# Balsamah Property, Adequate Public Facilities Test 12000098A

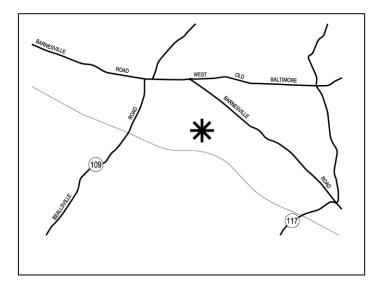


Joshua Penn, Planner Coordinator, Area 3, <u>Joshua.Penn@montgomeryplanning.org</u> 301-495-4546 Richard Weaver, Supervisor, Area 3, <u>Richard.Weaver@montgomeryplanning.org</u> 301-495-4544 Kipling Reynolds, Chief, Area 3, <u>Kipling.Reynolds@montgomeryplanning.org</u> 301-495-4575

Completed: 04/29/16

## Description

- Request for a new Adequate Public Facilities determination on six recorded lots, under County Code Section 8-31(b), Article IV for future building permits;
- Lots 1-6 Balsamah 152.61 acres, zoned AR;
- Located on the east side of Peachtree Road.
   2,000 feet southwest of Barnesville Road,
   within the 1980 Preservation of Agricultural &
   Rural Open Space Master Plan;
- Applicant: Balsamah Corporation. N.V.;
- Filing Date: February 18, 2016.



### Summary

- Staff recommends approval with conditions.
- This review is limited to the Adequate Public Facilities (APF) determination only for Lots 1-6 on record plats 22006 and 22007. No further amendment to the preliminary plan is required because the 6 lots are already recorded by record plat.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Approval, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) This Adequate Public Facilities determination is limited to six single family residential lots.
- 2) This APF determination will remain valid for eighty-five (85) months from the date of mailing of the Planning Board Resolution.
- 3) All other conditions and findings of Preliminary Plan No. 120000980 and Forest Conservation Plan No. 120000980 as contained in the Planning Board's Opinion dated October 26, 2000, that were not modified herein, remain in full force and effect.

### SITE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The property that is subject to this APF determination consists of six recorded lots totaling 152.61 acres located on the north, east, south, west side of Peachtree Road 2,000 feet southwest of Barnesville Road, within the 1980 Preservation of Agricultural & Rural Open Space Master Plan.

(Lot 1 was recorded on Plat 22007, Balsamah (Attachment No. 1). Lots 2-6 were recorded on Plat #22006, Balsamah (Attachment No. 2).

The property is currently unimproved and no building permit applications were submitted on any of the six lots prior to the expiration of the APF review period. This Application requests a new APF determination for the six recorded lots.



Figure 1: Aerial view of the site

#### PRIOR REGULATORY ACTIONS

The Planning Board approved Preliminary Plan #120000980 in an Opinion dated October 26, 2000 for six lots on 153.88 acres of land in the AR zone (formerly RDT). The APF determination was approved with a sixty-one (61) month validity period. The lots were subsequently platted within the three-year plan validity period, however; building permits were not issued prior to expiration of the APF validity period.

#### **ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS**

## **Public Schools**

The Application is located within the Poolesville High School Cluster, which as of January 14, 2016, is not in moratorium and does not require any school facility payments.

### Local Area Transportation Review (LATR)

Based on trip generation rates included in the LATR Guidelines, six, single family dwelling units are anticipated to generate six vehicular trips in the morning peak hour (0.95/dwelling unit) and seven vehicular trips in the evening peak hour (1.11/ dwelling unit). Since this is below the 30 trip threshold, a traffic statement will satisfy the LATR requirements of the 2012-2016 SSP.

### <u>Transportation Policy Area Review (TPAR)</u>

The Applicant is subject to the TPAR because the anticipated trip generation exceeds the *de minimus* 3 vehicular trips allowed under the County code. As of 3/16/16, the Rural West Transportation Policy Area is exempt from both the Roadway and Transit tests of TPAR. As a result, the applicant is not required to make a TPAR payment to satisfy the test.

## **Environmental Requirements**

The property lies in the Little Seneca Creek watershed. Private well and septic services will serve the property. Water and sewer categories (W-6 and S-6) are appropriate to the proposed private systems. MCDPS will review any required stormwater management concept at the time of building permits for any proposed development on the individual lots.

## **Citizen Notification**

This Application was submitted and noticed in accordance with all required procedures on March 9, 2016. Signs referencing the Application were posted at the property's frontage along Peachtree Road. Staff has received several phone calls asking general information about the application.

Staff received one letter from CSX Real Property, they were requesting that a 50-foot buffer be added between any development on the property and the CSX Right-of-Way. These issues are tied to the approval of the preliminary plan and not to the APF determination. The CSX letter and the Applicant's response are attached

There have been no other inquiries or correspondence regarding the Application from the community.

#### CONCLUSION

The issuance of a new Adequate Public Facility finding for the proposed development meets all requirements established under County Code Section 8-31(b). The public facilities will be adequate to serve the proposed development. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the APF determination with the conditions specified at the beginning of this report.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 - Preliminary Plan #120000980

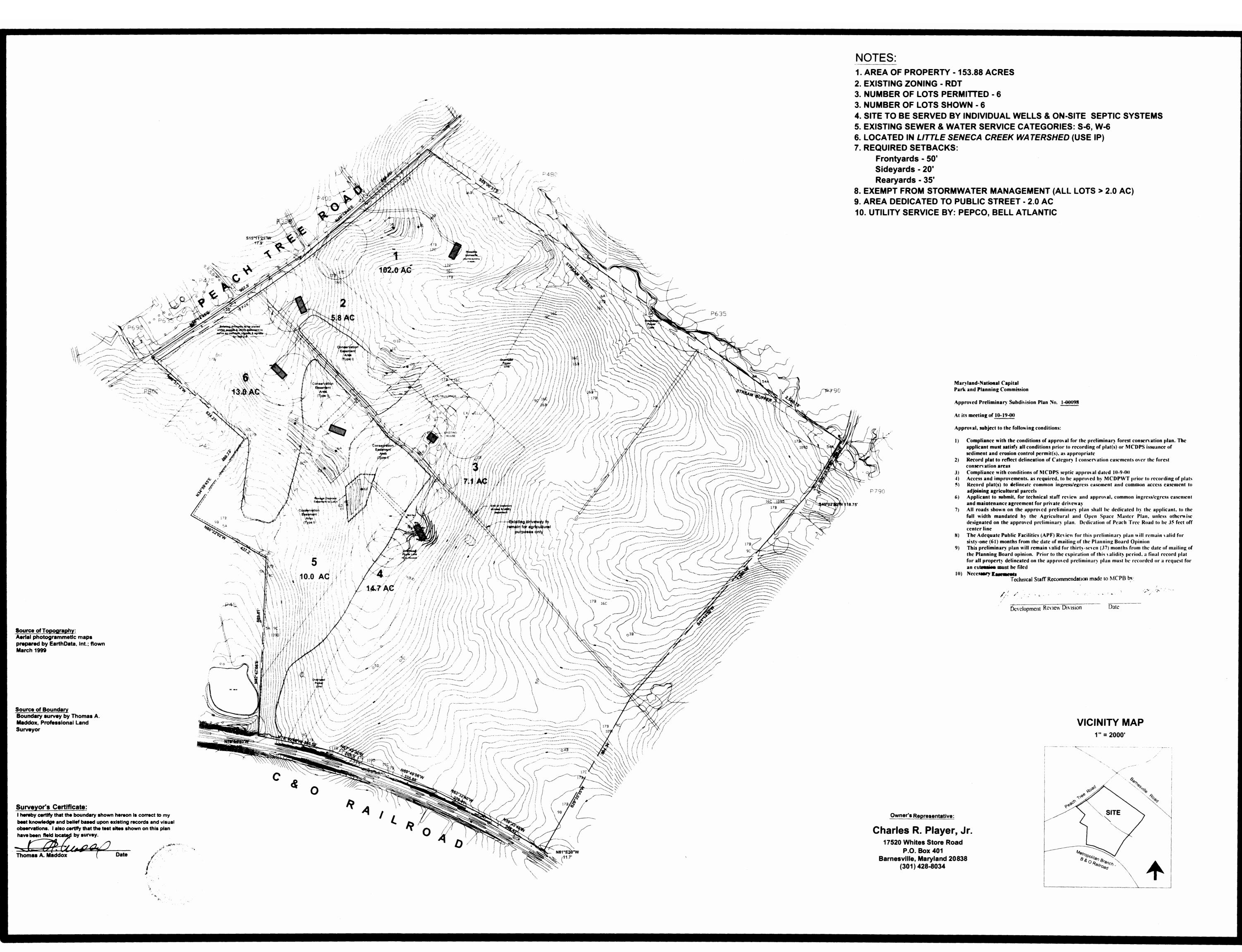
Attachment 2 - Lot 1, Record Plat 22007

Attachment 3 - Lots 2-6, 1999 Record Plat 22006

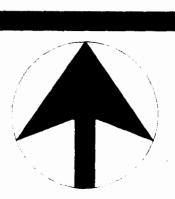
Attachment 4 - Applicant's Justification Statement dated January 28, 2016

Attachment 5 - CSX Real Property Letter Dated March 30, 2016

Attachment 6 - Applicant's Response Letter Dated April 6, 2016



Sheet 1 of 1
Revisions



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PRELIMINARY PLAN BALSAMAH Montgomery County, Maryland





# MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARK AND PLANNING

THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760 Action: Approved Staff Recommendation

Motion of Comm. Perdue, seconded by
Comm. Wellington with a vote of 4-0;
Comms. Holmes, Hussmann, Perdue and
Wellington voting in favor
(Comm. Bryant absent)

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

## **OPINION**

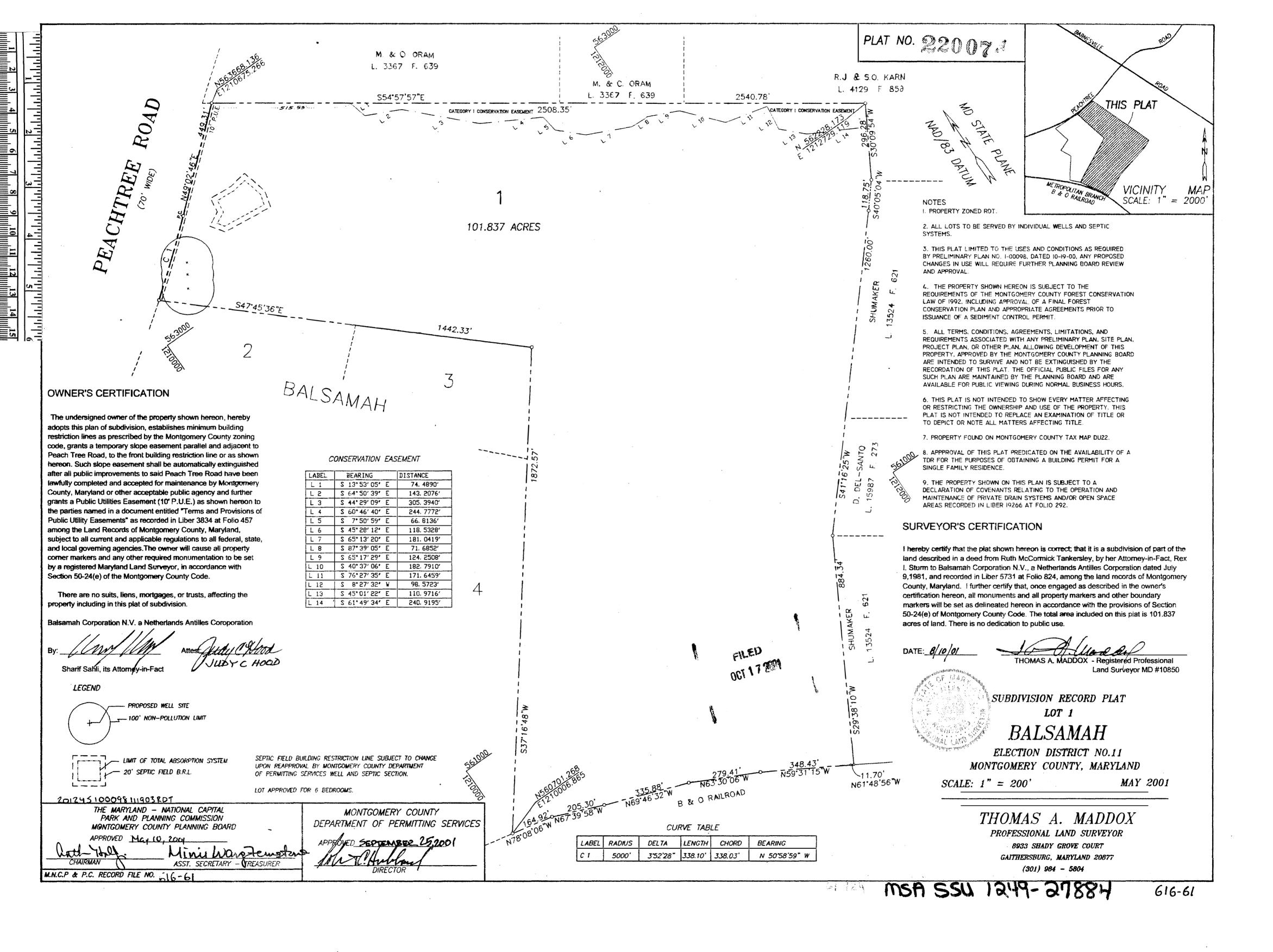
Preliminary Plan 1-00098

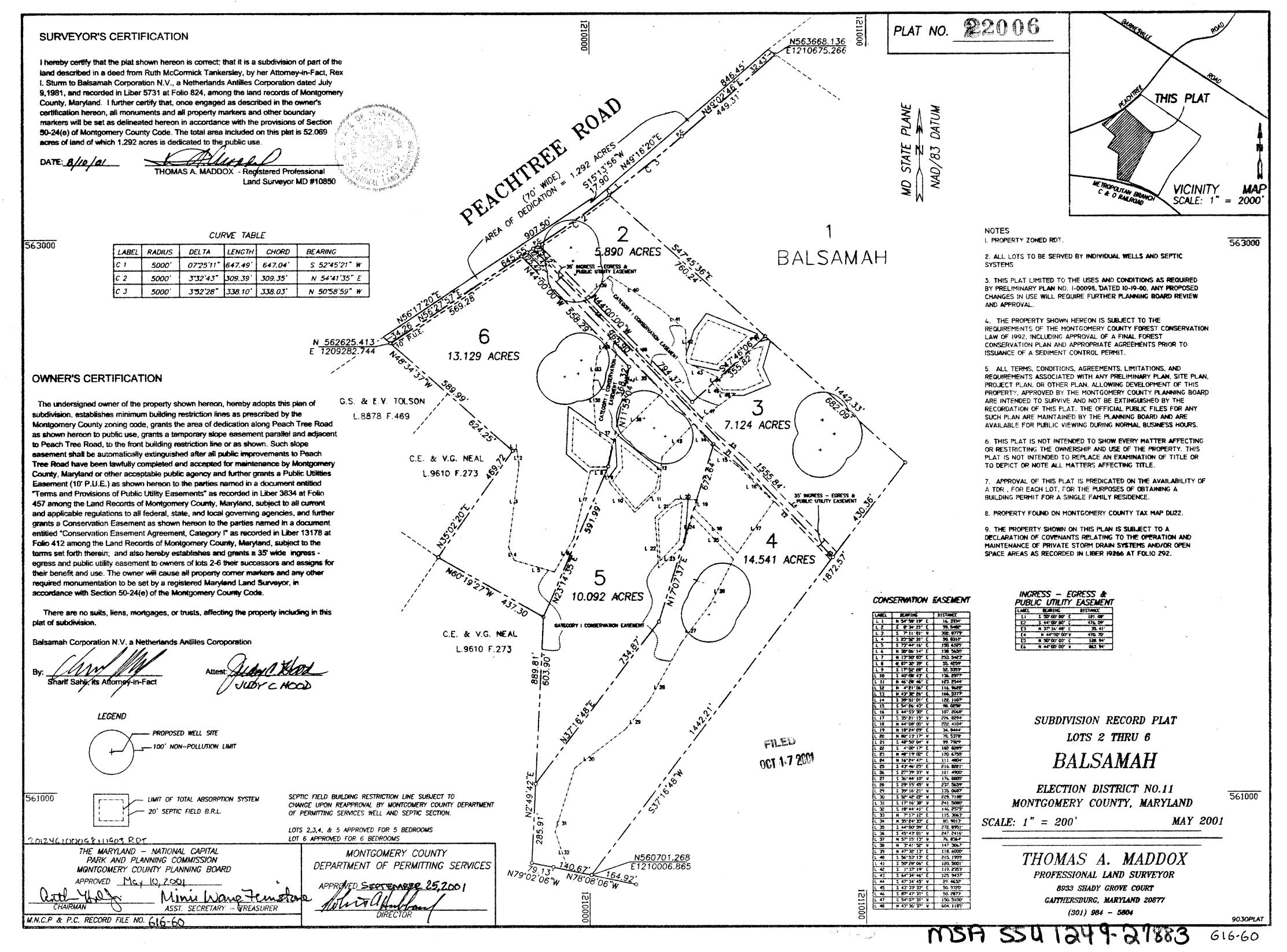
NAME OF PLAN: BALSAMAH PROPERTY

On 06/21/00, BALSAMAH CORPORATION submitted an application for the approval of a preliminary plan of subdivision of property in the RDT zone. The application proposed to create 6 lots on 153.88 acres of land. The application was designated Preliminary Plan 1-00098. On 10/19/00, Preliminary Plan 1-00098 was brought before the Montgomery County Planning Board for a public hearing. At the public hearing, the Montgomery County Planning Board heard testimony and received evidence submitted in the record on the application. Based upon the testimony and evidence presented by staff and on the information on the Preliminary Subdivision Plan Application Form, attached hereto and made a part hereof, the Montgomery County Planning Board finds Preliminary Plan 1-00098 to be in accordance with the purposes and requirements of the Subdivision Regulations (Chapter 50, Montgomery County Code, as amended) and approves Preliminary Plan 1-00098, subject to the following conditions:

- 1) Compliance with the conditions of approval for the preliminary forest conservation plan. The applicant must satisfy all conditions prior to recording of plat(s) or MCDPS issuance of sediment and erosion control permit(s), as appropriate
- 2) Record plat to reflect delineation of Category I conservation easements over the forest conservation areas
- 3) Compliance with conditions of MCDPS septic approval dated 10-9-00
- 4) Access and improvements, as required, to be approved by MCDPWT prior to recording of plats
- 5) Record plat(s) to delineate common ingress/egress easement and common access easement to adjoining agricultural parcels
- 6) Applicant to submit, for technical staff review and approval, common ingress/egress easement and maintenance agreement for private driveway

- 7) All roads shown on the approved preliminary plan shall be dedicated by the applicant, to the full width mandated by the Agricultural and Open Space Master Plan, unless otherwise designated on the approved preliminary plan. Dedication of Peach Tree Road to be 35 feet off center line
- 8) The Adequate Public Facilities (APF) Review for this preliminary plan will remain valid for sixty-one (61) months from the date of mailing of the Planning Board Opinion
- 9) This preliminary plan will remain valid for thirty-seven (37) months from the date of mailing of the Planning Board opinion. Prior to the expiration of this validity period, a final record plat for all property delineated on the approved preliminary plan must be recorded or a request for an extension must be filed
- 10) Necessary Easements







January 28, 2016

## VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL TO: VIA REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Mark Pfefferle, Chief Regulatory Coordination Division Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Md. 20910-3760

Re:

Restoration of Expired Adequate Public Facilities Approval -Approved Preliminary Plan Number 120000980 Recorded Plat Number 22006

Dear Mr. Pfefferle:

We represent Balsamah Corporation NV, the owner of Lot 1 in the Subdivision identified as "Lot 1 Balsamah" per plat recorded as Plat Number 22007 among the Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland and Lots 2 through 6 in the Subdivision identified as "Lots 2 through 6 Balsamah" per plat recorded as Plat Number 22006 among the aforesaid land records.

The Balsamah Subdivision plats were recorded in 2001 following Planning Board approval of Preliminary Plan 120000980 on June 1, 2000, effective as of the date of mailing, October 26, 2000. Pursuant to approval Condition No. 8 the Adequate Public Facilities Review (APF) for the Balsamah subdivision remained valid for sixty-one (61) months following the date of mailing, October 26, 2000. Although the approved preliminary plan vested upon recordation of the above referenced plats, the APF Review expired on or about June 26, 2005. No building permit applications were ever submitted and none are currently pending approval by the Department of Permitting Services ("DPS"). Accordingly, this request is not a request in conjunction with any pending permit approvals by DPS.

Pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Subdivision Regulations, being also Chapter 50 of the Montgomery County Code 2004 as amended, Balsamah Corporation NV hereby requests that the Planning Department conduct an appropriate review and reinstate the APF approval for the maximum time allowed by the County Code.

Stephen J. Orens

Direct 240-778-2324 sorens@imcmillanmetro.com

Maryland Bar District of Columbia Bar Mr. Mark Pfefferle, Chief Regulatory Coordination Division Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission January 28, 2016 Page 2 of 2

The Balsamah Subdivision contains six recorded, vacant residential lots in the Agricultural & Rural Open Space Zone (previously the RDT Zone). In support of this request we are submitting herewith a true copy of the Approved Preliminary Plan of Subdivision (Preliminary Plan Number 120000980), along with a true copy of Record Plat 22006 and Record Plat 22007 and an updated Traffic Statement dated January 26, 2016 prepared by Benning & Associates, Inc. If a fee is required for this submission, please so inform me and it will be paid. If further information is required please let me know.

Your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely

MCMILLAN METRO, PC

Stephen J. Orens

### Enclosed:

- 1. Preliminary Plan of Subdivisionl 20000980
- 2. Planning Board Opinion dated October 26, 2000
- 3. Record Plat 22006
- 4. Record Plat 22007
- 5. Updated Traffic Statement Dated January 26, 2016

cc: Katharine Sexton, Esquire, Agent for Balsamah N.V. (w/Encl.)
David W. McKee, Benning & Associates, Inc

#### **ATTACHMENT 5**



6737 Southpoint Drive South S/C J915 Jacksonville, FL 32216-6177 (904) 279-3810 Fax (904) 245-4533 Catherine adkins@csx.com

Cat Adkins Regional Manager

March 30, 2016

Montgomery County Planning Board Planning Director 8787 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Application for New APF Validity Approval

Plan No. 12000098A **Balsamah Property** 

On Peach Tree Road, 2000 feet SW of Barnesville Road

#### Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of the notice of application for the request for new adequate public facilities determination for Plan Number 12000098A, Balsamah Property located on Peach Tree Road, 2000 feet SW of Barnesville Road, to support issuance of building permits for 6 single-unit dwellings on recorded lots.

Attached hereto is an aerial photograph (Google map) which indicates that this area is adjacent to our existing railroad right of way. We have concerns regarding the development of residential properties which are next to our operating right of way. CSX's ability to continue to operate and use its property for railroad purposes must be protected. Safety is CSX's number one priority and the addition of new residential development adjacent to active railroad tracks raises cause for concern.

Additionally, it has been CSX's experience that persons working or living near active railroad tracks are often unhappy with the associated noise of rail operations. Trains may use the tracks 24 hours a day, and the number and schedule of trains can change at any time due to business needs and many other factors. Furthermore, the requirement by federal law that trains sound their horns at all highway at-grade rail crossings, as well as the inherent vibration and noise from passing trains, are all existing conditions that should be taken into account regarding any new development.

Should the Montgomery County Planning Board elect to approve the request for the new APF validity approval despite our concerns, we ask that you consider placing a 50 foot buffer between any development and the rail right of way in addition to fencing the common property line between the operating track and any development. These requirements should be used together to improve the pairing of inherently dissimilar land uses: setbacks minimize the potential impact of a railway incident as well as noise and vibration through distance separation. An earthen berm and/or fencing can protect against physical components of a derailment (in conjunction with a setback) and provides mitigation of wheel and rail noise and can help reduce trespassing.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our objections and concerns, and request that you enter our comments into the public record.

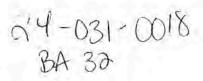
Best regards,

at Adkins

Attachments

Cc Stephen J. Orens McMillan Metro, P.C.





# Notice of Application REQUEST FOR NEW ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES DETERMINATION TO BE CONSIDERED AS A CONSENT AGENDA ITEM BY THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Plan Type	Request for New APF Validity Approval	
Plan Number	12000098A	Stephen J. Orens
Name of Plan	Balsamah Property	Direct: 240-778-2324 sorens@mcmillanmetro.com
Geographical Location	On Peach Tree Road, 2000 feet SW of Barnesville Road	Maryland Bar District of Columbia Bar
Current Zoning	AR	SISTILL OF COMMUNICATION
Amendment Summary	Request for new APF finding to support issuance of Building Permits for 6 single-unit dwellings on recorded lots.	
Date	March 9, 2016	

The above referenced APFO Request application has been filed with the Montgomery County Planning Board and is being reviewed under the provisions of the Montgomery County Code and according to the procedures outlined in the Manual of Development Review Procedures for Montgomery County, Maryland.

You may participate in this review by sending written comments to the Development Application and Regulatory Coordination Division (DARC), MNCPPC, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3760, or by contacting the MNCPPC Lead Reviewer. Contact information for the lead reviewer is available by linking to the Development Activity Information Center (DAIC) on the MNCPPC website at www.montgomeryplanning.org/development.

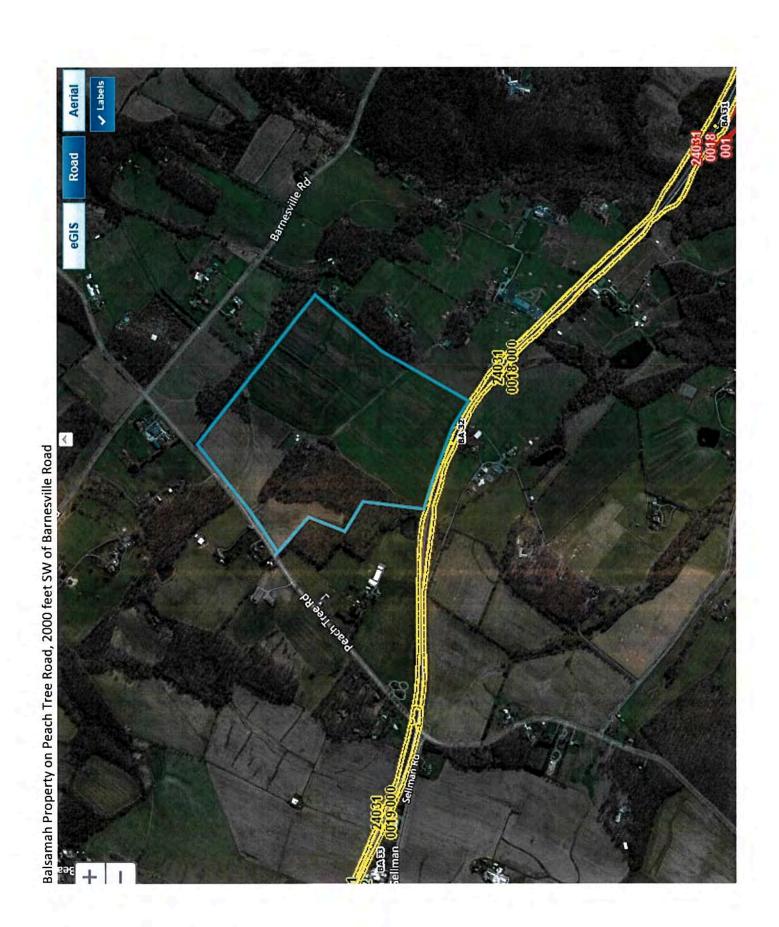
Comments on the proposed plan amendment are due within 15 days of the mailing date of this notice. The Montgomery County Planning Board will not hold a public hearing on the above referenced plan application unless the Planning Director finds that any comment is substantive enough to warrant a public hearing. If the Planning Director determines that a public hearing is not necessary, all parties that submitted comments to staff will be informed of the date the consent item will be on the agenda. Any person may submit additional comments directly to the Planning Board to request that the item be removed from the consent agenda before or up to the Planning Board date.

If it is determined a public hearing is warranted, written notification of the public hearing date will be sent to you no later than ten days before the hearing.

If you have questions pertaining to the plan application, please contact the lead reviewer. If you have general questions about MNCPPC's process, please contact the Information Counter at (301) 495-4610.

> Stephen J. Orens On Behalf of Applicant,

Balsamah Corporation, N.V.





April 6, 2016

## VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ms. Catherine Adkins CSX Real Property 6737 Southpoint Drive South S/C J915 Jacksonville, FL 32216-6177

Re: Application for New APF Validity Approval

Plan No. 12000098A Balsamah Property Our File No.: 6955.001

Dear Ms. Adkins:

We represent Balsamah Corporation NV the owner of the platted, six lot subdivision located on Peach Tree Road, 2000 feet southwest of Barnesville Road in Montgomery County, Maryland (the "Balsamah Property"). On April 5, 2016 we received your letter dated March 30, 2016, objecting to the extension of the previously approved finding that transportation public facilities were adequate for the recorded subdivision of the Balsamah Property that was originally approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board on October 26, 2000. The Final Record Plat vesting the approved Preliminary Plan of Subdivision was recorded among the Montgomery County Land Records in 2001.

Your letter dated March 30, 2016, objects to our client's request for a New Adequate Public Facilities Determination for this recorded subdivision. There appears to be confusion regarding the matter at hand as your letter addresses CSX's objection to the development of the Balsamah Property. Development of the Balsamah Property as a residential subdivision was approved fifteen years ago and is not now subject to further review or disapproval.

To clarify, our client is simply seeking reinstatement of a previously issued Adequate Public Facilities Approval (the "APF Approval") from the Montgomery County Planning Board that expired in June 2005. The only issue before the Planning Board is whether there have been traffic related changes that would affect the prior APF approval. The subdivision containing the six (6) single-unit dwellings our client intends to build has already been approved (Approved Preliminary Plan Number 120000980) and the lots recorded (Record Plat Number 22006). The Montgomery County Planning Board has long since reviewed and found that the Property is consistent with the adopted Growth

Stephen J. Orens Of Counsel

Direct: 240-778-2324 sorens@mcmillanmetro.com

Maryland Bar District of Columbia Bar Ms. Catherine Adkins CSX Real Property April 6, 2016 Page 2 of 2

Policy for the County and determined that all applicable public facilities will be adequate to support the proposed development.

The concerns addressed in your letter are not relevant to our client's request to restore the APF Approval. If you wish to further discuss the matter please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

McMillan Metro, P.C.

Stephen J. Orens

## SJO/lad

cc: Gwen Wright, Planning Director

Cathy Conlon, Supervisor Regulatory Coordination Division Josh Penn, Senior Planner, Planning Area Three Division Balsamah Corporation NV

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