Item: 3.C.2



## COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT STAFF REPORT AMENDMENT ROUND 22-B

## **BCC TRANSMITTAL PUBLIC HEARING, MAY 4, 2022**

#### I. General Data

**Project Name:** Commerce Future Land Use Designation

Element: Future Land Use Element

Project Manager: Lisa Amara, Zoning Director

Staff Staff recommends approval based on the findings and conclusions

**Recommendation:** presented in this report.

## II. Item Summary

#### **Summary:**

This proposed County Initiated amendment would revise the Future Land Use Element to establish a new industrial future land use designation and make related changes. Specifically, this amendment proposes to:

- Establish a third industrial future land use designation called Commerce (CMR) for light industrial uses, including establishing consistent zoning districts and a concurrent zoning requirement.
- Establish location, frontage, and access requirements for all industrial future land use designations in the Urban/Suburban Tier.
- Establish policies to limit industrial future land use in the Agricultural Reserve Tier to the new CMR future land use designation, and to establish location, frontage, access, and preserve requirements.

#### Assessment:

This amendment proposes to establish a new future land use designation specifically for light industrial uses. The new Commerce (CMR) FLU will allow the Board to review and consider proposed light industrial uses to ensure that each project is appropriately located and compatible with adjacent land uses, and ensure that the approval does not introduce heavy industrial uses, which may not be appropriate at the particular location. As with the other industrial future land use designations, the new CMR future land use will be allowed in the Urban/Suburban Tier and not within the Rural and Exurban Tiers. This amendment also proposes to establish policy guidance for industrial uses in the Agricultural Reserve Tier by establishing location requirements and limiting to the new CMR designation. Based on Board direction, the amendment includes two options for the proposed preserve requirements: either for sites over 16 acres consistent with commercial designations or for sites over 50 acres. This amendment will require implementing revisions to the ULDC.

## III. Hearing History

Local Planning Agency: Approval of the Commerce future land use designation in the Urban/Suburban Tier, motion by Dagmar Brahs, seconded by Glenn Gromann, passed in a 12 to 0 vote at the March 11, 2022 public hearing. Denial of the Commerce future land use designation in the Agricultural Reserve Tier, a motion for approval with modifications by Kiley Harper-Larsen, seconded by Glenn Gromann failed in a 6 to 6 vote (with Barbara Roth, Lori Vinikoor, Dagmar Brahs, Sara Pardue, Marcia Hayden and Rick Stopek dissenting) at the March 11, 2022 public hearing. The failure to pass an affirmative vote resulted in a denial. The motion included the reduction of the minimum acreage to 4 acres and a preserve requirement for sites 16 acres and greater. An initial motion for approval with modifications (to reduce the minimum acreage to 4 acres) by Kiley Harper-Larsen failed for a lack of second. A second motion to approve with a recommendation for preserve requirement for sites 16 acres and greater, by Penny Pompei, seconded by Glenn Gromann, failed in a 5 to 7 vote (with Barbara Roth, Lori Vinikoor, Dagmar Brahs, Sara Pardue, Kiley Harper-Larsen, Rick Stopek, and Eric Royal dissenting).

Under discussion, Commission members deliberated the acreage needed for industrial uses, the appropriateness of the Commerce FLU on the west side of State Road 7, and tightening of language for the Agricultural Reserve Tier. One member of the public spoke in support of the new future land use within the Urban/Suburban Tier stating that it is needed and long overdue. Six members of the public including the Representatives of Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group and 1000 Friends of Florida spoke in opposition to the new future land use in the Agricultural Reserve Tier stating the impact of climate change and need to protect agriculture in the Tier. Ten members of the public spoke in support of light industrial uses in the Tier and requested modifications to extend the location criteria west of State Road 7 on Atlantic Avenue, reduce minimum site size to 3 acres, and allow for preserve requirement for sites 50 acres or greater.

**Board of County Commissioners Transmittal Public Hearing:** 

**State Review Agencies:** 

**Board of County Commissioners Adoption Public Hearing:** 

#### IV. Intent

The intent of this amendment is to revise the Future Land Use Element to establish a new industrial future land use designation and make related changes. Specifically, this amendment proposes to:

- Establish a third industrial future land use designation called Commerce (CMR) for light industrial uses, including establishing consistent zoning districts and a concurrent zoning requirement.
- Establish location, frontage, and access requirements for all industrial future land use designations in the Urban/Suburban Tier.
- Establish policies to limit industrial future land use in the Agricultural Reserve Tier to the new CMR future land use designation, and to establish location, frontage, access, and preserve requirements.

## V. Background

#### A. Industrial Future Land Use Background

There are currently two industrial future land use designations within the Comprehensive Plan.

- The Industrial (IND) future land use designation was created in 1989 for lands "primarily used for manufacturing, assembly, processing, research and development and wholesale distribution and storage of products." This designation allows the full range of industrial uses ranging from light to heavy.
- The Economic Development Center (EDC) future land use designation created in 1999 which is only allowed in the Urban/Suburban Tier. The designation is intended to accommodate employment opportunities, research parks, and employment centers. This is distinguished from the traditional industrial designation as it allows for larger, "campuslike" industrial uses to further economic development in the County.

Unlike commercial future land use designations, there are no location requirements for the industrial future land use designations, except that the Comprehensive Plan does not allow industrial future land use in the Rural and Exurban Tiers.

## B. Industrial in the Agricultural Tier

The Agricultural Reserve Tier is an area of the County with specific limitations on development options in the Comprehensive Plan that were largely established to implement the Agricultural Reserve Master Plan. The Master Plan was completed in 1999 and implemented through the adoption of Comprehensive Plan policies in 2001. The purpose of the Tier is captured in Objective 1.5.

**OBJECTIVE 1.5, The Agricultural Reserve Tier.** Palm Beach County shall preserve the unique farmland and wetlands in order to preserve and enhance agricultural activity, environmental and water resources, and open space within the Agricultural Reserve Tier. This shall be accomplished by limiting uses to agriculture and conservation with residential development restricted to low densities and non-residential development limited to uses serving the needs of farmworkers and

residents of the Tier. The Agricultural Reserve Tier shall be preserved primarily for agricultural use, reflecting the unique farmlands and wetlands within it.

The Tier was formally designated as the Agricultural Reserve in the 1980 Comprehensive Plan with an emphasis on the preservation of agriculture. In 1998, the BCC directed development of a Master Plan for the Agricultural Tier which established a goal to preserve and enhance agricultural activity and environmental and water resources in the Agricultural Reserve, and produce a master development plan compatible with these goals. The BCC did not adopt the Master Plan, but adopted amendments to the Comprehensive Plan in Round 01-1 incorporating the majority of the recommendations of the final Master Plan. The surrounding area has therefore stayed primarily in agricultural uses and low density single-family residential with limited commercial uses serving the Tier.

In 2015, the Agricultural Reserve was the subject of a year-long "Roundtable" process directed by the BCC to consider changes to policies in the Tier. At the March 2015 Workshop, the BCC considered the input received during the Roundtable process and directed staff to proceed with specific actions and Plan amendments. One of the outcomes of the Roundtable was to process County initiated map and text amendments to address inconsistencies and find solutions to existing commercial and non-residential uses and services that pre-dated the Agricultural Reserve's provisions.

## 1. Agricultural Reserve Master Plan Industrial Recommendations

At the time of the creation of the Agricultural Reserve Master Plan, the consultants recommended that industrial uses be allowed in the Agricultural Reserve, using the Economic Development Center future land use designation. The consultants identified two locations, within 1/4 mile of the Florida Turnpike interchanges with Boynton Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue, as appropriate locations for these Economic Development Centers. The consultants recommended requiring developers set aside preserve areas in the same 60/40 ratio of preserve area to open space as the Traditional Marketplace, which had locations identified at the intersections of Lyons Road with Boynton Beach Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue. The Master Plan Phase II Report recommended that the two employment centers shared a maximum of 330,000 square feet of industrial development between the two locations, and that there be an additional 245,000 square feet of office park uses in the Tier. Master Plan Phase II, Section 4.3.4.5 Economic Centers, states that allowing employment centers in the Tier would provide the following:

- "A greater variety in job opportunities for the residents of the Ag Reserve than are likely to be found elsewhere in the Ag Reserve. These opportunities could reduce traffic impacts outside of the Ag Reserve.
- A location for businesses that can offer farmers a second job if they need to supplement their income.
- Light industrial uses in two locations that will have the least negative impact on agricultural uses."

The Consultants identified the following uses as appropriate within the Employment Centers:

Automobile Rentals Laboratories

Auto Repair, Detailing, Paint and Body Shop
Bottling Plant
Brewery

Landscaping Services
Light Fabrication
Lumber yards

Broadcasting Stations for Radio or TV
Cabinet Working and Carpentry
Catering Services
Contractor's Storage Yards

Machine or Welding Shops
Mini Warehouse/Self-Storage
Motion Picture production Studios
Ornamental Metal Workshops

Farm Equipment Repair Printing Shops

Glass Installation Services Technical Trade Schools

Gun Clubs, Enclosed Utility Work Centers, Power & Communications

The staff recommendation in the Addendum supported this concept, stating: "The Plan should be amended to acknowledge the ability to utilize the Economic Development Center category for industrial uses in the locations recommended by the Consultant."

### 2. Agricultural Reserve Industrial Policies – Board Direction

Upon the conclusion of the Master Planning effort, the BCC did not concur with the consultant's recommendations on industrial land use, and directed that no new industrial future land use designations be permitted in the Agricultural Reserve. Consequently, the 2001 Comprehensive Plan amendment to adopt policies implementing the Master Plan did not establish any policies for new industrial lands. The only provision was related to the .45 floor area ratio for the 64 acres of land with industrial future land use that predated the Master Plan, and were located along the north and south sides of Atlantic Avenue, east of SR-7.

More recently, the BCC on May 5, 2021, transmitted a land use amendment request for industrial in the Tier, known as Sunflower Light Industrial (LGA 2021-016). Under discussion of the item, the BCC directed staff to explore the concept of a new light industrial future land use designation and to return for a workshop to discuss additional industrial future land uses in the Tier. Following the transmittal of the Sunflower amendment, staff prepared the following draft list of Industrial uses in the ULDC Use Matrix separated by 'light' and 'heavy' categories based upon language in the Comprehensive Plan, as listed below.

Light Industrial	Heavy Industrial
Data and Information Processing	Equestrian Waste Management
Manufacturing & Processing (light)	Gas and Fuel, Wholesale
Medical or Dental Laboratory	Heavy Industry
Multi-Media Production	Machine or Welding Shop
Research & Development	Recycling Center or Plant
Distribution	Manufacturing & Processing (heavy)
Warehouse	Salvage or Junk Yard
Wholesaling	Towing Service or Truck Stop

Subsequently, the Board adopted the Sunflower amendment on July 28, 2021, with additional conditions and subsequently adopted the Las Farms (LGA 2022-001) amendment on February 2, 2022, with the same conditions, which are shown below:

 Uses shall exclude heavy industrial uses which engage in the basic processing, manufacturing, or storage of flammable, hazardous, or explosive materials or products, or processes which potentially involve hazardous or commonly recognized offensive

- conditions as described in Future Land Use Element Policy 2.2.4-d of the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan; and
- Uses identified as Commercial in Article 4 of the Unified Land Development Code are prohibited on the site, with the exception of Landscape Service, Self-Service Storage, and accessory uses.

At the October 26, 2021 Agricultural Reserve workshop and continuation on November 3, 2021, the Board expressed support for a new Commerce FLU within the Tier that would be limited to light industrial uses. On February 2, 2022, the Board initiated a text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan for staff to proceed with the review and analysis of the proposed amendments.

## 3. Industrial FLUA Amendments in the Agricultural Reserve

As previously mentioned, there are 64 acres of industrially designated properties fronting the south and north sides of Atlantic Avenue east of State Road 7. These parcels pre-date the Master Plan. Since the adoption of the Master Plan implementing policies in 2001, the County has processed several privately proposed future land use amendments for industrial, as summarized below.

- Homrich Commercial (LGA 2016-019). In 2016, the BCC adopted an amendment to the Future Land Use Atlas on a 13.44-acre site with Agricultural Reserve (AGR) future land use to Commercial Low (CL) with underlying Industrial (IND). A voluntary condition of approval limited development of the site to a maximum of 29,400 square feet of Commercial and 197,100 square feet of Light Industrial uses. Staff recommendation for denial was based in part on a lack of a comprehensive analysis and policy direction considering appropriate locations, uses, extent, and intensity established for new industrial uses in the Tier.
- West Atlantic Industrial (LGA 2017-017). The West Atlantic Industrial amendment was privately proposed, and requested to change the future land use designation on a 2.51 acres parcel from AGR future land use to IND/AGR. The site is located on the south side of Atlantic Avenue, approximately 1,100 feet west of Lyons Road. Staff recommended denial due to lack of policy direction for new industrial in the Tier and since the establishment of industrial uses mid-block on a small, isolated parcel would not be compatible with surrounding agricultural uses. At the June 16, 2017 public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended denial in a 10 to 1 vote. The amendment was denied by the BCC at the July 26, 2017 Transmittal Hearing.
- Boynton Technology Park Text (2020). This privately proposed text amendment for initiation was requesting to allow the Economic Development Center (EDC) future land use in the Tier as a multiple use commercial, industrial and residential Planned Industrial Park Development (PIPD), increase the commercial cap and to allow for 3 units per acre with no preserve requirement and including a workforce housing requirement. The 140 acre site is located on the north and south sides of Atlantic Avenue, adjacent to the Florida's Turnpike. At the June 12, 2020 public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended denial of initiation in an 11 to 2 vote. The text initiation was withdrawn by the Applicant prior to the June 29, 2020 BCC Transmittal Hearing.
- Boynton Parc Plaza Text (2021): This privately proposed text amendment for initiation
  was requesting to allow the Multiple Land Use future land use designation with Industrial

and High Residential, 8 units per acre (MLU, IND/8) in the Tier; provide exemption from preserve requirements; add policy language for a Workplace, Employment & Economic Devilment in the Tier; and, add a requirement for workforce housing. The associated FLUA requested to change the future land use from Agricultural Reserve (AGR) to Multiple Land Use with underlying Industrial and High Residential, 8 units per acre (MLU, IND/8). The 47.21-acre site is located on the north side of Boynton Beach Boulevard, west of Florida's Turnpike. At the April 9, 2021 public hearing, the Planning Commission recommended denial of initiation in a 13 to 0 vote. The application was withdrawn by the applicant prior to the May 5, 2021 BCC Transmittal Hearing.

- Star Key Industrial (LGA 2021-015). This privately proposed text and future land use amendment was withdrawn by the applicant on September 30, 2021, prior to the scheduling of a Planning Commission hearing. The applicant proposed to change the future land use designation for 50.99 acres of land to change from the AGR future land use designation to IND/AGR in order to develop industrial uses, with a maximum potential of .45 floor area ratio (999,506 square feet). The site is located on the north side of Atlantic Avenue, between Starkey Road and the Turnpike. The Zoning application (PDD-2021-00445) requested Planned Industrial Park (PIPD) zoning and was submitted in 2021.
- Sunflower Light Industrial (LGA 2021-016). The application proposed a future land use amendment for 8.19 acres of land from the AGR future land use designation to IND/AGR in order to develop industrial uses, with a maximum potential of .45 floor area ratio (160,540 square feet). The site is located on the west side of State Road 7, approximately .25 miles south of Atlantic Avenue. The Board adopted the amendment on July 28, 2021 with conditions of approval limiting the site to:
  - Uses shall exclude heavy industrial uses which engage in the basic processing, manufacturing, or storage of flammable, hazardous, or explosive materials or products, or processes which potentially involve hazardous or commonly recognized offensive conditions as described in Future Land Use Element Policy 2.2.4-d of the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan; and
  - 2. Uses identified as Commercial in Article 4 of the Unified Land Development Code are prohibited on the site, with the exception of Landscape Service, Self-Service Storage, and accessory uses.
- Las Farms (LGA 2022-001). On February 2, 2022, the BCC adopted a future land use amendment request for 6.95 acres of land from the AGR future land use designation to IND/AGR in order to develop industrial uses, with a maximum potential of .45 floor area ratio (136,234 square feet). The site is located on the west side of State Road 7, approximately .5 miles north of Boynton Beach Boulevard. The amendment includes the same conditions of approval as Sunflower Light Industrial above.
- West Atlantic Industrial Fina (2022-018). This privately proposed FLUA amendment was submitted in November 2021. The applicant is requesting to change the future land use designation on the 10.11 acre site from AGR to IND/AGR including the same conditions adopted in the Sunflower Light application. The site is located north of Atlantic Avenue, approximately one half mile west of State Road 7. This amendment is scheduled for the May 4, 2022 BCC Transmittal public hearing.

## VI. Data and Analysis Summary

This section provides data and analysis, including an examination of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

## A. Industrial Land Uses in Palm Beach County

There are approximately 21,000 acres of industrially designated land in Palm Beach County, of which approximately 69%, or 14,683 acres, are located within Unincorporated County. Table 1 outlines the unincorporated industrial future land uses.

Total Urban U/T Glades -Ag **Future Land Use** Glades Acres Suburban Overlay Reserve Urban Industrial 13.541 1.909 8.441 79 63 3.049 **Underlying Industrial** 681 518 147 13 0 3 0 0 **Economic Dev. Center** 461 63 260 138 Total 14,683 2,490 8,848 92 3,052 201

**Table 1. Industrial Future Land Uses** 

Source: 2021 Existing Land Use layer, Future Land Use layer

Industrial lands in unincorporated Palm Beach County largely fall into four geographic locations. All but 3% of the industrial land, or 383 acres, is located within one of these four areas.

- United Technology Corporation (Pratt-Whitney) Protection Overlay. Approximately 6,700 of the 8,848 acres in the Overlay are set aside as preserve lands.
- **Glades.** Of the 3,052 acres in the Glades Urban Suburban Tier, approximately 1,600 acres are part of the Sugar Cane Cooperative Protection Overlay. The rural community of Lake Harbor holds approximately 63 acres.
- **Southern/Turnpike.** The Southern Boulevard and Florida Turnpike area, including up to the Vista Center, contain approximately 1,600 acres.
- **Blue Heron/I-95.** Approximately 230 acres of industrial land use are located east of I-95 in the Blue Heron Boulevard area surrounded by municipalities.

#### B. Proposed Amendment

This amendment is comprised of several interconnected components, each of which is discussed separately below and corresponds with the specific strike out and underline changes to the Comprehensive Plan shown in **Exhibits 1-A and 1-B**.

## 1. Proposed Commerce (CMR) Future Land Use Designation

This amendment proposes to establish a new industrial future land use designation called Commerce (CMR) to facilitate the review and consideration of newly proposed light industrial uses. The new future land use will allow the Board to review and consider proposed light industrial uses to ensure that each project is appropriately located and compatible with adjacent land uses, and ensure that the approval of an industrial type future land uses does not introduce heavy industrial uses, which may not be appropriate at the particular location.

- Establishing the CMR designation. This amendment proposes the new CMR future land use designation for the Urban Suburban Tier and Agricultural Reserve Tier seeking light industrial uses. The Comprehensive Plan defines 'light' and 'heavy' industrial uses; however, these terms are not carried forward into specific future land use designations. The Industrial future land use designation allows all industrial uses, as does the Economic Development Center designation. The new CMR future land use designation will establish an opportunity for light industrial uses in appropriate locations in order to allow employment based uses at suitable locations along major thoroughfares while protecting adjacent residences from more intense uses. As with the existing industrial designations, the new CMR future land use will be allowed in the Urban Suburban Tier and not allowed in the Exurban and Rural Tiers.
- Agricultural Reserve Industrial. This amendment proposes to allow the new CMR future land use designation in the Agricultural Reserve Tier and limit new industrial future land use requests to this new designation. As previously stated, since 2016 there are have been seven requests for land use amendments seeking industrial future land use amendments in the Agricultural Reserve Tier. As there are no policies in the Plan directing the appropriate locations, extent, intensity and uses for industrial in the Tier. Therefore, this amendment includes policy guidance for future amendments including location requirements limiting the designation to major corridors. The amendment includes two options for the proposed 60% preserve requirement: either for sites over 16 acres consistent with the commercial designations or for sites over 50 acres. There have been no changes to the percentage of preserve requirements for residential planned developments in the Tier since initially established with the settlement agreement in 1995, predating the Master Plan. However, in 2016, the Board established a policy exemption so that commercial sites less than 16 acres are not required to provide a preserve. Staff is recommending the 16-acre threshold as there are no unique attributes to industrial development that provide a basis for abandoning the preserve requirements established by the Board for non-residential development in the Tier.

### C. Consistency with the Comprehensive Plan - General

This proposed amendment will further several provisions in the Future Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan, including the items listed below. Unrelated language is omitted for brevity.

**FLUE, Introduction.** Seven broad principles guide sustainable land use planning and development:

- (2) Prevent urban sprawl through establishing urban development areas and encouraging urban revitalization and redevelopment;
- (6) Promote sustainable economic development initiatives in the County to diversify its economic base and enhance the quality of life of current and future County generations.

**Staff Assessment:** With regards to Principal 2, the new CMR future land use designation will allow new light industrial uses to be approved in urban areas thereby encouraging infill. With regards to Principal 6, this amendment will support sustainable economic development initiatives in the County to diversify its economic base.

**FLUE, C. County Directions.** The Future Land Use Element was created and has been updated based on input from the public and other agencies through citizen advisory committees, public meetings, interdepartmental reviews, and the Board of County Commissioners. All contributed to the generation of the long-term planning directions, which provide the basis for the Goals,

Objectives and Policies of the Future Land Use Element. These directions reflect the kind of community the residents of Palm Beach County desire.

- 1. Livable Communities. Promote the enhancement, creation, and maintenance of livable communities throughout Palm Beach County, recognizing the unique and diverse characteristics of each community. Important elements for a livable community include a balance of land uses and organized open space, preservation of natural features, incorporation of distinct community design elements unique to a given region, personal security, provision of services and alternative transportation modes at levels appropriate to the character of the community, and opportunities for education, employment, health facilities, active and passive recreation, and cultural enrichment.
- 2. Growth Management. Provide for sustainable communities and lifestyle choices by: (a) directing the location, type, intensity, timing and phasing, and form of development that respects the characteristics of a particular geographical area; (b) requiring the transfer of development rights as the method for most density increases; (c) ensuring smart growth, by protecting natural resources, preventing urban sprawl, providing for the efficient use of land, balancing land uses; and, (d) providing for facilities and services in a cost efficient timely manner.
- **4. Land Use Compatibility.** Ensure that the densities and intensities of land uses are not in conflict with those of surrounding areas, whether incorporated or unincorporated.

Staff Assessment: This proposed amendment will further the three County Directions shown above by establishing criteria for light industrial uses in the Urban/Suburban Tier and in the Agricultural Reserve Tier to allow employment based uses at suitable locations along major thoroughfares, ensuring land use compatibility. The introduction of the Industrial (IND) future land use designation can open up a site to a long list of allowable uses, including very intense industrial uses as provided in Exhibit 2. In addition, within the Urban/Suburban Tier, the Economic Development Center (EDC) future land use designation is intended for larger, "campus" like industrial users. Therefore, the new CMR FLU will foster additional opportunities for smaller, low-trip generating light industrial and/or employment generating uses.

## D. Consistency with Urban/Suburban Tier Policies

#### FLUE, Objective 1.1, OBJECTIVE 1.2 Urban/Suburban Tier- Urban Service Area

General: This tier is expected to accommodate the bulk of the population and its need for employment, goods and services, cultural opportunities, and recreation. It supports a variety of lifestyle choices, ranging from urban to residential estate; however, the predominant development form in the unincorporated area is suburban in character. The older, communities are primarily in municipalities, within approximately 2 miles of the Atlantic Ocean. Most of the neighborhoods within the tier are stable and support viable communities. However, due to the period in which many of the coastal communities were built and the County's efforts to keep pace with rapid growth in its western areas, some of the eastern areas did not receive a full complement of urban services. If the County is to meet its primary goal to create and maintain liveable communities, balance growth throughout the County, protect natural resources and provide a variety of lifestyle choices beyond the long term planning horizon, it is imperative that land, services and facilities be used efficiently and effectively.

**Objective:** Palm Beach County shall plan to accommodate approximately 90% of the County's existing and projected population through the long-range planning horizon within the Urban/Suburban Tier. The Urban/Suburban Tier shall include all land within the Urban Service Area, as depicted on the Service Areas Map in the Map Series. These areas have a development pattern generally characterized as urban or suburban, considering the intensity and/or density of development. The Urban/Suburban Tier shall be afforded urban levels of service.

**Policy 1.2-a:** Within the Urban/Suburban Tier, Palm Beach County shall protect the character of its urban and suburban communities by:

- 1. Allowing services and facilities consistent with the needs of urban and suburban development;
- 2. Providing for affordable housing and employment opportunities;
- 3. Providing for open space and recreational opportunities:
- 4. Protecting historic, and cultural resources:
- Preserving and enhancing natural resources and environmental systems; and,
- 6. Ensuring development is compatible with the scale, mass, intensity of use, height, and character of urban or suburban communities.

**Policy 1.2-b:** Palm Beach County shall encourage and support sustainable urban development, including restoration, infill and adaptive reuse.

**Staff Assessment:** This proposed amendment will further this objective and policies above by promoting the efficient use of land within the Urban/Suburban Tier by establishing policy language to create a third industrial future land use designation specifically for light industrial uses. The new CMR FLU will provide an additional option for industrial development that allows for low-trip generating non-residential and/or employment generating uses. The proposed amendment also promotes compatibility of these uses by protecting adjacent residences from more intense "heavy" industrial uses.

## E. Consistency with the Agricultural Reserve Tier Policies

Future Land Use Element Objective 1.1, Managed Growth Tier System, states that "Palm Beach County shall implement the Managed Growth Tier System strategies to protect viable existing neighborhoods and communities and to direct the location and timing of future development within 5 geographically specific Tiers...."

## **OBJECTIVE 1.5** The Agricultural Reserve Tier

1. Objective: Palm Beach County shall preserve the unique farmland and wetlands in order to preserve and enhance agricultural activity, environmental and water resources, and open space within the Agricultural Reserve Tier. This shall be accomplished by limiting uses to agriculture and conservation with residential development restricted to low densities and non-residential development limited to uses serving the needs of farmworkers and residents of the Tier. The Agricultural Reserve Tier shall be preserved primarily for agricultural use, reflecting the unique farmlands and wetlands within it.

**Staff Analysis:** The primary objective of the Agricultural Reserve Tier is the preservation of agricultural and environmental lands, while allowing for development in a planned manner that is consistent with the Master Plan and associated policies within the Comprehensive Plan that direct the locations and amounts of allowable development. Currently there are no policies in the Plan directing the appropriate locations, extent, intensity and uses for industrial in the Tier. Therefore, the new CMR future land use will provide policy guidance for future requests for industrial including location requirements limiting the designation to major corridors, prohibiting heavy industrial uses, and requiring the provision for a preserve area for sites greater than 16 or 50 acres.

This amendment will support the above referenced provisions in the Comprehensive Plan. There are no inconsistencies with the policies in the Comprehensive Plan.

#### F. ULDC Implications

This proposed amendment will result in revisions to the ULDC to Articles 3 and 4 of ULDC to revise applicable zoning districts for consistency with the new CMR future land use designation. In addition, the ULDC shall be revised to separate the current industrial uses into 'light' and 'heavy' sections, and separate the types of commercial uses into sections.

## VII. Public and Municipal Review

Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC): Notification was sent to the County's Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC), a clearing-house for plan amendments, on February 18, 2022. In addition, an email to interested parties of the Agricultural Reserve was sent on March 4, 2022. Correspondence received through the public hearing process will be provided in Exhibit 3.

### VIII. Assessment and Conclusions

This amendment proposes to establish a new future land use designation specifically for light industrial uses. The new Commerce (CMR) FLU will allow the Board to review and consider proposed light industrial uses to ensure that each project is appropriately located and compatible with adjacent land uses, and ensure that the approval does not introduce heavy industrial uses, which may not be appropriate at the particular location. As with the other industrial future land use designations, the new CMR future land use will be allowed in the Urban Suburban Tier and not within the Rural and Exurban Tiers. This amendment also proposes to establish policy guidance for industrial uses in the Agricultural Reserve Tier by establishing location requirements and limiting to the new CMR designation. The proposed Agricultural Reserve Tier policies would establish preserve requirements for sites over 16 acres consistent with the commercial designations, or over 50 acres. This amendment will require implementing revisions to the ULDC.

#### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – Proposed revisions in strike out and underline format	E-1
Exhibit 2 – Industrial Use Matrix	E-7
Exhibit 3 – Correspondence	E-10

#### Exhibit 1-A

A. Future Land Use Element, Commerce Future Land Use Designation

**REVISIONS:** To establish a new future land use designation called Commerce for light industrial uses. The added text is <u>underlined</u>, and the deleted text <del>struck out</del>.

#### 2.2.4 Industrial

- 1. REVISED Policy 2.2.4-c: Industrial Future Land Use Designations. The three Industrial and Economic Development Center future land use designations are intended to accommodate industrial uses which are defined as uses engaged in the manufacturing, assembly, processing, research and development, wholesale distribution, or storage of products, related uses and services, including Office of an Industrial Nature (as defined by the Introduction and Administration Element).
  - 1. **Industrial.** The Industrial (IND) future land use designation allows the full range of industrial activities ranging from light to heavy industry.
  - Economic Development Center. The Economic Development Center (EDC) future land use designation is intended to accommodate employment opportunities, research parks, and Employment Centers (as defined by the Introduction and Administration Element). Properties with an EDC designation are intended to be developed as planned developments in order to promote internal circulation and buffering from surrounding land uses. Industrial uses allowed within EDC shall be limited to those that demonstrate Light Industrial characteristics.
  - 3. Commerce. The Commerce (CMR) future land use designation is intended to accommodate light industrial uses to provide an option for low-trip generating non-residential and/or employment generating uses on arterial roadways. Industrial uses allowed shall be limited to those that demonstrate Light Industrial characteristics.

Remainder of policy relocated to New Policy 2.2.4-e

2. **REVISED Policy 2.2.4-d: Industrial Uses.** Industrial uses shall be considered either Light or Heavy as defined below.

**Light Industrial.** Light industrial development's typical operation is not likely to cause undesirable effects, danger or disturbance upon nearby areas and typically does not create negative impacts on immediately adjoining uses. These uses typically do not cause or result in the dissemination of dust, smoke, fumes, odor, noise, vibration light, or other potentially objectionable effects beyond the boundaries of the lot on which the use is conducted. Examples of Light Industrial uses include: storage, distribution, research, laboratories, dispatch, landscape service, flex space, media production, and light manufacturing and processing.

**Heavy Industrial.** Heavy industrial development's typical operation may cause or result in the dissemination of dust, smoke, fumes, odor, noise, vibration, or light, or other potentially objectionable effects beyond the boundaries of the lot on which the use is

conducted. These effects will be minimized through the application of performance standards established in the Unified Land Development Code. Heavy industrial uses can include those that engage in the processing, manufacturing, or storage of flammable, hazardous, or explosive materials or products, or processes which potentially involve hazardous or commonly recognized offensive conditions. Examples of the heavy industrial uses include, but are not limited to, salvage and junkyards, storage of regulated substances, asphalt and concrete mixing and product manufacturing, heavy manufacturing, construction and demolition recycling, and equestrian waste management.

- 3. REVISED Policy 2.2.4-e. Additional Allowable Uses in Industrial Designations. In addition to the industrial uses, the land uses listed below are allowable within the Industrial type and Economic Development Center future land use designations as permitted by the ULDC.
  - 1. Mining, subject to the limitations included in Objective 2.3 entitled "Mining and Excavation":
  - 2. Parks and Recreation:
  - 3. Commercial Recreation <u>including but not limited to, tenants within industrial buildings, such as indoor sports, fitness, gymnastics, karate studios, and dance studios;</u>
  - 4. Conservation:
  - 5. Institutional and Public Facilities;
  - 6. Transportation, Utility, and Communication Facilities;
  - 7. Non-residential agricultural uses;
  - 8. Caretakers' quarters;
  - 9. Uses and structures accessory to a permitted use:
  - 10. Flex space. Flex space allows each use to be a flexible percentage of the uses allowed in the Use Matrix per the applicable FLU, typically with 70% of the total floor area for uses demonstrating light industrial characteristics and 30% for retail, office and display areas for products manufactured and/or distributed on site.
  - 11. Commercial uses pursuant to one or more of the following:
    - a. <u>Industrial (IND) future land use allows vehicular based</u> Commercial uses of an industrial nature that have impacts similar to industrial uses <u>such as auto repair and the like</u>, <u>including Office of an Industrial Nature.</u> <u>and accessory commercial uses which are incidental and subordinate to the primary industrial use</u>;
    - b. <u>Commercial uses in Commerce and Economic Development Center are limited to</u> accessory commercial uses, which are incidental and subordinate to the primary industrial use;
    - c. Retail gasoline and/or fuel sales shall be limited to <a href="the-Industrial">the Industrial (IND)</a> future land use designation as accessory to an industrial use, or part of a commercial pod in a Planned Industrial Park Development;
    - d. Commercial uses within Planned Industrial Park Developments pursuant to FLUE Policy 4.4.7-a; and
  - 12. Residential uses within a Planned Industrial Park Developments pursuant to FLUE Policy 4.4.7-a.

4. NEW Policy 2.2.4-XX: All requests for new industrial type future land use designations shall front an arterial roadway or have access to an arterial roadway through an existing commercial or industrial site. Arterial roadways are depicted on Map Figure TE 3.1, Functional Classification of Roads, unless otherwise identified within this element.

#### 5. REVISED

#### **TABLE 2.2-e.1,**

## Maximum Floor Area Ratios (FARs) For Non-Residential Future Land Use Categories and Non-Residential Uses

(unaltered rows omitted for brevity)

<b>5</b> 4 3 1 3 3 1 1 3 3	FLU	Tier									
Future Land Use	Category	Urban/Suburb	Exurban	Rural	Ag Reserve	Glades					
IND .4585 <sup>9</sup>		not allowed	not allowed	.45	.45						
Industrial	EDC	.4585 <sup>9</sup>	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed <sup>11</sup>					
	CMR	<u>.4585</u> <sup>9</sup>	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed					
Commercial Recreation .50		.50	not allowed	.05	.05	.05					

#### Notes:

1. to 8. Omitted for brevity

**6. REVISED Policy 2.2-f:** Table 2.2-f.1 establishes the consistent non-residential zoning and planned development districts for the Non-Residential Future Land Use Designations.

## Table 2.2-f.1 Non-Residential Future Land Use - Zoning Consistency<sup>1, 2</sup>

(unaltered rows omitted for brevity)

Future Land Use	Consiste	ent Zoning
Designation	Zoning District	Planned Development
Industrial	IL, IG	MUPD, PIPD
Economic Dev. Center	IL	MUPD, PIPD
Commerce	<u>IL</u>	MUPD
Commercial Recreation	CRE	MUPD, RVPD

#### Notes:

- 1. The Public Ownership (PO) zoning district is allowed in all future land use designations.
- 2. Within the Glades Tier, the AP and AR districts are consistent with all future land use designations, excluding Conservation. Within all Tiers, AR is consistent with all non-residential future land use designations, excluding Conservation.
- 3. & 4. Omitted for brevity

<sup>9.</sup> Industrial and self-storage uses may be approved for up to .85 FAR in the industrial future land use designations the Urban Suburban Tier, and self-storage uses may be approved for up to .65 FAR in the commercial future land use designations in the Agricultural Reserve Tier on sites that meet the Major Intersection Criteria in the ULDC (see also FLUE Policy 1.5-p).

<sup>10.</sup> to 11. Omitted for brevity

## 7. REVISED TABLE III.C FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION BY TIER

		Tier							
Future Land Use	Future Land Use FLU Category		Exurban	Rural	Ag Reserve	Glades RSA <sup>1</sup>			
Unaltered text omitted for brevity									
In directrical	IND	Х			Х				
Industrial	EDC	Х							
	<u>CMR</u>	<u>X</u>	===	==	===	==			
Unaltered text omitted for brevity									

<sup>1.</sup> Within the rural towns of Lake Harbor and Canal Point, the following additional future land use designations shall be allowed: Residential from RR-2.5 through MR-5; CL; CL-O; IND; EDC; and INST.

<sup>2.</sup> Within the Glades Area Protection Overlay, 138.31 acres of EDC future land use designation is allowed.

## Exhibit 1-B

B. Future Land Use Element, Commerce FLU within the Agricultural Reserve Tier

**REVISIONS:** To establish requirements for industrial future land use designations in the Agricultural Reserve Tier. The added text is <u>underlined</u>, and the deleted text <del>struck out</del>.

#### Industrial

- 1. NEW Policy 1.5-v: Industrial. The County shall foster employment opportunities in the Agricultural Reserve Tier by allowing light industrial uses at appropriate locations to provide a balance of land uses for current and new residents of the Tier. All new future land use amendments requesting industrial type uses in the Agricultural Reserve Tier shall meet the following requirements:
  - 1. <u>Limited to the Commerce (CMR) future land use designation</u>;
  - 2. Fronting State Road 7, Atlantic Avenue (from Florida's Turnpike to State Road 7), Boynton Beach Boulevard (from Florida's Turnpike to State Road 7) or have access to these roadways through an existing commercial or industrial site;
  - 3. Be accompanied by a concurrent zoning application and site plan in order to demonstrate that the proposal meets the design, scale, and character requirements of the Tier;
  - 4. Have a minimum of 5 acres (with the exception of lands dedicated to rights of way); and
- Option 1: 5. Be subject to the preserve percentage and use requirements of Policy 1.5.1-q. or
- Option 2: <u>5.</u> For sites over <u>50</u> acres, be subject to the preserve percentage and use requirements of Policy <u>1.5.1-q</u>;

## **SUB-OBJECTIVE 1.5.1** Planned Developments

To achieve the goal of farmland protection and agricultural perpetuation, unique planned development options, which ensure the preservation of significant open space may be permitted.

2. REVISED Policy 1.5.1-a: In order to preserve and enhance agricultural activity, environmental and water resources, open space, and sustainable development within the Agricultural Reserve Tier, all new residential, commercial, industrial, and/or mixed use developments shall be developed as an Agricultural Reserve Planned Development that contributes to the fulfillment of these objectives by meeting the preserve area requirements, subject to the provisions of this Element, with the exception of: 1) Residential subdivisions predating the Ag Reserve Tier and those that are subdivided at 1 unit per 5 acre density; 2) pre-existing commercial sites identified in Policy 1.5-i which develop at the square footages identified within the Policy; and 3) the sites which received an industrial future land use designation as part of the adoption of the 1989 Comprehensive Plan.

#### 3. REVISED

## **TABLE 2.2-e.1,**

## Maximum Floor Area Ratios (FARs) For Non-Residential Future Land Use Categories and Non-Residential Uses

(unaltered rows omitted for brevity)

Fortuna I am d III a	FLU	Tier									
Future Land Use	Category	Urban/Suburb	Exurban	Rural	Ag Reserve	Glades					
	IND .4585 <sup>9</sup>		not allowed	not allowed	.45	.45					
Industrial	EDC	.4585 <sup>9</sup>	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed	not allowed11					
	CMR	<u>.4585</u> <sup>9</sup>	not allowed	not allowed	<u>.45</u> 9	not allowed					
Commercial Recreation		.50	not allowed	.05	.05	.05					

#### Notes:

- 1. to 8. Omitted for brevity
- 9. Industrial and self-storage uses may be approved for up to .85 FAR in the industrial future land use designations the Urban Suburban Tier, and self-storage uses may be approved for up to .65 FAR in the commercial future land use designations in the Agricultural Reserve Tier on sites that meet the Major Intersection Criteria in the ULDC (see also FLUE Policy 1.5-p).
- 10. to 11. Omitted for brevity

## 4. REVISED

## TABLE III.C FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION BY TIER

		Tier							
Future Land Use	FLU Category	Urban/Sub & Glades USA	Exurban	Rural	Ag Reserve	Glades RSA <sup>1</sup>			
Unaltered text omitted for brevity									
Industrial	IND	Х			Х				
Industrial	EDC	х							
	<u>CMR</u>	<u>X</u>	===		<u>X</u>	==			
Unaltered text omitted for brevity									

- 1. Within the rural towns of Lake Harbor and Canal Point, the following additional future land use designations shall be allowed: Residential from RR-2.5 through MR-5; CL; CL-O; IND; EDC; and INST.
- 2. Within the Glades Area Protection Overlay, 138.31 acres of EDC future land use designation is allowed.

Exhibit 2
Industrial Uses

	AGR	IL	IG	IND/ MUPD	EDC	PIPD/ IL Pod	PIPD/ IG Pod	PIPD/ Com Pod
Agricultural uses								
Agriculture, bona fide	Р	Α	Α					
Agriculture, Light Manufacturing	D	P	Р					
Agriculture, Packing Plant	D	D	D					
Agriculture, Research/Development	D	P	Р	P	Р	P	P	
Agriculture, Sales & Service	В							Р
Agriculture, Storage	Р	Р	Р					
Agriculture, Transshipment	D	D	Р	Р	Р	P	Р	
Aviculture, Hobby Breeder	Р	Р	Р					
Community vegetable garden	Р	Р	Р					
Equestrian arena, commercial	D	В	В					
Farmer's Market	D	Р	Р			P	Р	Р
Nursery, retail	P	В	В					P
Nursery, wholesale	P	Р	Р			P	P	
Potting soil manufacturing	D	В	D					
Produce Stand	S	S	S					
Shadehouse	P	Р	Р					
Stable, commercial	D	D	D					
Stable, private	P							
Sugar mill or refinery			Α				P	
Commercial uses								
Adult entertainment		D	D			D		D
Auction, indoor	P	Р	Р	P		P	P	P
Auction, outdoor	Р	P	Р	Α		P	Р	Α
Car wash		D		P		P	P	P
Catering Service		Р	P	P		D	D	P
Dispatching office		P	P	P		P	P	Α
Dog day-care		Р		P		P		D
Electric Vehicle Charging Station		D	D	D		D	D	D
Kennel, Commercial	В							D
Landscape maintenance service		Р	Р	P	D	P	P	P
Laundry services		Α	Α	Α		Α	Α	Р
Marina		Р	Р					Α
Microbrewery		D	D	D	D	D	D	Α
Repair and maintenance, Heavy		Р	P	Р		P	Р	Α
Repair and maintenance, Light		Р	P	Р		D	D	Р
Repair services, limited		P		P		P		Р

	AGR	IL	IG	IND/	EDC	PIPD/	PIPD/	PIPD/
Colf complex storage discribed		<b>C</b>		MUPD		IL Pod	IG Pod	Com Pod D
Self-service storage, Limited		D		D		D		_
Self-service storage, Multi-access		D		D		D		Α
Vehicle Equip. sales & rental, Heavy	_	Α		Α		Α		_
Veterinary clinic	Α	Р						P
Vocational school		Р	Р	Р	Р	Р		Р
Industrial uses								
Contractor's storage yard		D	Р	Р	D	Р	Р	
Data Information Processing		Р	P	P	P	P	P	Р
Distribution Facility		D	D	P	P	P	Р	D
Equestrian Waste Management		Α	Α	Α				
Gas and fuel, wholesale		Α	D	Α			P	
Heavy industry		Α	D	Α		R	Р	
Machine or welding shop		Р	Р	Р		Р	Р	
Manufacturing and processing		Р	Р	Р	Α	Р	Р	D
Medical or dental laboratory		Р	Р	Р	Р	Р		Р
Multi-media production		Р	Р	Р	Р	Р		Р
Recycling center		Α	Р	Α	D	Р	Р	Α
Recycling plant		Α	D	Α		Р	Р	
Research & Development		Р	Р	Р	Р			Α
Salvage or junk yard			Α	Α			R	
Towing service and storage		Р	Р	Р		Р		
Truck stop		Α	Α	Α		R	R	
Warehousing		Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	D
Wholesaling, general		Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	D
Institutional, Public and civic uses								
Animal Shelter		Α	D					
Assembly, nonprofit institutional	Α		_					Α
College or university				Α				Α
Crematory		Α	Α	A				Α
Day care center, limited	D	7.						D
Day care center, general	A							A
Funeral home		D	D	D				P
Government services	D	P	P	P	Р	Р	P	P
Homeless Resource Center		A		A	r	r	r	•
	D	D	D	A				D
Place of worship	A	A	U					A
School, elementary or secondary	A	А						A
Recreational uses								^
Golf course		D		Α		Р	Р	Α
Park, Neighborhood infill	_	P	P					
Park, passive	Р	Р	P	P	Р	Р	P	Р

	AGR	IL	IG	IND/ MUPD	EDC	PIPD/ IL Pod	PIPD/ IG Pod	PIPD/ Com Pod
Park, public		D	D	Р				Р
Shooting range, indoor		D	Р	Α		Р	Р	Α
Transportation								
Airport			Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Heliport or helipad		D	D	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Landing strip			Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Seaplane Facility			Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Utility								
Chipping and mulching	D	В	D	В		В	D	
Composting facility	D	D	D	P		Р	P	
Electric Distribution Substation	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Electric power plant		Α	Α	Α		Α	Α	Α
Electric Transmission Substation	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Utility, minor	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Renewable Energy Solar Facility	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Renewable Energy Wind Facility	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Solid waste transfer station		Α	В	Α		Р	Р	Α
Water or wastewater treat. plant		D	D	Α		Р	P	
Excavation								
Agricultural Excavation	Α	Α	Α					
Type 1A Excavation	Р							
Type 1B Excavation	D							
Type 2 Excavation	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Type 3A Excavation		Α	Α					
Type 3B Excavation		Α	Α					

## Key:

- P Permitted by Right
- S Subject to Special Permit Approval
- D Subject to DRO Approval
- B Conditional Use Class B, Subject to Zoning Commission Approval
- A Conditional Use Class A, Subject to BCC Approval

Blank – Prohibited use, unless stated otherwise within Supplementary Use Standards

#### Exhibit 3

## Correspondence



March 2, 2022

Palm Beach County Planning Commission Members C/O Kevin Fischer, Interim Planning Director Planning Division 2300 N. Jog Road West Palm Beach, Florida 33411

Re: New Commerce Future Land Use in Agriculture Reserve Tier

Dear Planning Commissioners and Interim Director Fischer:

We would like to thank you for supporting the initiation of a Comprehensive Plan Text amendment to create the Commerce Future Land Use designation and allowing that designation within the Agricultural Reserve. The creation of the Commerce Future Land Use designation in the AgR Tier is a result of the recognition that there is a need to provide for certain Industrial uses in the Agricultural Reserve. The Industrial designation, however, allows both heavy and light industrial uses; the proposed Commerce Future Land Use Designation would resolve that issue and could provide for the necessary use for the community. We have reviewed the information to date and spoke at the BCC hearing regarding on particular issues - the size of the property at which a preserve requirement would make sense. The key point is that having the land use designation only provides for the availability of the needed use if it can feasibly be developed. Therefore, as you evaluate the specifics of the Commerce text language, we respectfully request that you consider the following:

- 1) Need for Light Industrial Uses in Agriculture Reserve. There is a recognition for the need for light industrial/commerce uses in the Agricultural Reserve. This is supported by data, particularly as logistics and community needs have changed recently. Throughout all of Palm Beach County, vacancy rates for the commerce related uses are at historical lows (+/-3%). In Delray Beach and the surrounding Western Palm County communities, the vacancy rate is even lower, (+/-1%). To understand the impacts of this issue, we asked Dr. David Menachof, an Associate Professor at the School of Business at Florida Atlantic University, to study the impacts to both consumers and the business community due to the lack of available inventory. His view is that the lack of industrial space has been exacerbated by the pandemic, which has driven a number of changes, including a shift to e-commerce, a need for greater localized inventories of medical supplies and equipment, and the ability for businesses to establish local operations to support the growth of the residential communities. Essentially his point is that this change has created a need for the proposed commerce related uses to support the local community. Additionally, to effectively support and maintain the agricultural base in the County, there is a need for modern distribution and short-term storage facilities (including modern cold storage) to be located near the current agriculture production facilities. Given the lack of such inventory, growers are forced to move produce to distant facilities which substantially increases costs, making continued operations in the Agricultural Reserve less viable.
- 2) Location. Location. The State Road 7/US 441 corridor is already an established essential north-south route for agricultural products and other goods. This transportation corridor links key points throughout the region and provides an important alternative local route west of the Florida Turnpike, meaning less traffic on Boynton Beach Blvd. and Atlantic Avenue. State Road 7/US 441 is the logical location for the new Commerce Future Land Use designation.

3910 RCA Blvd. Suite 1015 | Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 | 561.500.5060 | office@jmortonla.com email

- 3) Regional vs. Local. Effective light industrial facilities are typically located on mid-size sites (typically between approximately 40 to 50 acres). As mentioned, these facilities provide distribution for area hospitals, contractors, local businesses, and agricultural interests, among others. As an example, before the pandemic, medical supplies were routinely stored at regional warehouses and distribution facilities in distant locations, such as Atlanta and Dallas. The ability to source these supplies often requires a delivery time of 1-2 weeks. This has changed in the last two years as we have all realized that things can change in an instant and we need to have flexibility in communities to respond to those changing needs. For example, hospitals, medical, and long-term care facilities have revamped their strategy to require supplies be stored in near proximity to their facilities to prevent the shortages. This is part of the resiliency planning that each community must undertake and is evident throughout the country.
- Land Area. In order to meet these community needs, a flexible plan of development is necessary for a viable project. Unlike other uses, such as residential and commercial, the commerce uses cannot be clustered into smaller lots or multi-story buildings. This creates a very difficult circumstance related to the 60/40 preservation requirement. Where a residential or commercial development maintains all of its development potential, an industrial commerce facility will lose 60% of its potential. This means that there will not be the opportunity to meet the needs of the community. In the AgR, 1 dwelling unit per acre can be clustered on 40% of the land area. The density on the 40% increases to finish 2.5 dwelling units per acre. This cannot be done for the commerce uses. The 60/40 requirement negatively impacts commerce development as proposed because these buildings are comprised of one-story structures. The ability to cluster 0.45 FAR of light industrial/commerce development on 40% of the property is impossible as developing multi-story structures is not feasible or practical. This loss of land means more than just the loss of square footage. It means that there is less ability to plan for a productive and useful facility. Additionally, the paved area surrounding the buildings must be able to accommodate automobile and delivery vehicle movements. By creating a preserve requirement on too small of an area, it will effectively keep the proposed necessary commerce uses from being available. For example, a 40acre parcel of property would only have 16 acres of usable land, which means that the 16-acre property is exactly the same. However, neither is sufficient enough to provide the type of flexible building space and design to provide for what the community needs.

Should you require any additional information or explanation, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

JMorton Planning & Landscape Architecture, Inc.

Jennifer L. Morton, RLA, LEED AP President

Lanifer L. Morton

cc: Lisa Amara, Zoning Director Stephanie Gregory, Principal Planner Mark G. Levy, President BBX Capital Industrial Brian M. Seymour, Esquire

3910 RCA Blvd. Suite 1015 | Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410 | 561.500.5060 | office@jmortonla.com email

## **Correspondence Provided at the Planning Commission Hearing**

Agenda #: III.A.1



ROBERT N. HARTSELL, P.A. 61 N.E. 1st Street, Suite C Pompano Beach, Florida 33060 (954) 778-1052 www.Hartsell-Law.com

March 10, 2022

Palm Beach County Planning Division 2300 N Jog Road West Palm Beach, FL 33411-2741

Submitted via email:

lamara@pbcgov.org; kfischer@pbcgov.org; rbulkeley@pbcgov.org; eric@royalsinc.com; penny@pompei.com; caracapp@gmail.com; sarahcpardue@gmail.com; nbrahs@gmail.com; rothcosys@comcast.net; glenn.e.gromann@gmail.com; sbsiegel@teamsiegel.com; vinikoor@bellsouth.net; restopekdc@gmail.com; marciavhayden@aol.com; safefarm@aol.com; eferguson@thefergusonfirm.net; ajones-vann@wpb.org

Re: March 11, 2022, Planning Commission Meeting; Commerce FLU in Ag Reserve

#### Dear Planning Commissioners:

On behalf of our clients, 1000 Friends of Florida ("1000 Friends") and Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group ("Sierra Club"), please accept these comments to the Planning Commission and include them in the public record for the upcoming March 11, 2022, meeting regarding the following Agenda Item: *III.A.1 Commerce Future Land Use Designation*.

1000 Friends is a statewide 501(c)(3) smart growth advocacy nonprofit organization with a substantial number of members that live and work in Palm Beach County. Similarly, Sierra Club is a national 501(c)(3) grassroots environmental organization with the Loxahatchee Group comprised of a substantial number of members that live and work in Palm Beach County.

The members of both non-profit environmental organizations advocate for preservation of agricultural resources that are a much-needed buffer for the environmental vitality of the communities without encroachment of increased high-density residential, commercial, mixed-uses, and industrial uses. All members of these organizations residing within Palm Beach County are afforded the protections of the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan and will be directly affected by any amendments passed altering the Agricultural Reserve Tier.

E - 12

#### IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE AG RESERVE TIER STATUS QUO

The Agricultural Reserve Tier (Ag Reserve) is unique to Palm Beach County and is not solely for the benefit of its residents, but for the County as a whole. To wit: in preserving <u>agricultural lands</u>, <u>environmental and water resources</u>, <u>and open space</u>, pursuant to Objective 1.5, the Ag Reserve (1) reduces detrimental impacts from development on water quality, (2) improves flood control, (3) engages in highly beneficial carbon sequestration that reduces air pollution and mitigates climate change, (4) provides wildlife habitat for native flora and fauna, as well as threatened and endangered species, and a safe haven for transient and migratory wildlife, and (5) provides conservation land buffers between populated areas and the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge.

Protecting the Ag Reserve *does not necessitate modifying* the Comprehensive Plan to accommodate additional growth, whether it be residential or commercial. The founding principles of the Ag Reserve, and the associated bond to secure the preservation lands, require an *unwavering dedication* to the purpose and intent of this unique Tier.

The Palm Beach County Planning Commission has the unique opportunity and responsibility of preserving the vast majority of remaining natural resources and open space in the tri-counties. This Commission has always had the foresight to protect the County's resources that not only provide ecological economic benefits today, but also protect the environmentally sensitive areas for generations to come as once these areas are gone, they are gone forever. It is the duty of each Commissioner, as public servants, to consider these comments and fully evaluate the repercussions of modifying the Comprehensive Plan before taking any actions that could be detrimental to the very core of the Ag Reserve Tier.

#### III. A. 1. COMMERCE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION

Historically, industrial uses in the Ag Reserve were limited to 64 acres of land with industrial designation that predated the Master Plan and fronted the north and south sides of Atlantic Avenue east of State Road 7. In 2015, the Board of County Commissioners considered recommendations for the additional of industrial uses above and beyond those grandfathered into the Tier, and found it to be detrimental to the Tier thereby specifically directing that no new industrial future land use designations be permitted in the Ag Reserve.

However, in direct opposition to this directive, which was set in place to ensure that development did not run afoul of Objective 1.5, industrial uses in the Ag Reserve have since expanded to 92 acres. The introduction of a Commerce FLU in the Ag Reserve will secure additional expansion of a use that was not contemplated in the Ag Reserve during its inception. In order to ensure that the Ag Reserve does not evolve into the Suburban or Urban Tiers, there must be a line drawn in the sand.

1000 Friends and Sierra Club concur with the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, which expressed valid concerns in relation to the Sunflower Industrial application that the allowance of light industrial into the Ag Reserve could reduce the potential for agricultural related uses and "degrades the integrity of the process used to guide development activity in the Agricultural Reserve by creating yet another 'special case' revision to the general rules."

The Commerce FLU is a County initiative, and Planning Staff have advised that it will:

allow the Board to review and consider proposed light industrial uses to ensure that each project is appropriately located and compatible with adjacent land uses, and ensure that the approval does not introduce heavy industrial uses, which may not be appropriate at the particular location.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment Staff Report Amendment Round 22-B, p. 1 ("Staff Report")

There are a number of issues that must be taken into consideration and fully evaluated prior to the upheaval of the Comprehensive Plan to make way for additional industrial uses in the Ag Reserve, as well as concerns with the proposal by County Planning Staff before the Commission, which will be addressed in turn as follows.

#### (1) Preserve the Remaining Agricultural Lands and Fully Implement Objective 1.5

Objective 1.5 of the Future Land Use Element of the Palm Beach County Comprehensive Plan created the Agricultural Reserve Tier to govern land use development in the "unique farmland and wetlands" under the guiding objectives of the Master Plan and states in pertinent part:

Palm Beach County shall preserve the unique farmland and wetlands in order to preserve and enhance agricultural activity, environmental and water resources, and open space within the Agricultural Reserve Tier. This shall be accomplished by limiting uses to agriculture and conservation with residential development restricted to low densities and non-residential development limited to uses serving the needs of farmworkers and residents of the Tier. The Agricultural Reserve Tier shall be preserved primarily for agricultural use, reflecting the unique farmlands and wetlands within it.

The Ag Reserve is at the precipice of being built out, with the remaining agricultural lands being developed for commercial or residential purposes at an alarming rate and in exchange for less preservation. There seems to be a fallacy that the Tier has an expiration and when that is reached the remaining land is up for grabs to the highest bidder and the most skilled lobbyists to advocate for "change" beneficial to their land use desires.

Applicants for text amendments have consistently cited a reduction in farming operation as justification for opening up these lands for development. However, this is simply a red herring as smaller farming operations can still be viable through evolving farming techniques such as greenhouses, or growing more sustainable and compact crops, such as hemp. The decline of farms, or the desire to farm, does not necessitate the decrease of requirements to preserve such lands as open space or environmental and water resources.

Objective 1.5 should be implemented in full, and simply because a land may not be actively farmed does not mean that it is less deserving of preservation; as discussed herein, there are so many environmental benefits to serve the residents of the Ag Reserve and that have a net gain for the County.

The Commerce FLU amendment seeks to introduce the designation in the Tiers other than the Ag Reserve to serve those communities. There is not a need, nor justification for, the additional inclusion of industrial uses in the Ag Reserve Tier. The Comprehensive Plan was crafted and amended specifically to leave the option off the table. There will be no benefit to the Ag Reserve to allow it now.

A Commerce designation in the Ag Reserve will create another special case revision to the long-standing principles set in place to distinguish this unique Tier from the urbanized tiers and surrounding counties, and will remove such applications out of the Commissioners' and public hearing sphere for a mere checklist of requirements that can result in unintended degradation of the Ag Reserve.

#### (2) Requiring Less Preservation is the Anthesis of the Ag Reserve Principles

The Commerce designation proffers two options for preserve requirements: either for sites over 16 acres consistent with commercial designations or for sites over 50 acres. The very proffer of waiving preservation requirements for anything less than 50 acres is troubling and a clear motivation for developers to step in and utilize open space as is evidenced by the support from JMorton Planning and Landscape Architecture.

It must be noted that the Ag Reserve mandates the preservation (i.e. "the perpetual maintenance of areas in their original state") not only of agricultural lands, but also environmental and water resources, and open space. In fact, the Ag Reserve was created with an overall framework that recognized preservation of open space "was more efficient and could better accommodate a variety of public, agricultural, equestrian, and environmental uses when it consisted of large areas." Piecemeal exemptions reducing acreage requirements work in opposition to this concept.

Rather than opening up this land, and reducing preservation requirements, the County should focus on acquisition of lands to remain preserved, converted to green open space, including parks with equestrian trails, wetland restoration, additional tree canopy of natural plants such as cypress, etc. to assist with water quality and buffering, and return the Ag Reserve Tier to its unique farmland and wetlands composition rather than sprawling developments situated throughout.

#### (3) A Commerce Designation in the Ag Reserve could lead to Carte Blanche Approval

The Commerce FLU amendment does not clearly delineate which approval process will be required for applicants, be it a permit by right or conditional use subject to commission approval, but rather simply states that the amendment will "provide policy guidance for future requests for industrial including location requirements limiting the designation to major corridors, prohibiting heavy industrial uses, and requiring the provision for a preserve area for sites greater than 16 or 50 acres." *Staff Report*, p. 11.

However, during the October 2021 Workshop, County Planning Staff reiterated many times that allowing for an industrial designation in the Ag Reserve would take the review process out of the hands of the Commissioners and into the Permitting Department to ensure that a checklist of requirements had been completed.

This carte blanche permitting process would <u>remove the consideration of environmental impacts and sensitive lands</u> that may surround proposed industrial uses in the Ag Reserve where the Comprehensive Plan did not anticipate any additional industrial uses would be incorporated.

#### (4) The Commerce FLU Designation would allow Industrial Uses West of SR 7

New Policy 1.5-v: Industrial, which would allow industrial uses in the Ag Reserve, would limit the uses to locations "Fronting State Road 7;" between Florida's turnpike and SR 7 off Atlantic Avenue or Boynton Beach Boulevard; or have access to these roadways through an existing commercial or industrial site." *Staff Report*, Exhibit 1-B, p. E-5. There is no prohibition of allowing industrial uses west of State Road 7, and even more concerning, there have been approvals of industrial uses west that could be used as a precedent for creating an industrialized corridor in an area that has historically been utilized for agricultural uses and agri-business facilities as a buffer from high residential and industrial uses to maintain the integrity of the environmental resources nearby.

Objective 1.5 has clearly stated that environmental and water resources would be best preserved were development "concentrated east of SR7 ... in order to protect the environmentally sensitive lands within and surrounding the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge," as well as ensure that growth is clustered appropriate where infrastructure and services already exists in order to "reduce [] costs and impacts on taxpayers," and finally, new development should occur as "planned developments with a preserve area."

Allowing for an entire designation unanticipated, and even rejected, within the Ag Reserve to be implemented with the uncertainty of an evaluation on the detriment to important environmental and water resources is offensive to the founding principles of the Ag Reserve.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Ag Reserve is at risk of phasing out agricultural lands in favor of high-density residential, increased commercial, minuscule or elimination of preserve requirements, and low-industrial sectors. To allow for the continued increase of density and intensity beyond the original intention of the Comprehensive Plan would nullify the very spirit of the Ag Reserve and would mutate the environmentally sensitive and rural lands into an urbanized area indistinguishable from the rest of Palm Beach County.

For the reasons set forth herein, 1000 Friends of Florida and Sierra Club Loxahatchee group respectfully request that the Planning Commission recommend *Denial of Initiating the Commerce FLU Designation*.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,

Heidi Mehaffey, Esq. Robert N. Hartsell, P.A. Fla. Bar No. 118806

CC: 1000 Friends of Florida Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group



## MANAGING GROWTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN GREATER WEST BOYNTON SINCE 1981 Over 110 Member Communities

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Ms. Lisa Amara Palm Beach County PZB, Zoning Division 2300 N Jog Rd

West Palm Beach, FL 33411Via Email: lamara@pbcgov.org

Re: March 11, 2022 Discussion about Ag Reserve Items

Dear Ms. Amara,

On behalf of our members, we would like to provide the following input about the 3/11/2022 Ag Reserve Discussion Items:

COBWRA understands and acknowledges the continued desire for developers to propose new development within the Ag Reserve, specifically ones that are industrial in use. We also understand and acknowledge property owner rights should they have a desire to sell their property and "cash out". However, paramount to these discussions is ensuring future development occurs in a sensible and reasonable manner, of which great priority is given to protecting existing uses to include but not limited to equestrian businesses, agricultural operations and residential communities.

Specific to the proposed County Initiated text amendment, we offer our position on the following:

#### 1. CMR Designation

- COBWRA supports CMR Guidelines 1 through 4 under new Policy 1.5v: Industrial.
- COWBRA does not support CMR Guideline 5 (Option 1 or Option 2). COWBRA's preserve percentage is discussed in #2 noted below.

#### 2. Maintain 60% Preserve Requirements

- COBWRA supports requiring this for sites over 10 acres, consistent with the commercial designations.
- COBWRA does not support allowing developments under 50 acres to not have a
  preserve requirement. This designation would be detrimental the Agricultural Reserve
  and would completely dismantle the uniqueness and quaintness of this area of Palm
  Beach County. This would essentially allow developers to pave over millions of square
  feet without setting aside land to offset their impact. We recognize the need for
  development, but this designation is NOT what this area of Palm Beach County was
  ever envisioned to be.

#### 3. Limit Industrial Property Sizes

 COBWRA recognizes that very specific industrial uses, specific to their location and size, are meaningful to serve the residents and businesses of the Agricultural Reserve.

PO Box 740814, Boynton Beach, FL 33474-0814 • 561-572-9151

E-mail: info@cobwra.org • www.cobwra.org • www.facebook.com/COBWRA



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Paul Gellis
Al Miller
Philip Leslie
Kenneth Sanden
Dr. Richard

We agree with the guidelines set forth for CMR, to include site specific locations, however, recommend limiting the property size to a maximum of 10 acres for small scale industrial development. This allows for sensible growth, while maintaining a proper scale for this area of Palm Beach County. Most importantly, this position would allow 4 of the 7 previously proposed private FLU amendments for industrial to fit the criteria for property size. Medium or Large-scale Light Industrial has no place in the Agricultural reserve and is simply incompatible with existing uses.

#### 4. Light Industrial Uses that are Compatible for "CMR" / Ag Reserve

- COBWRA supports the following Light Industrial uses (attached) within the newly designated CMR/Ag Reserve, however, none of these uses should be permitted by right. The applicant must go through Planning Commission and BCC public hearing processes.
- These uses were reviewed one by one with the Boynton Ag Reserve Communities (BARC) at a roundtable meeting held in Canyon Lakes on September 28, 2021, generating consensuses amongst representatives of the following 8 communities:
  - · Canyon Lakes
  - · Canyon Isles
  - Canyon Springs
  - · Canyon Trail
  - Valencia Reserve
  - Valencia Cove
  - Valencia Bay
  - Cobblestone Creek

We look forward to working collaboratively and to providing additional suggestions during this process.

Most Sincerely,

## Beth Rappaport

BETH RAPPAPORT, President

On behalf of the Coalition of Boynton West Residential Associations

PO Box 740814, Boynton Beach, FL 33474-0814 • 561-572-9151

E-mail: info@cobwra.org • www.cobwra.org • www.facebook.com/COBWRA

Carrington

COBWRA REVIEW OF IL USES WITHIN "CMR" / AG RESERVE. USES THAT SHOULD BE PROHIBITED ARE CROSSED OUT.

# Exhibit 2 Industrial Uses

	AGR	IL	IG	IND/ MUPD	EDC	PIPD/ IL Pod	PIPD/ IG Pod	PIPD/ Com Pod
Agricultural uses								
Agriculture, bona fide	Р	Α	Α					
Agriculture, Light Manufacturing	D	Р	Р					
Agriculture, Packing Plant	D	D	D					
Agriculture, Research/Development	D	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	
Agriculture, Sales & Service	В							P
Agriculture, Storage	Р	Р	Р					
Agriculture, Transshipment	D	D	Р	Р	Р	Р	Р	
Aviculture, Hobby Breeder	Р	Р	Р					
Community vegetable garden	Р	Р	Р					
Equestrian arena, commercial	D	В	В					
Farmer's Market	D	Р	Р			Р	Р	P
Nursery, retail	Р	В	В					Р
Nursery, wholesale	Р	Р	Р			Р	Р	
Potting soil manufacturing	D	В	D					
Produce Stand	S	S	S					
Shadehouse	Р	Р	Р					
Stable, commercial	D	D	D					
Stable, private	Р							
Sugar mill or refinery			Α				P	
Commercial uses								
Adult entertainment		B	D			D		D
Auction, indoor	P	Je J	Р	Р		Р	Р	P
Auction, outdoor	Р	þ	Р	Α		P	P	Α
Car wash		B		P		P	P	P
Catering Service		P	Р	P		D	D	P
Dispatching office		P.	Р	P		P	P	Α
Dog day-care		P		Р		P		D
Electric Vehicle Charging Station		D	D	D		D	D	D
Kennel, Commercial	В							D
Landscape maintenance service		Z	Р	Р	D	P	Р	P
Laundry services		A	Α	Α		Α	Α	P
Marina		مح	P					Α
Microbrewery		D	D	D	D	D	D	Α
Repair and maintenance, Heavy		مح	Р	Р		Р	P	Α
Repair and maintenance, Light		مح	Р	Р		D	D	Р
Repair services, limited		مح		Р		Р		Р

22-B County Initiated Text Amendment

E - 7

Commerce (CMR) Future Land Use

IND/ PIPD/ PIPD/ PIPD/ AGR **EDC** IL IG MUPD IL Pod IG Pod Com Pod Self-service storage, Limited D. D D D D. D D Α Self-service storage, Multi-access Vehicle Equip. sales & rental, Heavy A Α Α Р Α Ρ Veterinary clinic Ρ Vocational school P Ρ Р Р Р **Industrial uses** B. Ρ Р D Ρ Ρ Contractor's storage yard Р Ρ Р Р Ρ Ρ Ρ **Data Information Processing** D. D Р Р Р Ρ D **Distribution Facility** Α **Equestrian Waste Management** A Α D Α Gas and fuel, wholesale A Ρ D Α P Heavy industry A R P Ρ Р Р Ρ Machine or welding shop P D Ρ Ρ Α Ρ Ρ Manufacturing and processing Р Р Р Ρ Ρ Ρ Medical or dental laboratory Р Ρ Multi-media production Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ D Р Ρ Α Recycling center A Α **Recycling plant** A D Α Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Α Ρ Ρ Research & Development Α Α R Salvage or junk yard P Ρ Ρ Towing service and storage Ρ Truck stop A Α Α R R Р Р Ρ Р D P Ρ Warehousing R Р Р Ρ Р Ρ D Wholesaling, general Institutional, Public and civic uses **Animal Shelter** D Assembly, nonprofit institutional Α Α Α Α College or university A Α Α **Crematory** Α D Day care center, limited D Α Α Day care center, general Р D D D Funeral home Р Government services D Ρ Ρ Ρ Р Р Ρ Homeless Resource Center A Α D D D D Place of worship Α School, elementary or secondary Α Α **Recreational uses** Golf course D Α Ρ Ρ Α Р Р Park, Neighborhood infill Р Ρ Ρ Ρ Ρ Park, passive Ρ Р Ρ

ALREADY HAVE ONE

22-B County Initiated Text Amendment

E - 8

Commerce (CMR) Future Land Use

	AGR	IL	IG	IND/ MUPD	EDC	PIPD/ IL Pod	PIPD/ IG Pod	PIPD/ Com Pod
Park, public		D	D	Р				Р
Shooting range, indoor		B	Р	Α		P	Р	Α
Transportation								
Airport			Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Heliport or helipad		B	D	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Landing strip			Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Seaplane Facility			Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	
Utility								
Chipping and mulching	D	В	D	В		В	D	
Composting facility	D	B	D	P		P	P	
Electric Distribution Substation	D	B	D	D	D	D	D	D
Electric power plant		A	Α	Α		Α	Α	Α
Electric Transmission Substation	Α	A	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Utility, minor	D	B	D	D	D	D	D	D
Renewable Energy Solar Facility	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Renewable Energy Wind Facility	Α	A	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Solid waste transfer station		A	В	Α		P	P	Α
Water or wastewater treat. plant		B	D	Α		P	Р	
Excavation								
Agricultural Excavation	Α	A	Α					
Type 1A Excavation	P							
Type 1B Excavation	D							
Type 2 Excavation	Α	A	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α	Α
Type 3A Excavation		A	Α					
Type 3B Excavation		A	Α					

## Key:

- P Permitted by Right
- S Subject to Special Permit Approval
- D Subject to DRO Approval
- B Conditional Use Class B, Subject to Zoning Commission Approval
- A Conditional Use Class A, Subject to BCC Approval

Blank – Prohibited use, unless stated otherwise within Supplementary Use Standards