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# SITE PLAN REVIEW SHEET ENVIRONMENTAL VARIANCE REQUEST ONLY

CASE: SP-2018-0221C ZAP COMMISSION DATE: March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**PROJECT NAME:** West Harbour Marina

**APPLICANT:** G4 Interests, LLC **AGENT:** Janis Smith Consulting, LLC (Janis Smith)

**ADDRESS OF SITE:** 2503 Westlake Drive Bldg. Bd.

**COUNTY:** Travis **AREA:** 2.2 acres

WATERSHED: Lake Austin JURISDICTION: Full Purpose

**EXISTING ZONING: SF-3** 

### PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:

The applicant proposes to replace existing boat dock cluster and bulkhead.

## **DESCRIPTION OF VARIANCES:**

The applicant requests to vary from 25-8-368(E) to allow more than 25 cubic yards of dredging in Lake Austin.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

The findings of fact have been met and staff recommends approval.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD ACTION:**

**February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**: The Environmental Commission recommends support of the request for a dredge variance over 25 CY in accordance with Section 25-8-268(E) with the following: <a href="Staff Conditions">Staff Conditions</a>

- 1) Install cofferdams before beginning dredging on the 4 slips adjacent to Heritage tree roots
- 2) Provide additional mitigation, beyond the requirements, for wetlands (32 additional plants), riparian restoration (7 additional 609S plants), and tree replacement (32 additional inches) Environmental Commission Conditions
- 1) Work with staff to develop a vegetation maintenance plan
- 2) Register and properly address the boat docks

Vote 10-0

### **ZONING AND PLATTING COMMISSION ACTION:**

N/A

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

Pamela.Abee-Taulli@austintexas.gov

**CASE MANAGER:** Clarissa Davis **PHONE:** 974-1423

Clarissa.Davis@austintexas.gov

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# ITEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

COMMISSION MEETING

DATE REQUESTED:

February 6, 2019

NAME & NUMBER OF

West Harbour Marina

PROJECT:

SP-2018-0221C

NAME OF APPLICANT OR

**ORGANIZATION:** 

LOCATION:

**G4** Interests LLC 979-412-0324

2503 Westlake Dr., Austin, TX 78745

COUNCIL DISTRICT: District 10

June 15, 2018 PROJECT FILING DATE:

DSD/ENVIRONMENTAL

Pamela Abee-Taulli

STAFF:

Environmental Review Specialist Senior

512-974-1879, pamela.abee-taulli@austintexas.gov

WPD/ERM STAFF

Not applicable for this variance.

WATERSHED:

Lake Austin Watershed

Water Supply Rural classification **Drinking Water Protection Zone** 

ORDINANCE:

Watershed Protection Ordinance (current code)

REQUEST:

Variance request is as follows:

1. Request to vary from 25-8-368(E) to allow more than 25

cubic yards of dredging in Lake Austin.

**S**TAFF

Staff determination is that the findings of fact have been met.

**DETERMINATION:** 

Staff recommends the following conditions: 1) install cofferdams before beginning dredging on the 4 slips adjacent to Heritage tree roots; 2) provide additional mitigation, beyond the requirements, for wetlands (32 additional plants), riparian restoration (7 additional 609S plants), and tree replacement (38 additional

inches).

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# Development Services Department Staff Recommendations Concerning Required Findings

Project: West Harbour Marina, SP-2018-0221C

Ordinance Standard: Watershed Protection Ordinance (current code)

Variance Request: Request to vary from 25-8-368(E) to allow more than 25 cubic

yards of dredging in Lake Austin.

Include an explanation with each applicable finding of fact.

A. Land Use Commission variance determinations from Chapter 25-8-41 of the City Code:

1. The requirement will deprive the applicant of a privilege available to owners of similarly situated property with approximately contemporaneous development subject to similar code requirements.

Yes The project proposes to modify an existing cluster dock, built prior to 1962, by replacing the existing 28 slips with 26 code-compliant slips, within the existing footprint.

LDC 25-2-1176(B) allows construction of a cluster dock. LDC 25-2-963(D) allows modification and maintenance of non-complying docks. LDC 25-8-368(E) allows up to 25 cubic yards of dredging in a lake for a single plan permit application. That is, a similar project could be built new or modified under current code; and dredging up to 25 cubic yards would be permitted for construction of a single boat dock.

The variance is required to allow a quantity of dredging that is dictated by the number of boat slips, and is less than the quantity of dredging allowed by code for a single boat slip.

### 2. The variance:

a) Is not necessitated by the scale, layout, construction method, or other design decision made by the applicant, unless the design decision provides greater overall environmental protection than is achievable without the variance;

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Yes, the amount of dredge requested is the minimum amount needed to maintain an existing cluster dock.

b) Is the minimum deviation from the code requirement necessary to allow a reasonable use of the property;

Yes The code allows up to 25 cubic yards of dredging associated with construction of a single-slip dock. The project proposes 16.2 cubic yards per slip.

c) Does not create a significant probability of harmful environmental consequences.

Yes, silt boom will be installed prior to construction and maintained for the duration of the project.

3. Development with the variance will result in water quality that is at least equal to the water quality achievable without the variance.

Yes The project proposes to provide bank stabilization and wetland mitigation. The bulkhead layout and planting plan raise the floodplain rating from fair to excellent and are designed to protect the trees on-site while providing permanently protected wetlands. Improved floodplain and riparian function will positively impact water quality.

- B. The Land Use Commission may grant a variance from a requirement of Section 25-8-422 ( Water Quality Transition Zone ), Section 25-8-452 ( Water Quality Transition Zone ), Section 25-8-482 ( Water Quality Transition Zone ), Section 25-8-652 ( Restrictions on Development Impacting Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter E. Long ), or Article 7, Division 1 ( Critical Water Quality Zone Restrictions ), after determining that::
  - 1. The criteria for granting a variance in Subsection (A) are met; Yes
    The dredge request is the minimum amount needed to maintain an
    existing cluster dock that has been silted in over the years. The variance
    request is not a result of a design choice and will take measures to block
    silt from escaping into the lake. The requirement for which a variance is
    requested prevents a reasonable, economic use of the entire property;

Yes The amount of dredge requested is the minimum amount needed to maintain an existing cluster dock.

2. The variance is the minimum deviation from the code requirement necessary to allow a reasonable, economic use of the entire property.

Yes The amount of dredge requested is the minimum amount needed to maintain an existing cluster dock.

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Staff determination is that the findings of fact have been met. Staff recommends the following conditions: 1) install cofferdams

before beginning dredging on the 4 slips adjacent to Heritage tree roots; 2) provide additional mitigation, beyond the requirements, for wetlands (32 additional plants), riparian restoration (7 additional 609S plants), and tree replacement (32 additional inches).

Environmental Reviewer:	Pamela Abee-Taulli	Date 1/22/19
	Pamela Abee-Taulli	
Environmental Review Manager	Michael McDouga Mike McDougal	Date 11-28-2018
Environmental Officer	Chris Herrington	Date <u>1/22/2</u> 019

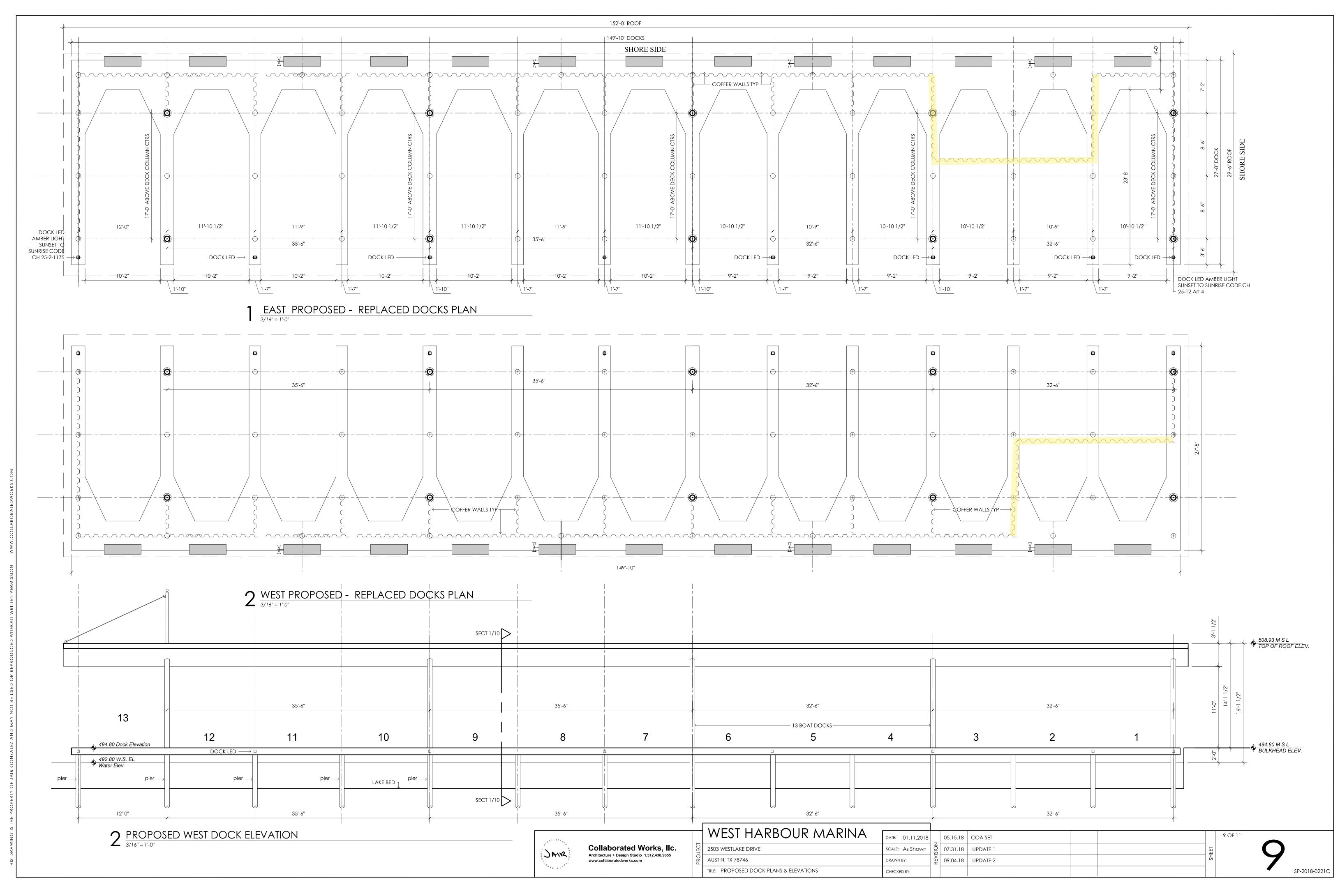
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# **Exhibits for Variance Conditions**

West Harbour Marina SP-2018-0221C

Environmental Commission February 6, 2019

1. Cofferdam Locations for Heritage Tree Protection	p. 6
2. Table of Required and Proposed Mitigation Plantings	p. 7



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TOTAL REQUIRED WETLAND PLANTS = 660 LF (BULKHEAD) / 3
+ 75 (WETLAND) = 295 PLANTS
327 WETLAND PLANTS PROPOSED 32 extra wetland plants

TOTAL 609S SHRUBS REQUIRED = 92 SHRUBS
99 SHRUBS ARE PROPOSED
TOTAL 609S UNDERSTORY TREES REQUIRED = 19 TREES
19 UNDERSTORY TREES ARE PROPOSED
TOTAL 609S SHADE TREES REQUIRED = 19 TREES
19 TREES ARE PROPOSED.

TOTAL 609S PLANTS REQUIRED = 130 PLANTS. 137 PLANTS PROPOSED 7 extra 609S (riparian restoration) plants

# TREE MITIGATION BREAKDOWN:

- 1. 114" OF TREES ARE PROPOSED TO BE PLANTED (38 TREES AT 3 CALIPER INCHES EACH);
- 2. 19" SATISFY 609S RESTORATION REQUIREMENT (0.5 INCHES EACH FROM 19 UNDERSTORY AND 19 SHADE TREES);
- 3. 57" SATISFY TREE REMOVAL MITIGATION REQUIRMENT (1.5 INCHES EACH FOR 38 TREES).
- \* 38" TO SATISFY VARIANCE CONDITION REQUIREMENT (1 INCH EACH FROM 38 TREES) 38 extra inches mitigation for tree removal



# **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION VARIANCE APPLICATION FORM**

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Applicant Contact Inform	nation
Name of Applicant	G4 Interests LLC
	2503 Westlake Drive
Street Address	
City State ZIP Code	Austin, TX 78704
Work Phone	979-412-0324
E-Mail Address	mk@kristendistributing.com
Variance Case Informati	on
Case Name	West Harbour Marina
Case Number	SP-2018-0221C
Address or Location	2503 Westlake Drive
Environmental Reviewer Name	Pamela Abee-Taulli
Environmental Resource Management Reviewer Name	
Applicable Ordinance	LDC 25-8-368(E) Dredge over 25 CY
Watershed Name	Lake Austin
Watershed Classification	□Urban □ Suburban □Water Supply Suburban
	X Water Supply Rural   Barton Springs Zone

November 8, 2018

Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone	☐ Barton Springs Segment ☐ Northern Edwards Segment X Not in Edwards Aquifer Zones	
Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone	☐ Yes X No	
Distance to Nearest Classified Waterway	The dredging will take place in Lake Austin	
Water and Waste Water service to be provided by	Austin Water	
Request	The variance request is as follows (Cite code references:  LDC 25-8-368(E) Dredge over 25 CY	

Impervious cover	Existing	Proposed
square footage:		
acreage:		
percentage:		

Provide general description of the property (slope range, elevation range, summary of vegetation / trees, summary of the geology, CWQZ, WQTZ, CEFs, floodplain, heritage trees, any other notable or outstanding characteristics of the property)

The proposed project site contains an existing 28-slip cluster dock constructed prior to 1962. It's a 2.5 ac legal parcel on the shoreline of a Lake Austin slough, and it's shown on Attachment 1, Project Site. The site is zoned SF-3. It's a flat site with a very gentle slope to the water and contains 12 heritage trees including 53", 52", 44", 42", and 29" Cypress trees along with a wetland fringe. The shoreline serves as the location of two dilapidated cluster docks and is suffering erosion with little protection to the trees. Currently, two separate boat barns house the 28 slips. The west barn contains 15 slips, and the east barn contains 13 slips (See Attachment 2, Existing Site Photos). The proposed 26-slip West Harbour Marina (See Attachment 3, Architect's Rendering of Proposed Site Layout) will reduce the number of boat slips and replace the existing structures with code-compliant docks within the existing footprint. The project also includes the installation of a bulkhead designed to protect and preserve the trees on-site while incorporating permanent wetlands in the wall design. The site layout entails minimal impervious cover and a massive mitigation planting plan (See Attachment 4, West Harbour Marina). This variance application for Dredge Over 25 CY is necessary to ensure that the docks are navigable for modern boats and can accommodate current lift systems. If the slips were permitted separately, each slip would be allowed 25 CY of dredge per code. This project permits all 26 slips on one permit with a dredge amount of 422 CY. That works out to about 16 CY/slip, far less than the 25 CY of dredge allowed per slip if each slip is permitted individually.

November 8, 2018

Clearly indicate in what
way the proposed project
does not comply with
current Code (include
maps and exhibits)

This permit specifies 422 CY of dredge for the cluster docks, or about 16 CY per boat slip. Current code allows 25 CY of dredge for a site plan permit whether the permit is regulating one slip or, in this case, 26 slips. For this boat dock, code actually would administratively approve 650 CY of dredge if the slips were permitted individually.

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

As required in LDC Section 25-8-41, in order to grant a variance the Land Use Commission must make the following findings of fact:

Include an explanation with each applicable finding of fact.

Project:

Ordinance:

- A. Land Use Commission variance determinations from Chapter 25-8-41 of the City Code:
  - The requirement will deprive the applicant of a privilege available to owners of similarly situated property with approximately contemporaneous development subject to similar code requirements.
    - **Yes**) No See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact
  - 2. The variance:
    - a) Is not necessitated by the scale, layout, construction method, or other design decision made by the applicant, unless the design decision provides greater overall environmental protection than is achievable without the variance;
      - **Yes**) No See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact
    - b) Is the minimum deviation from the code requirement necessary to allow a reasonable use of the property;
      - **Yes)** No See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact
    - c) Does not create a significant probability of harmful environmental consequences.
      - **Yes)** No See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact

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3. Development with the variance will result in water quality that is at least equal to the water quality achievable without the variance.



See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact

- B. Additional Land Use Commission variance determinations for a requirement of Section 25-8-422 (Water Quality Transition Zone), Section 25-8-452 (Water Quality Transition Zone), Article 7, Division 1 (Critical Water Quality Zone Restrictions), or Section 25-8-652 (Development Impacting Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake, and Lake Walter E. Long):
  - 1. The criteria for granting a variance in Subsection (A) are met;



See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact

2. The requirement for which a variance is requested prevents a reasonable, economic use of the entire property;



See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact

3. The variance is the minimum deviation from the code requirement necessary to allow a reasonable, economic use of the entire property.



See Attachment 5, Findings of Fact

<sup>\*\*</sup>Variance approval requires all above affirmative findings.

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ATTACHMENT 1
PROJECT SITE

# Property Profile

# 1: 1,200

0.0 Miles

0.02

# 14 of 25 Legend

Street Labels

Jurisdiction

√ FULL PURPOSE

LIMITED PURPOSE

EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTI

2 MILE ETJ AGRICULTURAL AGR

OTHER CITY LIMITS

OTHER CITIES ETJ

Notes

ATTACHMENT 1

PROJECT SITE

8/28/18

NAD\_1983\_StatePlane\_Texas\_Central\_FIPS\_4203\_Feet

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# ATTACHMENT 2 EXISTING SITE PHOTOS

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# ATTACHMENT 3 ARCHITECT'S RENDERING OF PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT

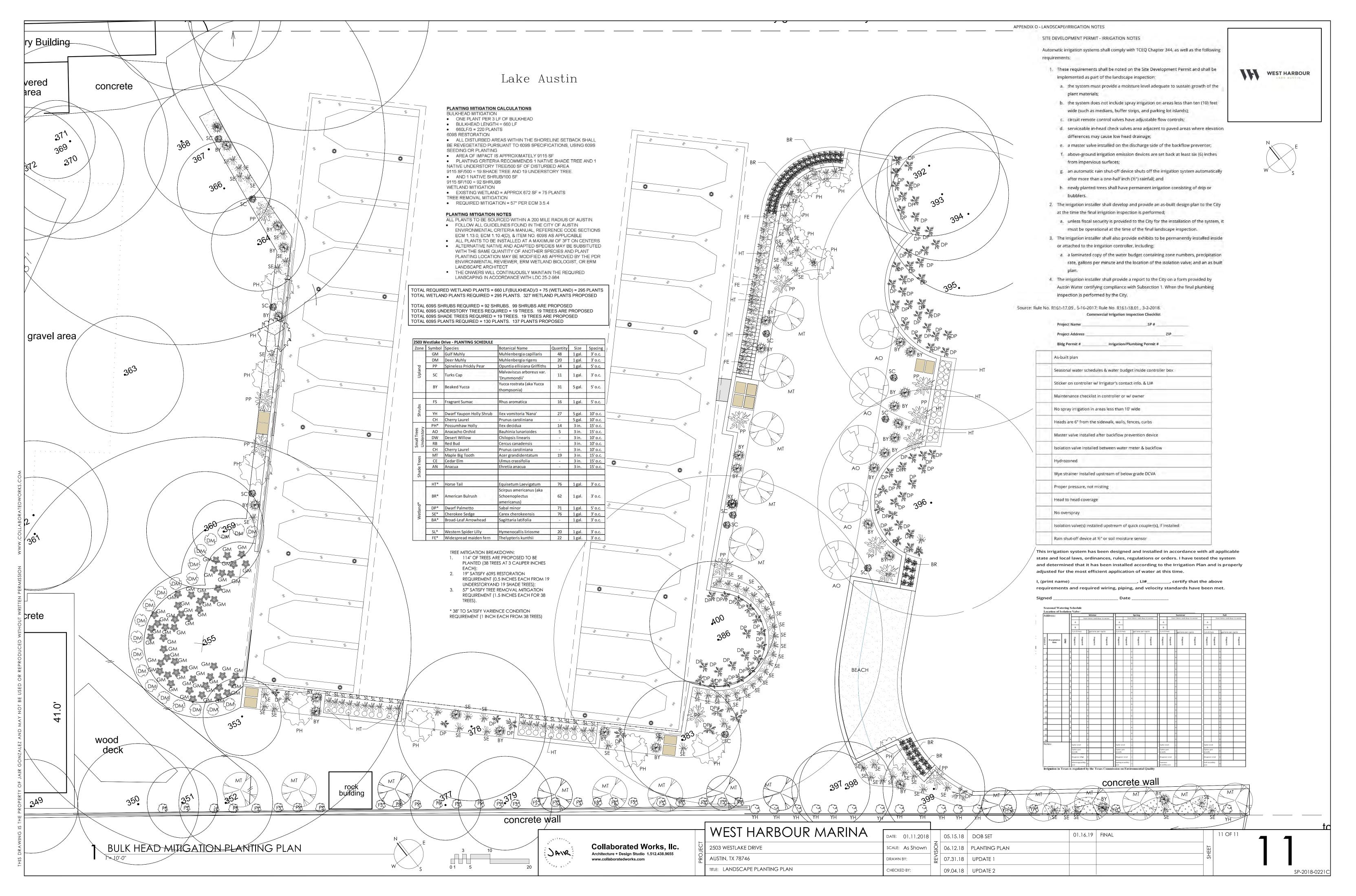
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# ATTACHMENT 4 WEST HARBOUR MARINA

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ATTACHMENT 5
FINDINGS OF FACT

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A. 1. The requirement will deprive the applicant of a privilege available to owners of similarly situated property with approximately contemporaneous development subject to similar code requirements.

YES. A "similarly situated property with approximately contemporaneous development subject to similar code requirements" is SP-2018-0114DS, Slip for Lot 16 in Panorama Harbor. Panorama has cleared all COA comments and is pending permit issuance upon the payment of COA review fees. It will permit one slip in a 16-slip neighborhood association cluster dock at Panorama Harbor. Dredge of 24.5 CY is proposed (and has passed environmental review comments) for the one slip. Dredge for West Harbour Marina is 16.2 CY/slip.

- 2. The variance:
- a. Is not necessitated by the scale, layout, construction method, or other design decision made by the applicant, unless the design decision provides greater overall environmental protection than is achievable without the variance;
- YES. The project's location is dictated by the location of the existing dock, and the existing dock depth isn't navigable for the bigger boats of today and the lift systems required for them. This site will be dredged to a depth of about 3.5 ft., and dredge depths of 3.5 ft. are routinely shown on plans and approved by the COA environmental reviewers. In addition, permitting the slips in unison will require the oversight of the Corps of Engineers and the additional erosion controls required by the Corps. Those erosion controls are above and beyond what is required by the City of Austin, and those additional erosion controls would not be required if each slip was permitted individually with a limit of 25 CY/slip. So, without the variance, it would be possible to dredge this site up to 650 CY administratively with fewer erosion controls. With the approved variance, the site will be dredged 422 CY with enhanced erosion controls.
- b. Is the minimum deviation from the code requirement necessary to allow reasonable use of the property;
- YES. A variance for Dredge greater than 25 CY is necessary to build a navigable 26-slip boat dock. The proposed dredge for each slip is far lower (16.2 CY/slip) than dredge allowed (25 CY/slip) if the boat dock was permitted on a slip by slip basis. The COA permitting costs to permit the dock on a slip by slip basis would exceed \$260,000 in city fees alone; those fees would render the project infeasible; and would not "allow reasonable use of the property".
- c. Does not create a significant probability of harmful environmental consequences.
- YES. There are no harmful environmental impacts of the dredge. To the contrary, permitting the site with an approved variance for dredge over 25 CY will render a project with far greater erosion controls and more government oversight with the

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addition of the Corps of Engineers to the permitting authorities. If permitted separately, 650 CY (25 CY/slip) of dredge for the site could be approved administratively while this permit approves 422 CY (16.2 CY/slip) with enhanced erosion controls. Denying dredge to a navigable depth harms the water quality of the lake and yields constant churning of the lakebed by boats leaving sediment-laden water in their wake.

Overall, the lakefront site is greatly improved environmentally by the proposed project. The slips will be reduced from 28 to 26 slips within the existing footprint. The bulkhead layout and massive planting plan raise the floodplain rating from fair to excellent and are designed to protect the trees on-site while providing permanently protected wetlands. The end result is a site with a far greater level of riparian function through better habitat, improved filtration of nutrients in the water, and erosion control.

3. Development with the variance will result in water quality that is at least equal to the water quality achievable without the variance.

YES. This variance is necessary to permit the slips on one site plan permit. Permitting the slips in unison will require the oversight of the Corps of Engineers and the additional erosion controls required by the Corps. Those erosion controls are above and beyond what is required by the City of Austin, and those additional erosion controls would not be required if each slip was permitted individually with a limit of 25 CY/slip. So, without the variance, it would be possible to dredge this site up to 650 CY administratively with fewer erosion controls. With the approved variance, the site will be dredged 422 CY with enhanced erosion controls.

Dredging the site is necessary to protect the water quality of the lake by eliminating the churning of the lakebed by boat traffic which leads to sediment-laden lake water. In addition, this project will improve the water quality of the lake by increasing the rainwater filtration accomplished through the extensive planting plan and the bulkhead design which incorporates protected wetlands in the wall design.

- B. 1. The criteria for granting a variance in Subsection (A) are met:
  - YES. Please see answers to A (1), (2), and (3).
  - 2. The requirement for which a variance is requested prevents a reasonable, economic use of the entirety of the property;
  - YES. The dredge limit for a site plan permit is 25 CY no matter the number of boat slips. This site plan permit application entails 26 slips and proposes dredge of 16.2 CY/slip or far less dredge than if the slips were permitted separately. Permitting each slip separately would entail permitting fees in excess of \$260,000

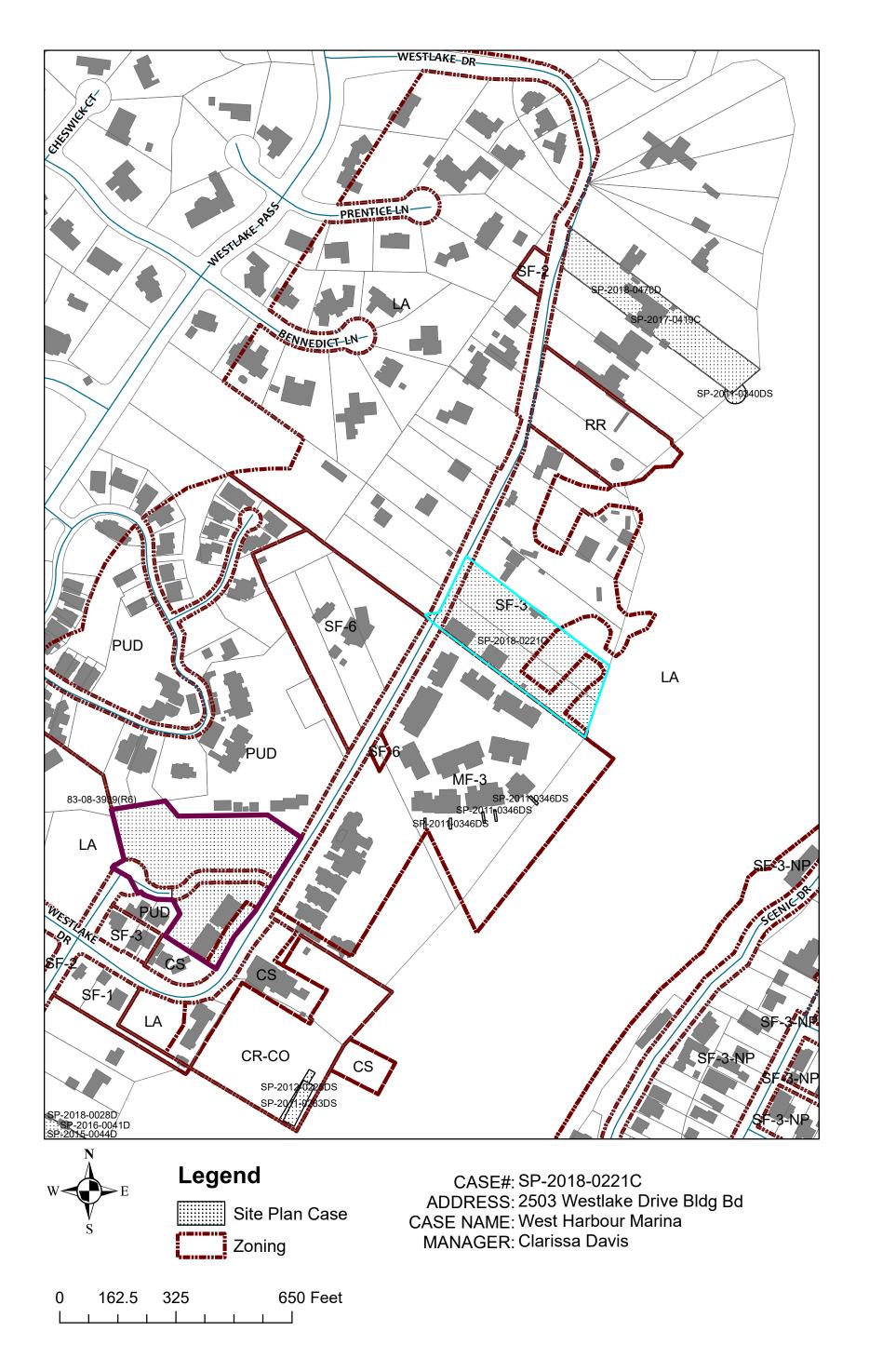
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in City fees alone. Those fees make the project infeasible and would prevent "a reasonable, economic use of the entirety of the property".

3. The variance is the minimum deviation from the code requirement necessary to allow a reasonable, economic use of the entire property;

YES. The dredge amount is the minimum dredge required to ensure a navigable boat dock for modern boats. The proposed dredge depth of 3.5 ft. is routinely administratively approved by the environmental review staff.

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