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# ZONING & PLATTING COMMISSION ENVIRONMENTAL VARIANCE REQUEST REVIEW SHEET

**CASE**: SP-2015-0004C **ZAP COMMISSION DATE**: February 16, 2016

**PROJECT NAME:** Restoration Temple of Deliverance

**CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT:** One (1)

**APPLICANT:** Restoration Temple of Deliverance Ministries

**AGENT:** I.T. Gonzalez Engineers (Bill Graham)

ADDRESS OF SITE: 6301 Moonglow Drive

**COUNTY:** Travis **AREA**: 4.51 acres

WATERSHED: Walnut Creek JURISDICTION: Full-Purpose

**EXISTING ZONING: SF-4A (Single-Family Residence, Small Lot - Religious Assembly** 

is a permitted use in this zoning district)

**PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** The applicant proposes to construct a one-story 9,779 sq. ft. religious assembly building

**<u>DESCRIPTION OF VARIANCE</u>**: The applicant requests a variance from LDC Section 25-8-261, which prohibits development in a critical water quality zone.

# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION ACTION:**

**February 3, 2016**: The Environmental Commission recommended approval of the variance request from LDC Section 25-8-261, to allow development in critical water quality zone in order to construct a primary access drive to the religious assembly site, with the following condition:

1. Evaluation of trees for screening along the north side of the site between the proposed driveway and existing homes.

Vote: 10-0-0-1 (Consent).

# **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval with the following condition:

1. The applicant will provide educational signage for the wetland critical environmental feature and riparian buffer

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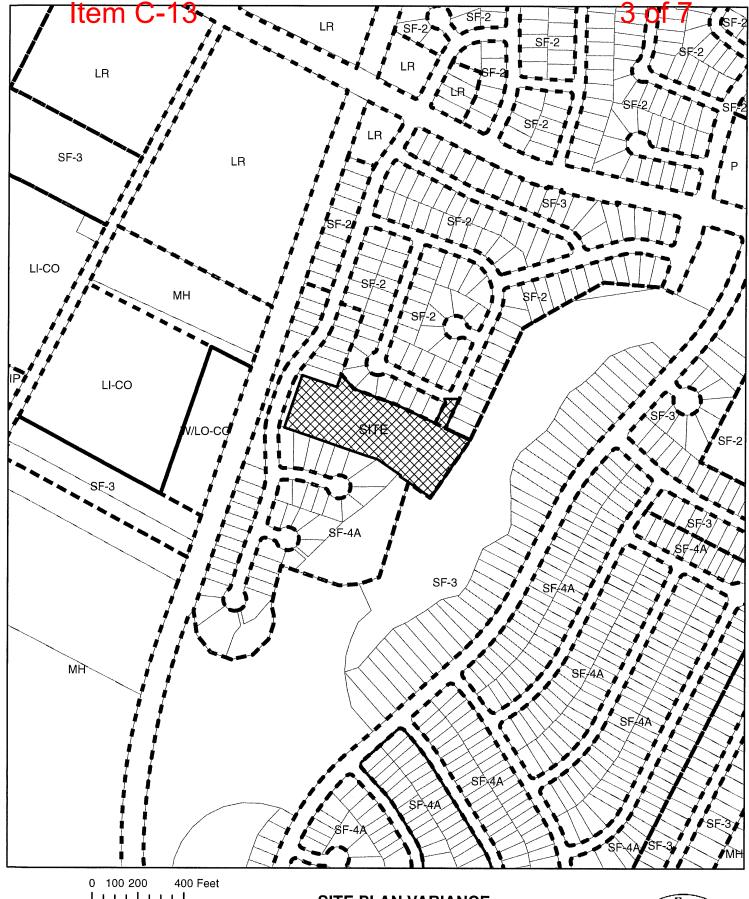
The applicant has agreed to all conditions.

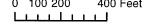
**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STAFF:** Pamela Abee-Taulli **PHONE**: (512) 974-1879

Pamela.Taulli@austintexas.gov

**CASE MANAGER:** Michael Simmons-Smith **PHONE**: (512) 974-1225

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# SITE PLAN VARIANCE

CASE NO.: SP-2015-0004C ADDRESS: 6301 MOONGLOW DRIVE CASE MANAGER: MICHAEL SIMMONS-SMITH





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# ITEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

**COMMISSION MEETING** 

**DATE REQUESTED:** FEBRUARY 3, 2016

NAME & NUMBER RESTORATION TEMPLE OF DELIVERANCE MINISTRIES

**OF PROJECT:** SP-2015-0004C

NAME OF APPLICANT IT Gonzales Engineers

OR ORGANIZATION: (Bill Graham, PE 512-447-7400)

LOCATION: 6301 MOONGLOW DR

**Council District:** District 1

**PROJECT FILING DATE:** January 8, 2015

DSD/ENVIRONMENTAL

Staff: Pamela Abee-Taulli, 512-974-1879

Pamela.taulli@austintexas.gov

DSD/ Benny Ho, 512-974-3402 CASE MANAGER: benny.ho@austintexas.gov

WATERSHED: Walnut Creek Watershed, Suburban

**ORDINANCE:** Watershed Protection Ordinance (current Code)

**REQUEST:** Variance request as follows:

To allow construction in a critical water quality zone of a

drive to provide primary access. [LDC 25-8-261]

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommended with conditions.

**REASONS FOR** 

**RECOMMENDATION:** Findings of fact have been met.

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#### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mary Gay Maxwell, Chairperson and Members of the Environmental Commission

**FROM:** Pamela Abee-Taulli, Environmental Review Specialist

**Development Services Department** 

**DATE:** September 4, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Restoration Temple of Deliverance Ministries – SP-2015-0004C

On the February 3, 2016 agenda is a request for the consideration of one variance that has been requested for construction in a critical water quality zone of a drive to provide primary access to a church.

# **Description of Property**

The project is located at 6301 Moonglow Dr., Austin, 78724, east of SH 183, near the intersection of Johnny Morris Rd. and Loyola Ln. It is in the Walnut Creek Watershed, which is classified as a Suburban watershed. The property is not located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

An unnamed major waterway abuts the east side of the tract; hence the property includes City of Austin fully developed 100-year Floodplain and a 300 foot Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ). Slope varies between 6.49% and 9.23%; a small area has a 25% slope. Soils are chiefly Class D, having very slow infiltration.

There is a wetland Critical Environmental Feature (CEF), but no rock outcrops, karst features, or other CEFs. While there are no visible springs, environmental staff have speculated that the wetland pond may be partially fed by water from a perched water table. Vegetation includes large trees, such as elm and oak, near the creek. The western two-thirds has sparse grass cover and is more wooded with mainly invasive trees, while the eastern third is more open with areas of bunch grass, ragweed and Johnson grass. For more information, please see Environmental Resource Inventory, included in packet materials.

Access to the site would normally be taken from Sandshof Dr., which is classified as a collector street. However, a narrow open-space easement lot, approximately 30 feet wide, separates the west side of the property from Sandshof Dr. This easement constitutes one lot of a residential subdivision. To alter the

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easement lot, partial vacation and re-platting of the subdivision plat is required. Re-platting, however, requires approval of one hundred percent of the owners of lots included in the subdivision plat. Since this is infeasible, the site is forced to take access from Moonglow Dr., which is currently inside the CWQZ.

# **Variance Request**

Land Development Code (LDC) Section 25-8-261 prohibits development in a CWQZ. The proposed driveway connecting with Moonglow Dr. encroaches on the CWQZ boundary.

# **Conditions for Staff Approval**

Applicant to provide educational signage for the wetland CEF and riparian buffer.

# Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the variance.

