

**PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (CDD)
PETITION TO ESTABLISH
COPE'S LANDING CDD
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORT**



ORDINANCE 2022-861

PETITIONER: D.R. HORTON, INC.

Acreage: 293.48 Acres

The Planning and Development Department (Department) has completed its review of the Petition to Establish the Cope's Landing Community Development District (Petition) and makes the following report and recommendation in accordance with §92.07(c), City of Jacksonville Ordinance Code.

REPORT SUMMARY

Katie S. Buchanan, Esq., Kutak Rock, LLP, on behalf of D.R. Horton, Inc. (Petitioner) proposes that the Cope's Landing Community Development District (CDD) be established in the City of Jacksonville. The Petitioner states in the Petition that the CDD should be established because:

- Establishment of the District and all land uses and services planned within the proposed District are not inconsistent with applicable elements or portions of the effective State Comprehensive Plan or the local Comprehensive Plan;
- The CDD is part of a planned community, is of a sufficient size and is sufficiently compact and contiguous to be developed as one functional interrelated community.
- The establishment of the CDD will prevent the general body of taxpayers in the City from bearing the burden for installation of the infrastructure and the maintenance of certain facilities within the CDD and is the best alternative for delivering services and facilities; the establishment of the CDD will be in conjunction with a comprehensively planned community, as proposed, and allows for a more efficient use of resources.
- The community development services and facilities will not be incompatible with the capacity and use of existing local and regional facilities and services; and the area to be served by the proposed CDD is amenable to separate special-district government.

The Department finds that the Petition is sufficient and correct to permit fair and informed consideration by City Council. The Petition is reasonably compatible and consistent with all of the components required for review by Chapter 92.07(c), Ordinance Code, and §190.005(1)(e), Florida Statutes (F.S.). The petitioner claims the proposed CDD is the best alternative for delivering community development services and facilities within its area of service and the Department has not found otherwise.

1. Overview of CDD and Development Information

The CDD is approximately 293.48 acres in total land area. The proposed CDD is generally located north of Pritchard Road, south of Garden Street, and west of Cisco Drive West. The project location is more fully identified by the General Location Map included as “Exhibit 1” of the Petition. There are no excluded parcels within the external boundaries of the proposed CDD. The lands identified on the Project Layout, Exhibit 3 of the Petition, as “Village Center/Commercial” are not included within the CDD but are adjacent to the District’s boundaries.

There is no land outside the proposed boundaries of the CDD to be served by the CDD. The existing land use is included in the Petition as “Exhibit 4.” The existing land use of the CDD is Agriculture-II (AGR-II) and Agriculture-III (AGR-III) and the site is within the boundaries of the Rural Development Area. The Agriculture land use categories as described in the Future Land Use Element of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan includes a Rural Village objective that allows the development of a mixed use community under certain standards and allowed densities within the Agriculture land use categories. The site is planned as a Rural Village; the existing zoning of the CDD is part of the Cope’s Landing Rural Village Planned Unit Development- Satellite Community (PUD-SC), Ordinance 2020-659-E. The Petition is consistent with the Rural Village objective and the PUD-SC.

The petition indicates a total of 834 residential dwelling units within the CDD. The total number of dwelling units of the proposed CDD is under the allowable maximum of the corresponding Cope’s Landing Rural Village PUD-SC (Ordinance 2020-659-E). Providing consistency with the Rural Village standards of the Agriculture land use categories, the CDD will be connected to JEA’s central water and sewer services.

According to the Petition, the developer maintains that the CDD is the best alternative for delivering community development services and facilities without imposing an additional burden on the general population of the local general-purpose government. Additionally, the Petition includes the exercise of special powers relating to parks and recreation facilities and security powers.

Petition Exhibit 7, Proposed Infrastructure Plan, identifies the type of facilities the CDD will finance, construct, acquire or install as well as the ultimate owner and entity expected for maintenance. The improvements are expected to be made in seven phases from 2022 through 2024. Petition Exhibit 8, Estimated Cost Summary of the CDD, indicates that the infrastructure improvement costs are estimated to be \$34,280,000. Actual construction timetables and expenditures may vary due to the effects of future changes in economic conditions upon costs

Petition Exhibit 7

**PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN
COPE'S LANDING
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

FACILITY	CONSTRUCTION	OWNERSHIP	OPERATION MAINTENANCE
Roadways	Developer	City of Jacksonville	City of Jacksonville
Water & Wastewater	Developer	JEA	JEA
Stormwater Management	Developer	CDD	CDD
Landscape/Entranceway	Developer	CDD	CDD
Recreation	Developer	CDD	CDD
Electric and Street Lighting	Developer	JEA	JEA

Petition Exhibit 8

ESTIMATED COST SUMMARY COPE'S LANDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS	Total Costs	2022	2023	Current District Annual Outlay ³ 2024 and Beyond
1. Clearing and Earthwork	10,950,000	20	12	68
2. Stormwater Systems	3,734,000	30	15	55
3. Water and Sewer Utilities ¹	7,186,000	50	10	40
4. Roadway Improvements	5,265,000	20	10	70
5. Recreational Improvements ²	3,500,000	30	70	0
6. Entry Signage and Landscaping, Berm, Fencing, Fountains	756,000	20	70	10
7. Electric and Street Lighting ⁴	932,000	30	12	58
8. Engineering, Surveying, Planning, CEI	1,957,000	35	10	55
TOTAL COSTS	\$34,280,000			

1. Includes all Water, Sewer, Force Main, and Sewage Pump Stations.
2. These estimates contemplate the exercise of special powers pursuant to Sections 190.012(2)(a) and 190.012(2)(d), Florida Statutes. Improvements include Amenity Center.
3. Represents anticipated annual outlay percentage of costs based on anticipated construction timeline.
4. Includes only the cost of installation of conduit and other electrical systems.

Note: This exhibit identifies the current intentions of the District and is subject to change based upon various factors such as future development plans or market conditions. It was prepared under the direction of Vincent Dunn, P.E.

All estimates are 2022 dollars. Recreation cost estimate is based on historical bids for similar work. All other estimated costs are based on existing contracts. This cost summary contemplates the exercise of special powers by the District.

2. SUFFICIENCY AND COMPLETENESS OF PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

Pursuant to Chapter 90.07(c)(2), Ordinance Code, the Department concludes that the planning documentation received to date is adequately sufficient and complete to permit fair and informed consideration by City Council.

3. TRUTH AND CORRECTNESS OF PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

The Petitioner has provided an executed and notarized statement, dated July 29, 2022, claiming that the Petition is adequately true and correct to permit a fair and informed consideration by City Council.

4. JEA CERTIFICATION OF UTILITY INFORMATION

In the Petitioner's response for Supplemental Information, an availability letter from JEA, dated May 11, 2021, was provided. The letter provides capacity analysis for the development within the proposed CDD. The letter indicates that water and sewer services are available under certain conditions. Petition Exhibit 6 identifies the water mains and sewer interceptors and outfalls in the immediate vicinity of the CDD. A summary of the permitting status relating to utility service for the CDD is also included.

According to the Petition, the development will connect to JEA water and sewer. The proposed District will fund the utilities and then transfer the utilities to JEA upon completion. Upon acceptance by JEA of the utilities, JEA will own, operate and maintain the systems.

5. OPINION AND RECOMMENDATION AS TO §190.005(1)(e), F.S.

In determining whether to grant a Local Petition for the establishment of the CDD by adoption of Ordinance 2022-861 the City Council must consider the Local Petition and the entire record of the local public hearing in light of the six (6) factors set forth in §190.005(1)(e), F.S.

Accordingly, pursuant to §92.07, Ordinance Code, the Department is charged with providing an opinion and making recommendation on the relationship of the Petition to factors 2, 3, and 5 of §190.005(1)(e), F.S. The analysis is as follows:

Factor 2 (Section 190.005(1)(e)2, F.S.)

Whether the establishment of the CDD is inconsistent with any applicable element or portion of the state comprehensive plan or of the effective local government comprehensive plan?

Relationship: The Cope's Landing CDD is not inconsistent with the applicable elements or portion of the state and local comprehensive plans. See additional information below.

The Department concludes that the establishment of the CDD would be consistent with any applicable element or portion of the State comprehensive plan (Chapter 187, F.S.) and of the City's 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The Petition for the CDD development indicates the development of 834 residential dwelling units. The total number of dwelling units of the proposed CDD is under the allowable maximum of the corresponding Cope's Landing Rural Village PUD-SC (Ordinance 2020-659-E). According to the Petition, the development will be connected to JEA central water and sewer services.

State of Florida Comprehensive Plan

Section 187.201 (17), F.S., Public Facilities

- (a) *Goal* - Florida shall protect the substantial investments in public facilities that already exist and shall plan for and finance new facilities to serve residents in a timely, orderly, and efficient manner.
- (b) *Policies* -
 - 1. Provide incentives for developing land in a way that maximizes the uses of existing public facilities.
 - 2. Promote rehabilitation and reuse of existing facilities, structures, and buildings as an alternative to new construction.
 - 3. Allocate the costs of new public facilities on the basis of the benefits received by existing and future residents.
 - 4. Create a partnership among state government, local governments, and the private sector which would identify and

- build needed public facilities and allocate the costs of such facilities among the partners in proportion to the benefits accruing to each of them.
- 5. Encourage local government financial self-sufficiency in providing public facilities.
- 6. Identify and implement innovative but fiscally sound and cost-effective techniques for financing public facilities.
- 7. Encourage the development, use, and coordination of capital improvement plans by all levels of government.
- 9. Identify and use stable revenue sources which are also responsive to growth for financing public facilities.

Section 187.201(20), F.S., Governmental Efficiency

- (a) *Goal* - Florida governments shall economically and efficiently provide the amount and quality of services required by the public.
- (b) *Policies* -
 - 2. Allow the creation of independent special taxing districts which have uniform general law standards and procedures and do not overburden other governments and their taxpayers while preventing the proliferation of independent special taxing districts which do not meet these standards.
 - 5. Eliminate needless duplication of, and promote cooperation in, governmental activities between, among, and within state, regional, county, city, and other governmental units.
 - 11. Encourage government to seek outside contracting on a competitive-bid basis when cost-effective and appropriate.

2030 Comprehensive Plan

Capital Improvements Element

Policy 1.2.2

The City shall continue to explore the feasibility of alternative financing mechanisms to facilitate the availability of public facilities. This shall include a feasibility review of dedicating a portion of the ad valorem taxes specifically for capital improvements.

Future Land Use Element

Policy 1.2.7

The City shall, through joint participation agreements, among federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector, as appropriate, identify and build needed public facilities, and allocate the costs of such facilities in proportion to the benefits accruing to each.

Intergovernmental Coordination Element

Goal 1

Coordinate the planning and policy making of the City with that of the surrounding municipalities, county, regional, State, federal and special authority governments to ensure consistency in development and in the

provision of services and to implement the goals, objectives and policies of the 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

Factor 3 (Section 190.005(1)(e)3, F.S.)

Whether the area of land within the proposed district is of sufficient size, is sufficiently compact, and is sufficiently contiguous to be developable as one functional interrelated community?

Relationship: The area of land within the proposed district appears to be of sufficient size, is sufficiently compact and is sufficiently contiguous to be developed as one functional interrelated community.

This factor considers whether the land area to be served by a CDD can be serviced efficiently and effectively by one entity. Considerations include the geographic location of the land, its topography, underlying natural and political boundaries, etc. and all the foregoing considerations are interrelated. For example, a CDD found to be of insufficient size where located far from the urban services area may be of ideal size for an urban redevelopment or a commercial infill project.

As shown on the maps attached as exhibits to the Petition, the land area to be serviced by the CDD is clearly compact and contiguous to be developed as one functional interrelated community.

As to the sufficiency of its size, the Department notes there is no statutory minimum or maximum size for a CDD. Sizes of previously established CDD range from large, multi-use villages to small, single-use infill projects. Given the proposed 293.48 acres contained within the CDD, the number of residential units proposed, and its location being entirely within the Rural Development Boundary of the City of Jacksonville, the Department makes a positive finding with respect to the sufficiency of the size and location.

Factor 5 (Section 190.005(1)(e)5, F.S.)

Whether the community development services and facilities of the CDD will be incompatible with the capacity and uses of existing local and regional community development services and facilities?

Relationship: The community development services and facilities of the Cope's Landing CDD will not be incompatible with the capacity and uses of existing local and regional community development services and facilities.

The limited services and facilities proposed to be facilitated by the CDD as set forth in the Petition are those which are standard and/or required for the types of residential development proposed (i.e., roadways, stormwater management, amenities, water, wastewater and reclaim systems, etc.). Accordingly, the Department deems that the infrastructure improvements are not incompatible with

the capacity and uses of existing local and regional community development services and facilities.

7. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Chapter 90.07(c)(6), Ordinance Code directs the report of the Department to include any other information deemed helpful.

The remaining factors, pursuant to Section 190.005(1)(e), F.S., are not required to be considered in the Department's report. However, the Council must consider all factors when determining whether to grant the Local Petition to establish the CDD. A brief explanation and the Department's review of each remaining factor is included below:

Factor 1 (Section 190.005(1)(e)1, F.S.)

Whether all statements contained within the Local Petition have been found to be true and correct?

Relationship: The statements within the local petition to establish the Cope's Landing CDD appear to be true and correct.

The Petitioner has provided an executed and notarized statement claiming that the Petition is true and correct. Notwithstanding, the Council is not bound by these findings and may find the statements, attachments and documentation are incomplete and/or insufficient to permit fair debate, or are not adequately truthful and correct so as to permit informed consideration.

Factor 4 (Section 190.005(1)(e)4, F.S.)

Whether the CDD is the best alternative for delivering the community development services and facilities to the area that will be served by the CDD?

Relationship: The Cope's Landing CDD would be the best alternative for delivering the community development services and facilities to the area.

This factor provides the Council with discretion concerning whether to grant the Petition and establish the CDD. Proper consideration of this factor requires that the Council consider the prospect of the CDD providing certain proposed systems and facilities to service the underlying development against other available alternatives including those both public (e.g. City's creation of a dependent special district or Municipal Service Benefit Unit, etc.) and private (e.g. homeowners association, developer funding, etc.) The Department considered these alternatives in relation to the benefits to the City and to the intended residents; the benefit to the Petitioner is presumed.

The Department has determined the CDD is the best alternative to the City and intended residents for servicing the development.

Factor 6 (Section 190.005(1)(e)2, F.S.)

Whether the area that will be served by the CDD is amenable to separate special-district government?

Relationship: The area that will be served by the Cope's Landing CDD appears to be amendable to provide a separate special-district government.

This factor considers the land area viewed in relation as to whether it will be governed efficiently by a separate special district, the CDD. The Department finds the land area is amenable to separate special district government. Therefore, the Department makes a positive finding on this factor because the development is an autonomous, residential development contained solely on contiguous parcels.

8. CONSENT TO SPECIAL POWERS

The petition requests consent to the CDD's exercise of special powers as authorized in §190.012, F.S. The request for additional powers are specified for parks and recreation powers and for security powers. These powers are authorized and described by Sections 190.012(2)(a) and 190.012(2)(d), Florida Statutes.