



**MISSION RISE  
PUD REZONE  
PROJECT NARRATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & REZONE CRITERIA COMPLIANCE  
*Revised July 2023***

**I. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

On behalf of the Property Owner, ASF TAP FL I, LLC. (“Applicant”), enclosed please find a Rezone Application to amend the Planned Unit Development (“PUD”) zoning of the Mission Rise Property (“Property”). The Property consists of 243+/- acres including 4 parcels, PIDs: 02-21-25-0002-000-04800; 34-20-25-0004-000-01003; 34-20-25-0001-000-00100; 27-20-25-0004-000-01200. It is generally located south of Number Two Road, west of SR 19, and east of Silverwood Lane in the southwestern portion of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills (see Aerial Map, included in the application materials).

The Property is designated as Village Mixed Use (VMU) and Conservation (CON) based on the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills Future Land Use Map. In 2005, the Property was rezoned to PUD per Ordinance 2005-357, with a binding conceptual development plan allowing for development of 400 dwelling units. The Developer’s Agreement related to the Rezone was approved in 2007 and expired 10 years later in February 2017. The Property is currently vacant, consisting of pasturelands and wetlands. The Property can be accessed from Number 2 Road and Revels Road.

The purpose of this petition is to rezone the Property from PUD to PUD with a new Conceptual Land Use Plan and Developer’s Agreement, to allow for a maximum of **592 dwelling units**, along with supportive amenities and infrastructure. A regional multi-use trail and parks system as well as a civic tract is also included as the non-residential use within the PUD.

**II. SURROUNDING USES**

While a majority of land surrounding the Property is predominantly vacant currently, many properties are entitled for development.

The surrounding lands to the north, south, and west of the Property consist of vacant agricultural lands, groves, or pastures along with a few dispersed single-family residential dwellings. The Reserve (Hillside Grove) PUD was approved to the east in November 2021 (Ordinance 2021-010), allowing for 284 single-family homes, 291-single-family cluster homes, and 153 townhouse units, along with up to 300,000 square feet of commercial uses and 100,000 square feet of institutional uses. Lands to the east of SR 19, known as the Simpson Parcels, was also rezoned to PUD as the Watermark PUD (Ordinance 2022-016). The PUD was approved for 275 single-family dwelling units. Table 1 below provides a comprehensive inventory of the surrounding land use pattern.

**TABLE 1: INVENTORY OF SURROUNDING USES**

	<b>Future Land Use</b>	<b>Zoning</b>	<b>Existing Land Use</b>
<b>North</b>	Village Mixed Use (VMU), Conservation	AR (Lake County), PUD (The Reserve, Ordinance 2021-010)	ROW (Number 2 Road) Agriculture/Pasture

	(CON), Urban Low Density (Lake County)		
<b>South</b>	Rural Transition (Lake County)	A (Lake County)	Single-family residential
<b>East</b>	Village Mixed Use (VMU), Conservation (CON), Medium Density Residential (MDR)	PUD (The Reserve, Ordinance 2021-010 & Watermark PUD, Ordinance 2022-016), LI	Future Residential (The Reserve (Lennar) PUD/Agriculture (Orange Grove)/Pasture
<b>West</b>	Village Mixed Use (VMU), Conservation (CON)	AG, A (Lake County), R-3 (Lake County)	Agriculture/Pasture/Single-family/Manufactured Home

Based on the development of the adjacent Reserve PUD and Watermark PUD, the surrounding area will be transitioning into denser residential or mixed-use neighborhoods.

### III. HISTORY

Following annexation into the Town limits in 2005, the Property was rezoned to PUD per Ordinance 2005-037. The conceptual development plan, approved by the Town Council, authorizes the development of 400 single-family residential units. The Mission Rise Developer's Agreement was approved in February 2007, to establish mutually agreed upon terms regarding the development of the Property. This agreement expired 10 years following the effective date. In 2018, Hanover Properties attempted to secure zoning entitlements through a PUD rezone for 629 single-family residential units with associated amenities and infrastructure on the Property. However, this rezone request was denied by the Town Council.

### IV. REZONE REQUEST

The Applicant is requesting to rezone the Property from PUD to PUD with a new Binding Development Plan and Developer's Agreement, to allow for a maximum of 592 dwelling units, along with supportive amenities and infrastructure. A regional multi-use trail and park system and a civic tract is planned as the non-residential component of this PUD, consistent with the requirements of the VMU future land use district.

The proposed density of 592 dwelling units is within the limitations of the base density permitted per the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The proposed density calculations are as follows:

$$\text{Net Land Area} = \text{Total acreage} - \text{Waterbodies acreage}^1 - \text{Required open space}^2 - \text{Remaining Wetlands acreage}^3$$

<sup>1</sup> Only pre-existing water bodies are to be included in the calculation.

<sup>2</sup> 25% of gross land area has to be reserved as open space. Per Policy 1.2.2 of the Future Land Use Element of the Town's Comprehensive Plan, no more than 50% of the open space requirement can be met with wetlands. Landscaped buffers and stormwater facilities may be counted towards open space if designed in a park-like setting with pedestrian facilities and free-form ponds. Up to

<sup>3</sup> Wetlands not counted towards the open space requirement.

**Max. Potential Units per FLU = 612 dwelling units.**  
**Max. Units Requested = 592 dwelling units.**

Community Development District (CDD). The Applicant is working with the Town and CDD to establish available capacity to serve the project.

*Fire and EMS:*

Fire and EMS services will be provided by the Lake County Fire District.

*Schools:*

Lake County School District has reviewed this project and provided an Adequate Public Facilities Determination Letter.

## **VI. ENVIRONMENTAL**

An Environmental Assessment for the Property was prepared by Bio-Tech Consulting Inc., which contains information related to soils, land use types, listed and protected flora and fauna species, wetland delineation, and other environmental constraints.

Only 0.4 +/- acres of impacts to the 60.3 +/- acres of on-site wetlands is proposed, as reflected on the proposed Conceptual Land Use Plan. Consistent with Section 3.02.03 of the Land Development Code (LDC), no development is proposed within 25' of a wetland and no building or impervious surface area with the exception of stormwater ponds is planned within 50' of a wetland.

Any impacts to protected/listed species or wetlands will be permitted in accordance with relevant State and Federal guidelines as further described in the Environmental Assessment. Required buffers are maintained from the identified bald eagle's nest.

The project is in the X, A and AE flood zones. The proposed development is designed to have a majority of development, outside of areas prone to flooding per FEMA.

## **VII. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

The project will provide adequate stormwater management facilities to ensure water quality and attenuation in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations. It is understood that the Applicant will obtain an Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) from the St. John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD) and any required Section 404 permits from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) prior to construction.

Stormwater runoff from the developed portions of the project will be conveyed to stormwater management ponds. Approximately 20.9 +/- acres of the Property are planned as stormwater ponds. The ponds will treat and attenuate the stormwater runoff in accordance with SJRWMD and Town's requirements prior to discharging off site. Stormwater will be detained within the ponds where chemical and physical processes within the ponds will improve water quality. The ponds will attenuate the project's runoff rate by holding back water, reducing the discharge rate.

Information related to proposed impervious surfaces will not be available until detailed design, which will be provided during at later stages of the Town's permitting process. Management of stormwater run-off, considering changes in existing and proposed impervious surfaces, will comply with SJRWMD and the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills requirements.

## VIII. FUTURE LAND USE/COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMPLIANCE

The proposed amendment is consistent with the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Howey-in-the-Hills County Comprehensive Plan as follows:

### *Policy 1.1.1: Land Use Designations, Village Mixed Use (VMU)*

- *Minimum of 25 acres to apply for this land use. Maximum density of 4 dwelling units per acre, which may be increased to 6 dwelling units per acre if the development includes 20% usable public open space (no wetlands).*

**RESPONSE:** The Property is 243 +/- acres in size, meeting the minimum threshold to be developed under the VMU future land use designation. The PUD is proposed for a maximum of 592 dwelling units, that is under the maximum base density of 4 dwelling units per acre, as demonstrated by the calculations included earlier in this narrative.

- *Residential areas shall comprise a minimum of 70% of the net land area and a maximum of 85% of the net land area.*
- *Commercial/non-residential areas shall comprise a minimum of 15% of the net land area and a maximum of 30% of the net land area. This includes community facilities and schools.*

**RESPONSE:** 15.5 % of the net land area or 23.8 acres is planned as non-residential areas within the project. This includes a mix of civic land uses, and community recreational areas in addition to the regional system of multi-use trails and parks. The remainder of the net land area is proposed for residential uses.

- *For developments with more than 100 acres, 5% of the non-residential land shall be dedicated for public/civic buildings.*

**RESPONSE:** A 1.2 +/- acre site (5% of non-residential area) along SR 19 is designated for public or civic buildings. This site is envisioned to serve as an entranceway feature for the Town. The final use will be coordinated with Town Staff.

- *Commercial/non-residential may be 2 stories with 50% coverage as long as parking and other support facilities (stormwater) are met. The maximum building height is 35 feet.*

**RESPONSE:** The project will comply with this requirement.

- *Public recreational uses must occupy a minimum of 10% of the useable open space (no wetlands).*

**RESPONSE:** Over 10% of usable open space or 7.2 +/- acres is planned as public recreation areas.

- *A minimum of 25% open space is required.*

**RESPONSE:** 27.5% or 65.6 +/- acres is planned as open space within the project. Please note that any areas accredited towards non-residential area requirements are not included in this open space calculation.

- *The maximum building size is 30,000 sq. ft.; unless a special exception is granted to the developer by the Town Council.*

**RESPONSE: The project will comply with the maximum building size requirement of 30,000 SF. No special exception is being requested.**

*Policy 1.1.2: Village Mixed Use – Primarily intended to create sustainability and maintain the unique charm of the Town, including the provisions of reducing the dependability on the automobile, protecting more open land, and providing quality of life by allowing people to live, work, socialize, and recreate in close proximity. Elementary, middle, and high schools are also permitted in this category.*

**RESPONSE: The project meets the required mix of residential and non-residential areas for the VMU future land use designation. Non-residential areas are planned as the regional multi-use trail and park system that will be compatible with the residential development and maximize the natural features of the site. Special emphasis has been paid to multimodal connectivity across the project, especially connecting to the non-residential areas, consistent with the intent of this category.**

*Policy 1.3.1: Limiting Development in Wetland Areas. The Town shall limit development within all wetland areas to land uses supporting conservation facilities and water-related passive recreation activities, as defined in the Recreation and Open Space Element. Wetlands shall be identified on the Future Land Use Map Series as Conservation lands. No development shall be permitted in wetlands except for conservation or passive recreation uses as defined within policies cited herein.*

**RESPONSE: On-site wetlands are preserved to the greatest extent feasible with only 0.5 +/- acres of impacts proposed. This impact area is to accommodate the north-south Connector #1, consistent with the Town's 2035 Future Transportation Map.**

*Policy 1.11.2 Use of Cluster Developments. To promote the conservation of permeable surface area and maintain the Town's rural character, cluster developments shall be promoted by the Town during the development review process. Developers of Mixed Use/Planned Unit Developments and residential subdivisions shall be encouraged to cluster development in order to preserve open space.*

**RESPONSE: As seen on the proposed Conceptual Land Use Plan, the development is clustered consistent with this policy to allow for maximum preservation of on-site natural wetlands and native habitat. Approximately 25% of the site is wetland habitat, almost all of which is proposed to be preserved along with required upland buffers. 26.8% of open space has been provided within the project, only including 50% of on-site wetlands within the open space calculation. Thus, the development will help conserve permeable surface area and maintain the Town's rural character.**

Based on the above analysis, the proposed rezone petition is in substantial compliance with the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

## **IX. REZONING CRITERIA COMPLIANCE**

1. Is the rezoning request consistent with the Town's comprehensive plan?

**Yes, the rezoning request is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, as further detailed in Section VIII above.**

2. Describe any changes in circumstances of conditions affecting the property and the surrounding area that support a change in the current zoning.

**The Property is currently zoned PUD. This request does not seek to change the zoning designation of the subject property. Instead, it seeks approval of a new Conceptual Land Use Plan and Developer's Agreement for the Property, as the prior Conceptual Land Use Plan and Developer's Agreement expired in February 2017.**

**The proposed density is consistent with the maximum permitted per the underlying future land use of VMU. The proposed development will meet all requirements of the VMU category. Further, at current, development in the surrounding including the Reserve PUD and Watermark PUD is supportive of the requested density. The proposed lot sizes within the project are consistent with the lot sizes approved in the Reserve PUD that is immediately to the east of the Property. It uses clustering principles to allow for wetland preservation and open space enhancement to maximize the natural features of the Property.**

**Overall, the proposed rezoning will be consistent with the underlying future land use and mimics the nature of development seen in the surrounding area.**

3. Will the proposed rezoning have any negative effects on adjacent properties?

**No, the proposed rezoning will not have a negative effect on adjacent properties. The site has been sensitively designed such that preserved wetlands, stormwater ponds, and open space form a natural buffer adjacent to a majority of the Property's boundaries. Where residential use is proposed adjacent to single-family development to the west, larger 75'-wide-lots are planned. Smaller lots are strategically located in the interior of the Property and adjacent to the Reserve PUD, where similar lot sizes are approved. In terms of connectivity, the Conceptual Land Use Plan depicts the north-south Connector #1. This 90' ROW will connect Number Two Road to SR 19, improving connectivity in the area. Thus, the proposed development will not have any negative effects on adjacent properties and instead serve as a continuation of the existing development pattern with enhanced connectivity.**

4. Will the proposed rezoning have any impacts upon natural resources?

**No, the proposed rezoning will not have any impacts upon natural resources. Please see the attached Environmental Assessment by Bio-Tech Consulting Inc. which provides detailed information of natural resources on site.**

**On-site wetlands have been preserved to the greatest extent feasible, along with upland buffers as required by the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Any impacts to listed species and their habitat will be permitted through relevant State and Federal agencies. Required buffers have been maintained from the identified bald eagle's nest on site, in accordance with the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's management plans.**

5. Will the proposed rezoning have any impacts upon adjacent properties?

The proposed rezoning is a continuance of development seen in the adjacent area in recent years with approval of the Reserve PUD and Watermark PUD. Consistent with the intent of PUDs, the proposed Conceptual Land Use Plan proposes a clustered development with greater extent of environmental protection, open space, and public recreational areas. The proposed development meets all requirements of the VMU future land use designation, as described in Section VIII of this narrative. Further, the project will help interconnectivity within the area through the inclusion of the north-south Connector #1. This roadway is to be designed as a two-lane roadway with dedicated continuous min. 10' multimodal trail to ensure both vehicular and pedestrian connectivity from Number Two Road down to Revels Road and SR 19.

6. Will the rezoning create any impacts on services including schools, transportation, utilities, stormwater management and solid waste disposal?

- **Schools - An Adequate School Facilities Determination Letter has been provided by the Lake County School District.**
- **Transportation –Transportation & Mobility Consultants, Inc. will be preparing a Traffic Impact Analysis based on a methodology approved by the Town.**
- **Utilities – Potable water will be provided through the Town’s public water supply system; the Town has indicated adequate capacity to serve the project. Sanitary sewer service will be secured through the Mission Inn Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is operated by the Central Lakes Community Development District (CDD). The Applicant is working with the CDD to establish available capacity to serve the project.**
- **Stormwater Management – Please see Section VII of this narrative. Stormwater systems will be designed to manage stormwater on-site and receive applicable permits from the SJRWMD and the Town, prior to construction.**
- **Solid Waste – Solid waste service will be provided through the Town.**

7. Are there any mistakes in the assignment of the current zoning classification?

**No, the proposed rezoning is not to change the current zoning classification of PUD, but instead to seek approval of a new Conceptual Land Use Plan and Developer’s Agreement for the Mission Rise Property.**

## **X. CONCLUSION**

The proposed petition seeks approval of a new Conceptual Land Use Plan and Developer’s Agreement for the Mission Rise site. The proposed development will continue to meet all requirements of the VMU future land use designation, be consistent with the requirements of the LDC and uphold the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Town of Howey-in-the-Hills’ Comprehensive Plan. For these reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests approval of rezoning and reserves the right to modify this application through the review process.