

EXHIBIT E – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN POLICIES

The following Comprehensive Plan policies are important to consider when evaluating the subject request. Staff recommends the project can be found to comply with the policies if the recommended conditions are approved.

Policy 1.1.4: Density and Intensity Bonus Criteria. A bonus point schedule shall be established within the Land Development Regulations. The schedule shall give consideration to the performance criteria listed below as a minimum:

- (1) Provisions and proximity to public infrastructure (water, sewer, urban roads)
- (2) Proximity to public safety (Fire/EMS)
- (3) Proximity to schools
- (4) Use of clustering and protection of environmentally sensitive areas
- (5) Increased urban design and landscaping
- (6) Increased public recreation and open space
- (7) Affordable Housing
- (8) Mixed use developments and mixed use buildings
- (9) Adjacent to lands developed with similar densities
- (10) Connectivity between developments
- (11) Donation of usable public land
- (12) Use of multiple performance criteria to achieve higher densities
- (13) Transfer of Development Rights (TDR's)
- (14) Proximity to other supporting uses to reduce vehicle miles traveled or improved walkability.
- (15) Ability of non-residential use to buffer residential from arterial and collector roads.

Policy 1.1.5: *Density/Intensity*. A binding site plan shall be required to be submitted and approved by the County as part of any applicant's request to receive an intensity/density bonus, including a rezoning, which demonstrates compliance with bonus criteria and LDR requirements

Policy 1.1.11: *Rezoning*. The zoning amendment criteria in the Land Development Regulations shall be used to determine if a rezoning request to a new district is appropriate for a given property, in accordance with the comprehensive plan. The following general criteria, at a minimum, will be considered as part of the rezoning review process:

- (1) Location, availability and capacity of public services and facilities.
- (2) Proximity to similar densities/intensities.
- (3) Location within transportation network.
- (4) Environmental protection.

Policy 1.1.12: *Density Measurement*. Residential density shall be defined as

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the amount of dwelling units allowed per gross acre. This calculation shall include the entire property including roads, stormwater facilities, recreation areas, agricultural areas, natural resource preserves, etc. It shall not include areas separated off for non-residential uses (outparcels) or those areas otherwise not included as part of an overall development plan. It shall also not include property within the conservation overlay area, for which density within the area shall be calculated separately.

Objective 1.4: Low-Density Residential Use Category Defined. The Low Density Residential Use category consists of low-density residential uses in progressive degrees of urban intensity with higher density in areas adjacent to the Medium Density Residential, Mixed Use Centers, General Mixed Use Centers and less density/intensity in areas adjacent to the Rural/Agricultural categories.

Policy 1.4.1: *Low Density Residential Use Category Location.* The following criteria shall be use for assigning new areas for the Low Density Residential Land Use category on the Future Land Use Map:

- (1) The Low-Density Residential Use land use category is expected to extend predominantly outward from the medium densities and intensities allowed in the Neighborhood Mixed Use, General Mixed Use and Urban Center Mixed Use land use categories.
- (2) Areas appropriate for Low Density Residential Use designation are locations that have adequate central water and sewer systems, stormwater management systems and public paved roadways or are areas that are planned to be served by utilities in the future via the Utility Master Plan.
- (3) Low Density Residential Uses shall be located appropriately to buffer rural residential areas, but not immediately adjacent to intensive active agricultural uses or industrial/large phosphate mining/material excavation uses.
- (4) Low Density Residential Use areas having densities exceeding three (3) du/ac shall have adjacent and direct access to collector or arterial road roadways allowing for access to urban, general and neighborhood mixed use centers.

Policy 1.4.2: *Low Density Residential Use Category Uses.* The primary use of this category shall be residential, in a variety of low densities and styles. A sustainable mix of neighborhood scale commercial, office, residential mixed use, and institutional uses may be introduced only as a part of the PUD process for developments of 1000 dwelling units or greater. The commercial area shall be located at the intersections of collector and/or arterial roads and shall be separated approximately 2 miles from other existing and/or future commercial designated areas. Schools and other public facilities shall be permitted with appropriate buffering. Areas with existing non-residential zoning are permitted a sustainable

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mix of neighborhood scale commercial, office, residential mixed use, and institutional uses consistent with the existing zoning district. The zoning district uses and development standards contained in the Land Development Regulations shall carry out the specific intent of this land use category.

Policy 1.4.3: *Low Density Residential Use Category Sustainability.* The minimum density permitted within this category will be two dwelling units per acre.

Policy 1.4.4: *Low Density Residential Open Space.* All development within the Low Density Residential Category shall provide open space through clustering of units in order to reduce the footprint on a site. Development shall provide a minimum of 25 percent open space.

Policy 1.4.5: *Open Space design.* All open space areas shall be primarily located adjacent to other areas approved as development open space in order to create natural corridors.

Policy 1.4.6: *Utilities.* All development within the Low Density Residential category shall connect to existing centralized public water and wastewater systems.

Objective 1.12: Conservation Overlay Designation (COD). The Interim 2040 Conservation Overlay Map (FLUEMS 4) identifies public and private lands that may possess environmental limitations, such as floodplain, wetland, and other environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to, sloping topography subject to soil erosion, wildlife habitat areas, hydric soils, and special vegetative communities, but have not been confirmed as such and shall be protected to the greatest extent possible. Modifications of the boundaries are permitted upon submittal of data and analysis, or field inspection by qualified personnel which support the establishment of a more appropriate boundary.

FLUE Policy 1.12.3: *Conservation Overlay Designation Development Standards.*

(1) A final determination of the suitability for development of any individual parcel, as it relates to a Conservation Overlay area on the Future Land Use Map, shall be determined prior to issuance of any development approval.

(2) The Conservation Overlay Designation area on the Future Land Use Map is not to be considered the exact boundary of the conservation area, but to act as an indicator of a potential conservation area. The exact boundary shall be determined by an environmental site study by a qualified professional at the expense of the Developer and submitted for a determination to the Southwest Florida Water Management District or other

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agency with jurisdiction.

(3) The Conservation Overlay Designation area is not all inclusive and other areas that do not fall within the COD boundaries that meet the definition of being environmentally sensitive areas are also subject to the regulations affecting them. These areas include protected plant and animal habitat.

(4) Development proposals shall require the submittal of an Environmental Site Study indicating as to the extent of the impact of development or redevelopment for any lands within Conservation Overlay Designation areas and other environmental concerns.

(5) Environmental Site Studies shall provide evidence and an inventory of wetlands; soils posing severe limitations to construction; unique habitat; endangered species of wildlife and plants; significant historic structures and/or sites; and areas prone to periodic flooding (areas within the 100-year floodplain).

(6) DeSoto County shall require identification of proposed impacts to the natural functions of any resources by any development or redevelopment that proposes to be placed in/on, to disturb, or to alter identified areas. Compensation and Mitigation plans shall also be provided.

(7) Such identification shall occur during the development review process and provide the opportunity for DeSoto County to review the proposed project so that direct and irreversible impacts on the identified resources are avoided, minimized, or in the extreme, mitigated.

(8) Natural resources discovered as a result of the required Environmental Site Study will be protected in accordance with state and federal law. The Environmental Site Study will require that a qualified professional analyze the natural functions of eco-systems and connectivity of resource corridors. A conservation easement, or other protective measure, may be required to protect the functions of natural resources. Mitigation may be allowed on a case-by-case basis through the appropriate reviewing agencies.

(9) If an area is determined to be developable and not within the Conservation Overlay Designation, then the underlying future land use category shall apply.

FLUE Policy 1.12.4: Any development of a site which includes property determined to be in a Conservation Overlay Designation area, is required to submit a site-specific plan for approval. The plan shall include the clustering of density away from the protected areas and resources. Developments that include Conservation Overlay Designations, but cluster all development activities outside of the Overlay, may be reviewed via a Site Plan Approval process. The following restrictions shall apply to areas determined to be in the COD:

(1) Density transfers out of areas determined to be within the

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Conservation Area may occur on-site with the following density transfer allowed:

- (a) Rural/Agricultural Land Uses shall be consistent with the underlying zoning
- (b) Low Density Residential Land Uses shall be 1 unit per 4 acres.
- (c) Medium Density Residential, Neighborhood Mixed Use, and General Mixed Use Districts shall be 1 unit per 2 acres.
- (2) Development within the Conservation Overlay area shall be restricted to 1 unit per 10 acres and a FAR of 0.1, unless otherwise provided for herein. All development shall be directed away from wetlands.

FLUE Policy 1.12.6: The County shall prohibit all development within, and direct development away from, wetlands, unless otherwise approved by the appropriate reviewing agency. Site enhancement for conservation purposes and Best Management Practices including, without limitation, the use of isolation berms to protect water quality and prevent wildlife from migrating into developed areas shall not be deemed “development” for the purposes of this policy, when used pursuant to phosphate mining.

(1) When wetland impacts cannot be avoided, DeSoto County shall require a specific management plan to be prepared by the developer, which results in no net loss of wetlands or wetland functions and which includes necessary modifications to the proposed development, specific setback and buffers, and the location of development away from site resources, to protect and preserve the natural functions of the resource.

(2) The minimum setback shall be 15 feet and the average of all setbacks from the wetland resource shall be 25 feet, unless otherwise permitted by the appropriate reviewing agency. Best Management Practices, including, without limitation, the use of isolation berms to protect water quality and prevent wildlife from migrating into developed areas shall be permitted within the setback areas, when used pursuant to phosphate mining.

(3) Areas designated as natural buffers shall preserve all natural vegetative cover, except where drainage ways, access ways or phosphate mining corridors are approved to cross the buffer, or when contrary to Best Management Practices. Buffers may be supplemented only with native trees, shrubs and ground covers.

FLUE Policy 1.12.8: On all existing parcels of land, development shall be located away from wetlands and floodplains on the upland portion of the site, unless otherwise permitted by an authorized agency and permissible within this Plan. Where no upland exists, development may occur so long as all applicable environmental permitting requirements can be satisfied. All future subdivision of land shall contain adequate uplands for the permitted use.

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FLUE Policy 1.14.2: Use compatibility. Compatibility between uses will be defined by level of density and intensity rather than by use, with the exception of large-scale public uses such as airports, regional hospitals, refineries and correctional institutions.

FLUE Policy 1.16.2: The County shall direct development to areas where services and facilities are available to accommodate additional growth.

FLUE Policy 1.17.2: Land uses that generate high traffic counts shall be encouraged to locate adjacent to arterial and collector roads.

FLUE Policy 1.17.3: The County shall require an adequate quantity of on-site parking to accommodate land uses, and encourage shared parking facilities for multiple uses.

FLUE Policy 1.17.4: The County shall require new developments to provide safe and convenient on-site pedestrian and vehicular traffic flow.

Transportation Element

Objective 1.1: Level of Service. The County shall adopt and adhere to level of service standards for arterial and collector streets.

Policy 1.1.1: Service Standards. The County establishes the following peak hour /peak directional level of service standards for collector, arterial, local, and limited access facilities in the County.

Roadway Type	State Road Urbanized Area	State Road Outside Urbanized Area	County Road
Limited Access Facilities	D	C	D
Controlled Access Highway	D	C	D
Other Multi- Lane Roads	D	C	D
Two-lane Roads	D	C	D

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Policy 1.2.14: Traffic Study. High traffic generators shall require a project-specific traffic study. The study will include methodology accepted by the County and will evaluate, at a minimum, existing traffic conditions and LOS, determine project traffic generation, cumulative traffic conditions, mitigation of traffic impacts for on- and off-site, and evaluate LOS for transportation linkages to collector and arterial roadways, if appropriate.

Policy 1.5.3: Analysis of FLUM and Zoning Amendments. The County shall consider the potential maximum impacts of all Future Land Use map and zoning amendments on the LOS for all roadways directly and indirectly affected by the amendment when making such decisions. However, specific impacts and any required roadway improvements shall only be determined based on the submittal of a defined development proposal as part of the County's overall concurrency system.

Conservation Element

Groundwater Resources:

Policy 1.2.10: All requests for development shall be reviewed to ensure that potential impacts of the proposed development do not degrade the water quality and quantity of groundwater resources.

Policy 1.2.15: DeSoto County shall protect groundwater recharge areas throughout the County by requiring properly functioning stormwater management systems meeting drainage LOS standards and a minimum percentage of 15% pervious open space for all non-residential development projects and a minimum of 25% pervious open space for residential development projects. This may be further restricted in the LDRs through individual zoning districts and other development performance standards.

Surface Water Resources:

Policy 1.4.3: The County shall identify and require the creation of upland buffer zones, in accordance with the regulations of the water management districts, between development and surface water, environmentally sensitive areas, and wetlands in order to protect these natural resources from the activities and impacts of development.

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Wetland Protection:

Objective 1.5: Wetland Protection. Wetlands and the natural functions of wetlands shall be conserved, protected, and restored from activities which alter their physical and hydrological nature to ensure the filtration of water to enhance water quality, provide flood control, maintain wildlife habitat, and offer recreational opportunities, which enhance the quality of life in DeSoto County.

Policy 1.5.1: The County, as part of its development review process, shall require the coordination of development plans with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Southwest Florida Water Management District or other appropriate regulatory agency, to assist in monitoring land uses which may impact potential wetlands as shown on the National Wetlands Inventory (shown as part of the Conservation Overlay Area on the FLUM).

Policy 1.5.2: The County shall require that all development proposals be accompanied by evidence that an inventory of wetlands; soils posing severe limitations construction; unique habitat; endangered species of wildlife and plants; significant historic structures and/or sites; has been conducted.

Policy 1.9.16: Developers shall be required to identify wildlife habitat, and endangered and threatened species as part of the development review process and shall be required to submit mitigation measures for review as part of the County's development review process.