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July 22, 2025

Ian Nance Polk County Land Development Division 330 W. Church Street Bartow, FL 33830

Re: Ridgewood Lakes Phase 2 PD

DRI Information

Dear Ian:

As you are aware, this firm represents Center State Development (the "Applicant") for approval a Planned Development (PD) request for a residential development including 1,599 residential units on 373.6 +/- acres. The overall gross density is 4.3 dwelling units per acre. The proposed development plan provides for a mix of residential types, including single-family detached and townhomes. The future land use of the property is Residential Low-4X (RL-4x) in the North Ridge Selected Area Plan. The eastern portion of the property is located within the Transit Supportive Development Area (TSDA) which permits up to 7.0 dwelling units per acre gross density by right. The western portion of the PD is within the Urban Growth Area (UGA), which allows up to 5.0 dwelling units per acre in RL-4X.

In addition to the standard future land use considerations, the proposed PD is located within Phase 2 of the Ridgewood Lakes Development of Regional Impact ("DRI"). Phase 2 of the DRI was established in 2015 through a substantial deviation to the DRI, which was originally approved in 1984. As indicated in the application package for the Substantial Deviation to the DRI the development program was designed to "offer a quality lifestyle that provides recreation facilities and convenient community services, while maintaining and enhancing the natural character of the site." The intent of the development program was to consist of a variety of residential land uses and traditional family neighborhoods. The proposed PD recognizes and provides for the interconnectivity of the various villages by providing for the connector road to connect Ernie Caldwell Boulevard and County Road 547. This is effectively "Road A" as shown on Map H of the approved DRI. A copy of Map H is attached.

Overall Phase 2 was approved for up to 5,571 residential units comprised of a mix of single-family, town home and multi-family units, up to 381,388 square feet of mixed-use town center/mixed use village center; municipal facilities to include a neighborhood school and interconnecting parks, lakes and pedestrian open space systems. The request PD is essentially comprised of Villages E, F, G, H, I, J, K, and L as shown on Map H for Phase 2 of the DRI. As shown on the following table, the requested unit count is consistent with the approved densities for the corresponding areas in the DRI.

Table 1.0 – Allowable Densities by Village

Village	Acreage	Density	Total Units
Е	39.6	8	317
F	47.9	5	247
G	42.5	5	214
Н	32.8	5	170
I	10.1	8	81
J	39.0	5	195
K	60	4	240
L	41.0	4	164
Total Units Approved			1,628
Total Units Requested			1,599

Since 2015 the market in this area of Polk County has shifted as the neighboring markets have grown westward. The growth in Osceola and Orange counties has created an increased demand for unit types and ownership types. For instance, the growth of short-term rental communities has dramatically increased since the approval of the substantial deviation. These communities are built and operated to operate in a more resort style setting than what has historically occurred in Polk County. The applicant has proposed implementing a development option to allow short-term rental development in pods or villages of the PD. This type of development, while not explicitly discussed in the DRI, is contemplated as the overall intent was to provide for a variety of residential use types. While the proposed request for short-term rental is included in the PD, the developer may proceed with traditional neighborhood or age-restricted portions. The option for short-term rental is in place just to allow flexibility to meet market demands at the time of development.

As a result of the rt, the proposed PD for 1,599 dwelling units, with a mix of single family attached and townhomes is consistent with the approved Development Order for the Ridgewood Lakes DRI, the current future land use designations of RL-4X, and the Polk County Comprehensive Plan. Thank you for the opportunity to submit the attached application submittal. If you have questions concerning the application, please call or email me at ballen@petersonmyers.com.

Sincerely,

PETERSON & MYERS, P.A.

Bart Allen

John B. ("Bart") Allen

Enclosures

