

## Huerfano County Land Use Department

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# Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners Staff Report – Permit #23-040 Plat Amendment and Easement Vacation BH2 Meeting Type – Advisory, Tracts M1 and 6A Panadero Filing No. 3

Meeting Date: July 23, 2024

### Request

With this Application BH2 (the Applicant), on behalf of Dos Suenos Properties, LLC requests the following:

Plat Amendment pursuant to LUR Section §2.14 to create a total of eight parcels out of tracts M1 and Parcel 6A in Panadero Filing #3. The site is located on the north side of Panadero Ave and west of Panadero Loop. Tract M1 contains approximately 4.94 acres and Parcel A contains 6.5 acres. Applicant intends to develop or sell parcels. (Parcel Numbers 1218703 and 347050).

Vacation of utility easement along property line between M1 and 6A.

The subject property is zoned Urbanizing Residential. Minimum lot size in this zone is 1/2 acre. Zoning standards for this district are set forth in LUR Section §1.03.

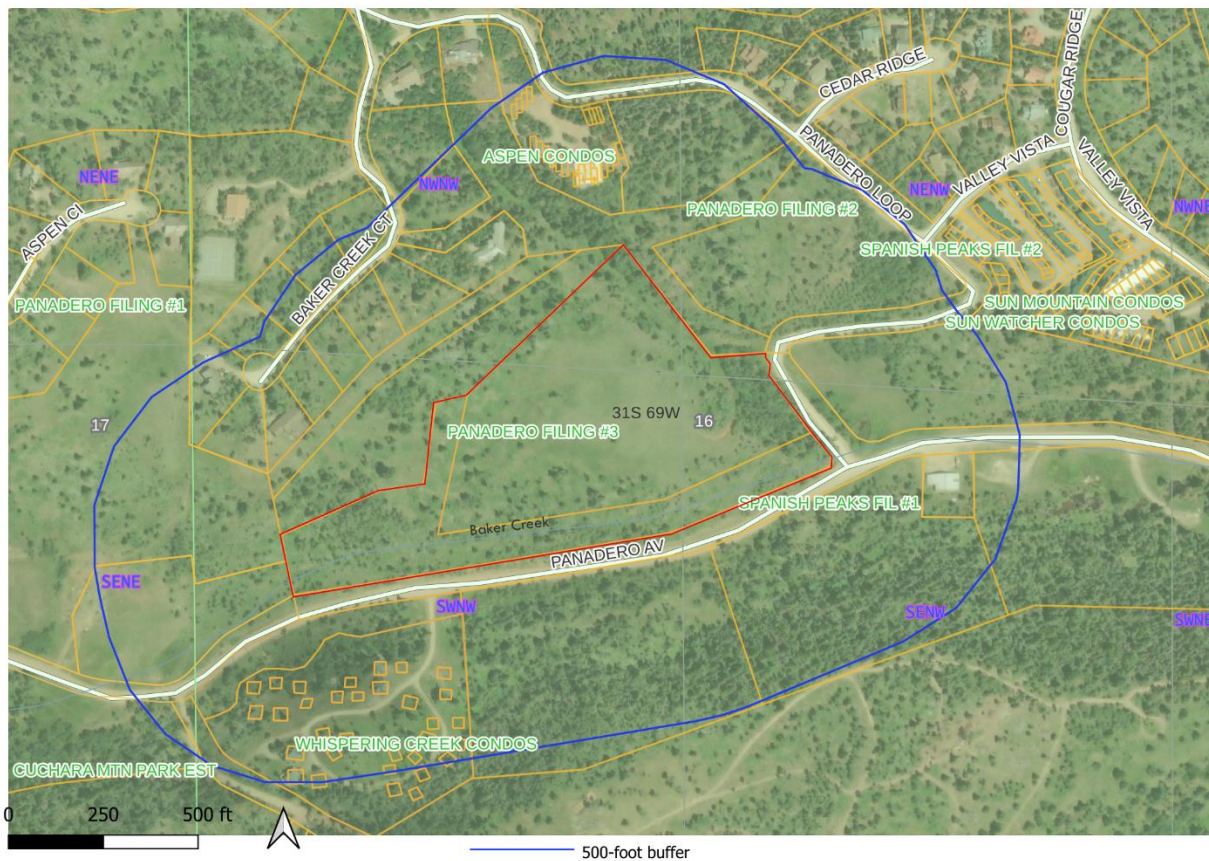
The subject property contains numerous exceptions to title in exhibit B of the deed. Outline of significance of select items:

- Map 264 [states a reception # of 298846, which is not indexed]. Depicts underground cables along Panadero Avenue adjacent to M1.
- 389209 Service Plan for the Cuchara Valley Recreational Metropolitan District. The preliminary engineer survey map in Exhibit C shows sewer and water lines along Panadero Ave and on the northeast boundary of Tract A.
- 373-318 declares an easement in Filing no 3, the plat of which was filed with the clerk and recorder on March 16, 1983 under Reception # 289993 [no such reception number in records].
  - a) all streets and easements for public utilities as shown on said plat;
  - b) strips of land in Tract A extending ten feet on either side of water distribution and sewage-collection pipelines in said tracts, as such pipelines exist on the date of this deed;
- Easement quitclaimed to Cucharas Sanitation and Water District
- 379-485 references a land patent pertaining to part of Cuchara Mountain Park Estates, and does not affect these properties.
- 336085 (also filed under 362860) Settlement Agreement
  - 2. Tract M and Tract 6 shall be restricted to single family lots as configured in exhibit A, which are not less than 1/3 acre in size and all houses constructed thereon shall contain at least 2000 square feet with a rear yard setback of at least 60 ft.

- 3. No subsequent changes will be made to the configuration of Exhibit A as it pertains to Tract M and Tract 6 without the written approval of Concannon.
- 368026 Amendment to Settlement Agreement (not same settlement agreement as 336085) Pertains to reconveyance of water storage tank and water line easement which was moved in order not to interfere with buried electrical lines. Exhibits A and B were not recorded with the agreement.
- 337888 – agreement with SIEA pertains to Tract 8
- 334227 Grants limited use to mining claims south of Panadero. Does not directly impact these properties.

## Vicinity Map

Plat Amendment and Vacation of Easement  
Vicinity Map



### Process for Plat Amendment

(2.14.01): PC meeting: recommendation → BOCC public meeting → Record amended plat with County Clerk and Recorder within 5 days at applicant's expense.

**Noticing:** BOCC may require notification of review agencies or other interested parties.

### Process for vacation of easements

PC review → Notify school districts, utility companies and municipalities and other referral agencies identified by Planning Commission (21 day review) → Joint PC/BOCC public hearing → PC recommendation → BOCC decision

### Code References

The following Code Sections are pertinent to the evaluation of this request:

#### § 2.14 – Plat Amendment

The re-subdivision of land or substantial changes to a recorded plat shall be considered a subdivision or the subdivision of land and shall be subject to the subdivision and other applicable provisions of these regulations. Minor changes to an approved and recorded plat shall not be considered a subdivision of land within the intent and definitions of these regulations, so long as the minor changes are not undertaken for the purposes of circumventing these subdivision regulations and so long as the minor changes do not include modifications which significantly alter the intended land uses, density, number of lots, circulation system, dedicated land or encompass more than twenty-five (25) percent of the land included within an overall site within an approved and recorded subdivision. Specifically included within the scope of minor changes are the following actions: the adjustment and revision of lot lines, the re-platting of lots, the reconfiguration of dedicated streets and easements and reserved sites, along with similar minor changes to an approved and recorded plat, so long as the minor changes create no nonconforming lots, nor significantly alter street and road locations, drainage easements or violate the subdivision design standards contained herein.

#### §2.03 Waivers

Following a recommendation from the Planning Commission, the Board of County Commissioners may authorize waivers or modifications of the provisions contained within these subdivision regulations in cases where an applicant clearly demonstrates in writing that on the basis of the conditions peculiar to a site, an unnecessary and undue hardship would be placed upon that applicant by the literal enforcement of one or more provisions of these subdivision regulations. Such waivers or modifications shall not be granted if, in the opinion of the board of County Commissioners, they would prove detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare, or impair or be contrary to the purpose, intent or specific provisions of these regulations. Such waivers and modifications may specifically be granted to facilitate the design characteristics of a Planned Unit Development (PUD). The conditions of any waiver or modification authorized by the Board of County Commissioners shall be stated in writing in the minutes of the Board along with the justification for the granting or the denial of such waiver or modification.

CRS 30-28-136 requires review by the following agencies for subdivision applications:

- Colorado Geological Survey required for all proposed subdivisions creating lots under 35-acres
- Conservation District Board (if all or part of subdivision is in conservation district) – re: soil suitability, floodwater problems, watershed protection.
- Counties or municipalities within a 2-mile radius
- State Engineer
- School districts
- State Forest Service (when applicable)

#### §2.15 Vacation of Easements

**Application Materials Required for a Plat Amendment and vacation:** Proof of ownership; approved and recorded final plat along with proposed amendments; narrative statement explaining why proposed changes should be approved by the Planning Commission and BOCC, and a list of land owners and their addresses within 500 ft. of the property.

#### **Application Materials:**

Applicant letter states that existing facilities include Cuchara Sanitation and Water District and San Isabel Electric. It is not clear what is meant by this.

For vacation, description of area of land to be vacated is required, but not mentioned.

#### **Background**

This application, along with all required attachments were received on October 20, 2023. Staff has determined the plat maps submitted need amendments. The parcel adjacent the water plant needs a signature block for the Planning Commission. The parcel currently owned by the City of Walsenburg is lacking signature blocks, existing and amended parcel maps, and since a non-conforming parcel cannot be created, the 8-acre parcel will have to be consolidated with the adjacent Snowy River Ranch parcel (398526).

**Property History:**

The Settlement Agreement mentioned in the exceptions to title attached to the deed states that no subsequent changes will be made in the configuration of Exhibit A as it pertains to Tract M and Tract 6, without the written approval of [Patricia J.] Concannon. Exhibit A, shown below, depicts a configuration of parcels different from that proposed in this application. Concannon was not a previous owner of this parcel.

In the Cuchara Mountain Resort Panadero Subdivision Land Use Plan from 1997 Tract 6 adjacent this tract was platted for 12 home sites with another 17 platted on Tract M1 that runs along Panadero Ave (See Map 405)

These two properties are not part of the Panadero POA, which describes its membership in Exhibit A of the declaration of covenants (Book 365 Page 152) as Lots 75 through 114 inclusive of Panadero Development Filing No. 2.

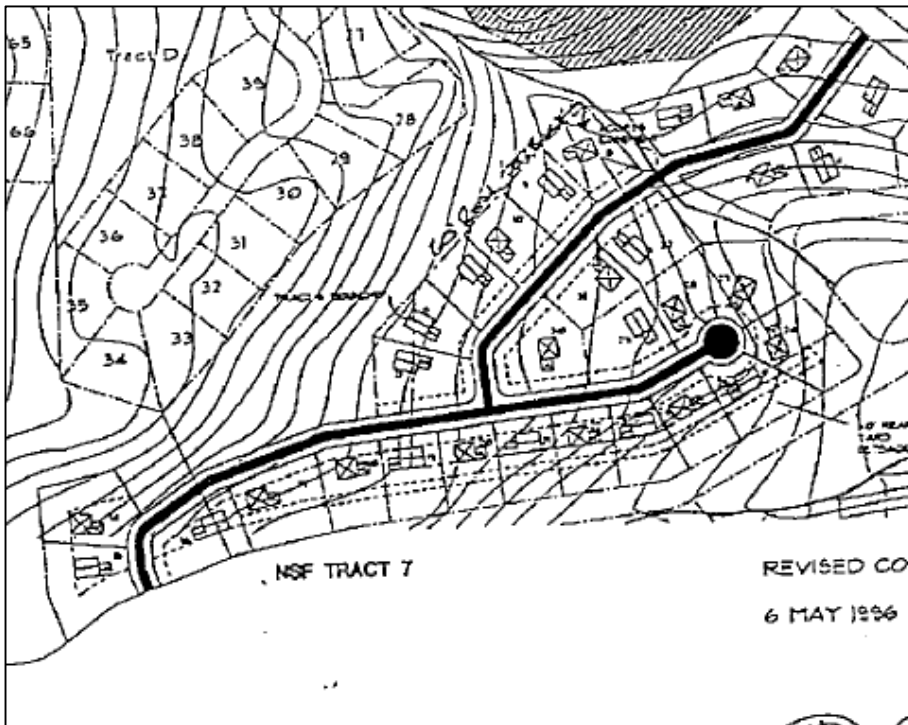
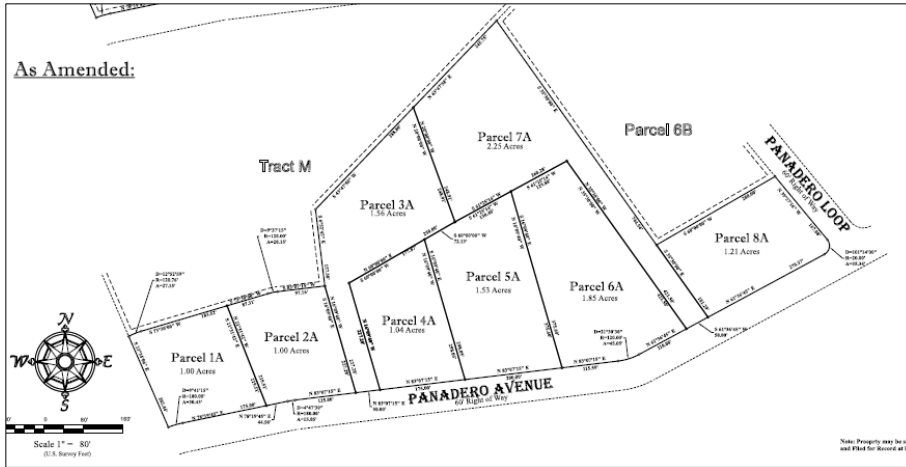


Figure 1 Exhibit A of the Settlement Agreement



**Figure 2 Proposed new configuration of lots.**

The proposed easement vacation contains plans for a road and water and sewer lines depicted in Map 405.

Tract M1 first appears in a deed issued August 3, 1996 in a sale from Panadero Property Owners Association to Ski Cuchara LP. In the previous transfer of ownership, Ski Cuchara LP sold the property to Panadero Property Owners Association on July 30, 1996, and the property was described only as Tract M.

These two deeds can be found at Book 416 Page 690 and 688, respectively.

**Eligibility for a Plat Amendment: (2.14)** Minor changes that do not include modifications which significantly alter the intended land uses, density, number of lots, circulation system, drainage easements, dedicated land or encompass more than 25% of land included within a recorded subdivision. Scope can include adjustment of lot lines, replatting of lots, reconfiguration of dedicated streets and easements and reserved sites.

**2.14.03 Criteria for Action on a Plat Amendment Application**

All actions by the Planning Commission in reviewing and making recommendations on an application to amend an approved and recorded plat and by the Board of County Commissioners in approving or disapproving such applications shall be based in general upon the provisions of these regulations and specifically on the following criteria:

- 1 That the proposed amendment meets the qualifications stated herein for a minor change to the approved and recorded plat.
- 2 That the proposed amendment would be consistent with all other provisions of these regulations and would not cause significant hardship or inconvenience for adjacent or neighboring land owners or tenants.
- 3 That the proposed amendment would be beneficial to the public health, safety or welfare of County residents.

**2.15.03 Criteria for Action on a Vacating Application**

All actions by the Planning Commission in reviewing and making recommendations on an application to vacate an approved and recorded plat or easement and by the Board of County Commissioners in approving or disapproving such applications, shall be based in general upon the provisions of these regulations and specifically upon the following criteria:

1. That the proposed vacating would not interfere with development of nor deny access via a public thoroughfare to existing structures within the recorded plat, adjoining properties, utility services or other improvements, nor deny access to structures, facilities or sites located beyond the plat or easement to be vacated.

2. That the proposed vacating would not cause undue hardship or inconvenience for any utility company, special district, neighboring landowner or tenant.
3. That the proposed vacating would not be likely to prove detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare of County residents.
4. That the proposed vacating would be consistent with all other provisions in these regulations.
5. That the proposed vacating would not cause undue financial hardship to Huerfano County nor deprive it of needed tax base.

**Analysis**

The Planning Commission shall decide whether the proposed changes qualify for a Plat Amendment or if the Applicant should be required to apply for a Subdivision (see eligibility above).

One of the provisions of the settlement agreement was that “no subsequent changes will be made in the configuration of Exhibit A as it pertains to Tract M and Tract 6, without the written approval of [Patricia J.] Concannon. Exhibit A, shown below, depicts a configuration of parcels different from that proposed in this application.” The configuration of Exhibit A depicts a road bisecting Tracts M1 and 6A and the creation of 25 parcels (the Panadero master land use plan – Map 405 -- depicts 29 parcels on these two tracts), compared with the current proposal of eight parcels with no additional right of way. Concannon was the previous owner of these tracts – would her approval to create new lots not according to the configuration referenced be required per the settlement agreement?

Because the easement on the plat amendment application is depicted as simply a utility easement, but as an access easement on other maps, it may be worth asking BH2 to verify the nature of the easement to be vacated.

**Referral Comments**

LIST ANY ISSUES FROM REFERRALS HERE.

**Staff Comment**

**Note:** If the Planning Commission chooses to consider this a plat amendment, plat amendments do not require a public hearing. Planning Commission should make a recommendation to BOCC for an upcoming BOCC public meeting.

The vacation of easements, however, does require a joint public hearing.

BOCC may require notification of review agencies or other interested parties.

**Planning Commission Action:**

**At their meeting on October 26, the Planning Commission tabled the application and requested more information, namely:**

1. History of creation of Tract M1. Was this created with approval from BOCC?
2. Deed restriction on altering layout without permission from Concannon. What was Concannon’s position relative to these parcels at the time?
3. Whether easement for water line mentioned in deed restrictions impacts these properties.
4. Argument as to why this should be considered a plat amendment rather than a subdivision.

**At their meeting on January 25, the Planning Commission tabled the application again, requesting staff to investigate whether there is an existing plat amendment.** If there is not, then the Planning Commission

will proceed with this application substantially as a plat amendment and procedurally as a subdivision. If there is a plat amendment the Planning Commission will proceed with this application as a plat amendment.

**The Planning Commission decided at their February 22, 2024 Meeting since BH2 Surveying and County Staff confirmed that they were unable to locate a plat map with the lines drawn as they exist as present.** Discussion and confirmation that the application will proceed using the plat amendment procedure with subdivision submittal requirements.

On May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 the Land Use Department received from BH2 Surveying the revised survey(s) as requested. June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024 Letters were sent to the review agencies with only response being from Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

At the July 11, 2024 meeting the Planning Commission made a motion to send application 23-40 Plat Amendment BH2, to the Huerfano County Board of County Commissioners to recommend approval of making the two parcels into seven parcels, instead of the originally eight parcels that were requested.

**Recommend one of the following to the BOCC:**

1. **Approval** without any special conditions.
2. **Conditional** Approval with a description of the special conditions.
3. **Denial**, indicating for the record the reason(s) for such action with reference to the criteria set forth in the Land Use Code.
4. **Continuation** until a future date to gather more information or obtain clarification or for any other relevant cause.

**Enclosures**

- Application Materials