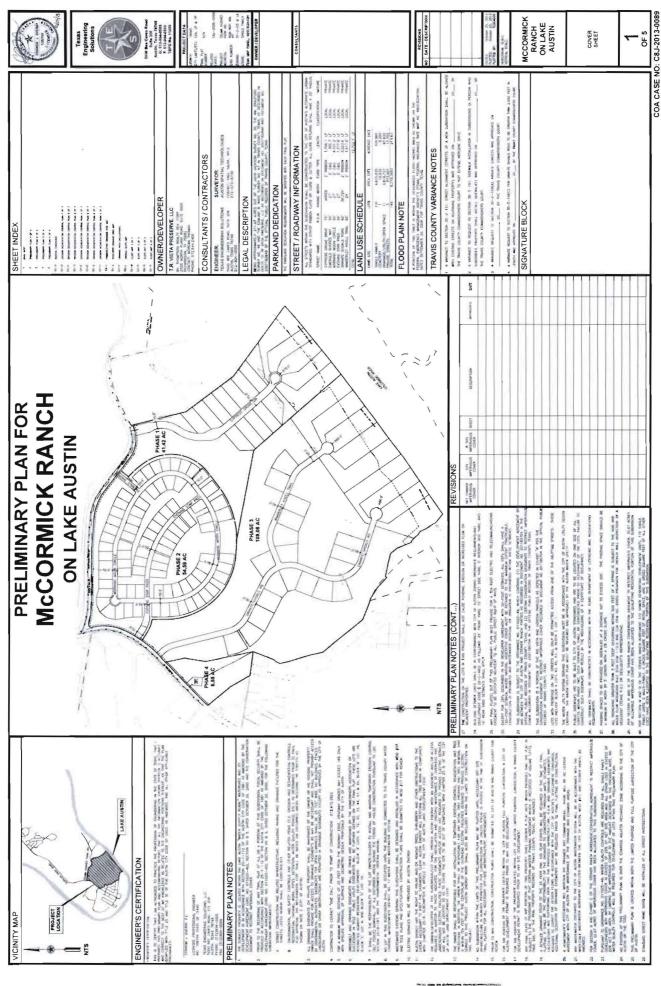


Location Map McCormick Ranch

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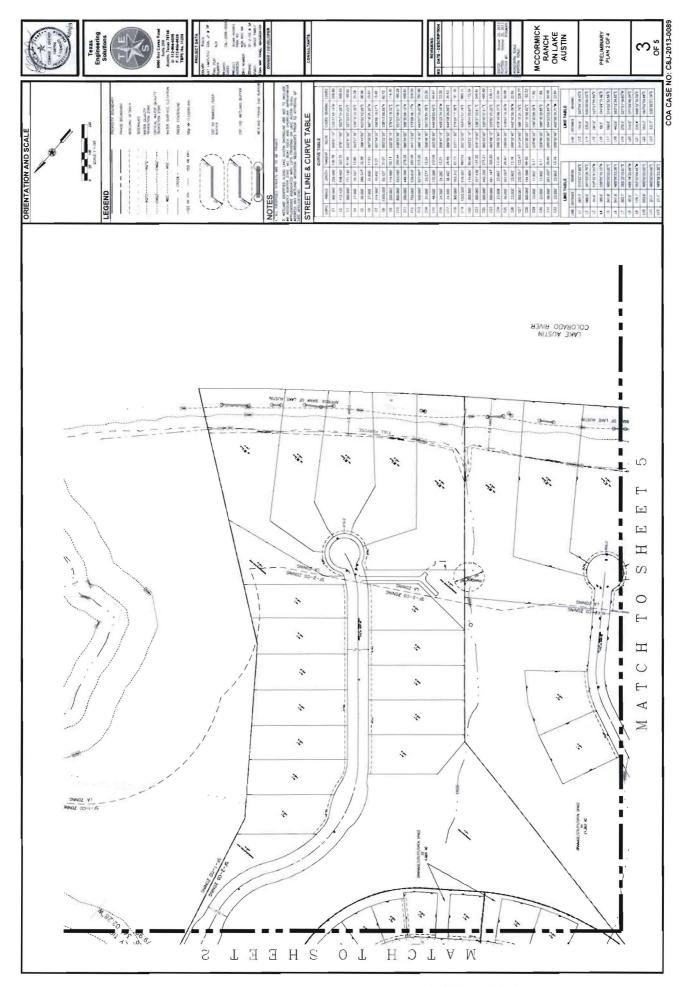
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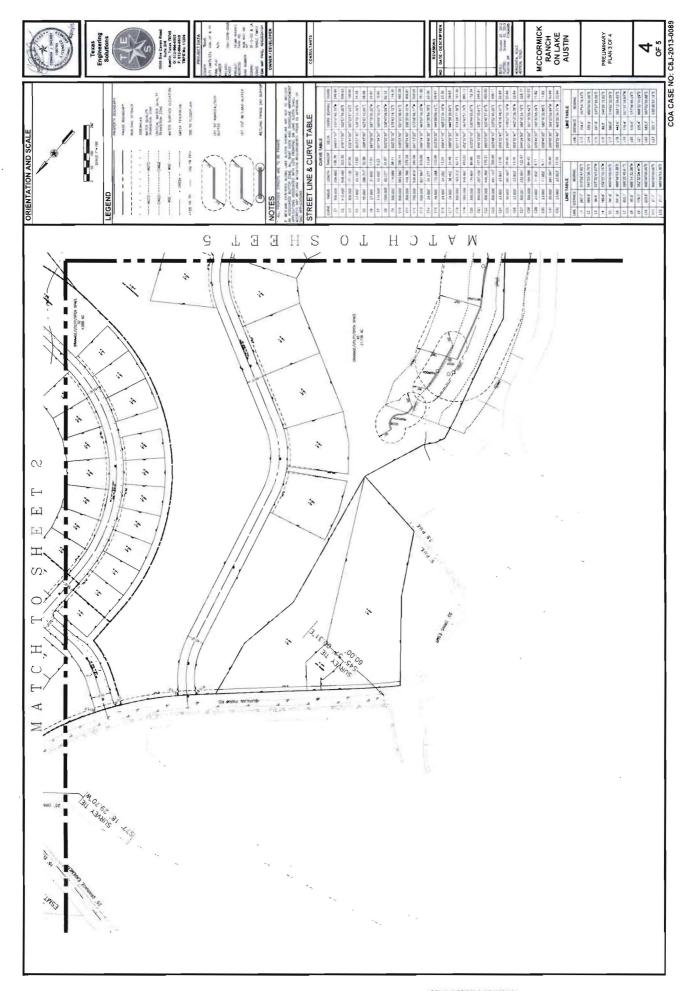
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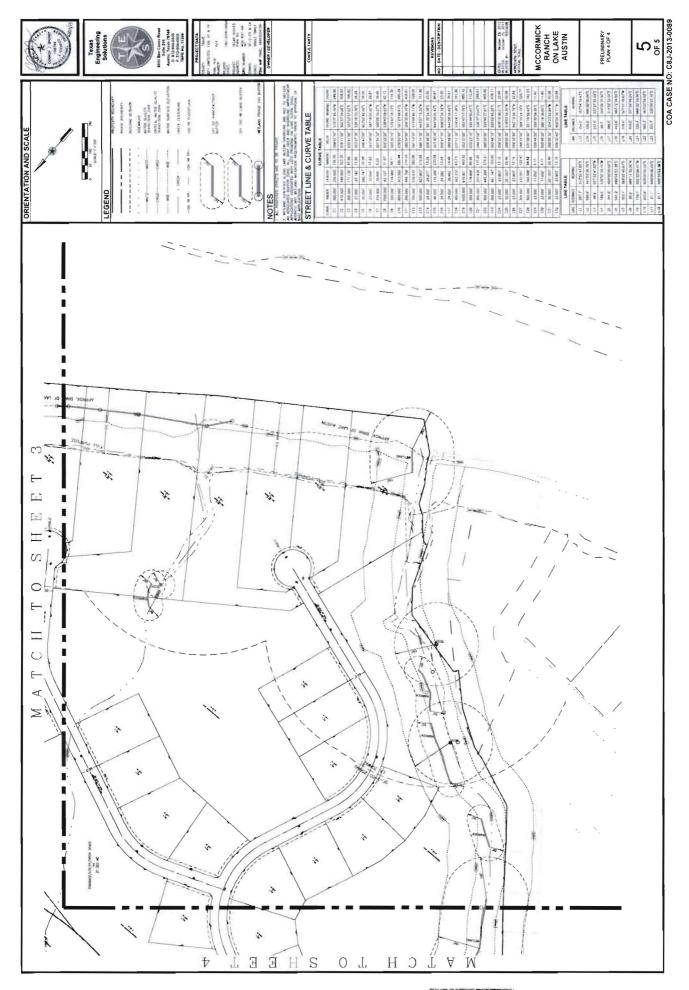
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ORIENTATION AND SCALE







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TBPE Firm #11206



October 24, 2013

Commissioner's Court of Travis County, Texas City of Austin P.O. Box 1748 Austin, TX 78767



McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin, Preliminary Plan
Waiver Request and Justification Letter

McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin is a proposed residential subdivision in northwest Austin. The development is located on two legal tracts comprising of approximately 211.64 acres at the southeast corner of Quinlan Park Road and Selma Hughes Park Road. The project consists of one-hundred thirty-one (131) single-family lots, eleven (11) greenbelt lots, three (3) private street/drainage/PUE lots, and one (1) cemetery lot. The site is primarily located within the limited purpose jurisdiction of the City of Austin with a portion adjacent to Lake Austin located within the full purpose jurisdiction of the City of Austin. Development of these tracts include the construction of the entire civil infrastructure required for the proposed subdivision which has been broken into four separate phases as seen in this Preliminary Plan. This development is subject to the Steiner Ranch Development Agreement filed with the Travis County Official Public Records as Document #2001180704 AND Document #2001180705. On behalf of TR Vista Preserve, LLC, Texas Engineering Solutions would like to request a waiver for the following items associated with the Preliminary Plan for McCormick Ranch.

- Request for the allowance of private streets within Phases One, Two, and Three of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin subdivision which may be granted under §30-2-159(A) of the Austin/Travis County Subdivision Regulations and §25-4-171(A) of the Austin City Code.
 A request is being made to allow for private streets within Phases One, Two, and Three of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin subdivision as permitted based on Section VIII(B)(1) of the Taylor Woodrow/Steiner Ranch Development Agreement, Document #2001180705.
- Request that any proposed private streets within Phase Three of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin subdivision are not required to align with the existing Merlene Drive created with the River Ridge subdivision (C8-72-093) which may be granted under §30-2-151 of the Austin/Travis County Subdivision Regulations and §25-4-151 of the Austin City Code.
 - A request is being made to not extend Merlene Drive into the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin subdivision due to the presence of a critical environmental feature (CEF) which restricts roadway extension. The buffer zone of this CEF resides roughly 50 feet directly in line with the current alignment of Merlene Drive and design guidelines for roadway geometry provide that no such alignment will avoid development within the CEF buffer area.

- Request that sidewalks not be required adjacent to the private streets for Phase One or Phase Three of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin subdivision which may be granted by the platting board under §30-3-191(B) of the Austin/Travis County Subdivision Regulations.
 - A request is being made to forgo installation of sidewalks along the private streets within Phase One and Phase Three of this subdivision which will consist of ribbon curb and roadside ditches for purposes of drainage control. Additionally, there are no pedestrian generators such as schools, churches, offices, commercial developments or public spaces within a ½ mile of the subdivision. No sidewalks are located in the adjacent right-of-ways, and sidewalks would not be considered the only means of access by the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Request an administrative waiver from the requirement that any private streets within Phase Three of the McCormick Ranch on Lake Austin subdivision are to connect to two different external streets which may be granted under §30-2-158(C) of the Austin/Travis County Subdivision Regulations and §25-4-157(C) of the Austin City Code.

A request is being made to have any private streets within Phase Three of this subdivision as single access streets which is permitted as defined in §30-2-158(C)(1)(c)(i) of the Austin/Travis County Subdivision Regulations and §25-4-157(C)(2)(c)(i) of the Austin City Code. The proposed width of Granite Shoals Road will be at least 36 feet wide for a minimum distance of 100 feet as required by the cited regulations. Per Section VIII(B)(9)(a) of the Taylor Woodrow/Steiner Ranch Development Agreement, "single outlet streets (including cul-de-sacs and dead ends" may be granted administrative waivers without review by City board, commission or council.

Texas Engineering Solutions and TR Vista Preserve, LLC are aware that this waiver would be required to meet the goals of this development, and we are looking forward to coordinating with the City through the development of this subdivision. If you should have any questions pertaining to this project or if you need further explanation, please feel free to call our office at (512) 904-0505.

Sincerely

Connor J Overby, P.E.

Project Engineer

Texas Engineering Solutions

TBPE Firm #11206

www.TxEngS.com