## STATE OF NEVADA



## **Department of Conservation & Natural Resources**

Joe Lombardo, *Governor*James A. Settelmeyer, *Director*Charles Donohue, *Administrator* 

July 31, 2023

Julee Olander, Planner Washoe County Community Services Department Planning and Building Division 1001 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street Reno, NV 89512

Re: Extension Request – Case Number WAC23-0007 (Greenview Garages) for Case Number WPVAR 19-0001

Dear Ms. Olander:

I am writing to provide comments on the above referenced application that is scheduled to be heard at the Washoe County Board of Adjustment on August 3, 2023. This letter marks multiple occasions over the past four years that the State of Nevada has voiced strong opposition to the variance granted for the construction of a two-car garage adjacent to State parcel APN 128-243-01. The Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL) further opposes a six-month extension for a building permit to construct the two-car garage. In 2019, the NDSL identified a serious issue and concern associated with the proposed development that would be detrimental to State land and should be considered during the review.

The request to reduce the northwest setback from **15 feet to 1.5 feet** to accommodate the construction of a two-car garage, will negatively impact adjacent parcels. A reduced setback of 1.5 feet from the property line will increase disturbance to the natural environment, redirect runoff, decrease water quality, and create issues with heavy equipment activity, construction access and parking. The setback variance alters the open space residential landscape, decreases property value for surrounding parcels and undermines the State of Nevada's conservation goals for urban parcels. In addition, it is our opinion that the location of the subject site could allow for the construction of a garage that would meet the normal Washoe County required setbacks by using a different configuration.

The effects of encroachments can be long lasting with many taking decades to reverse. An 80% variance to the required setback is not consistent with the management objectives for State land in the Tahoe Basin. The NDSL looks to local government partners in the Basin to recognize our long-term management goals. We realize that not all variances pose issues on State land; and we feel strongly that this particular case could result in many hours and public dollars being spent to try to mitigate the negative impacts of this decision.

The NDSL hereby requests for Washoe County to deny the Extension Request – Case Number WAC23-0007 Greenview Garages.

Should you have any questions regarding our concerns, please contact me at (775) 684-2736 or via email at mgosejohan@lands.nv.gov

Sincerely,

Meredith Gosejohan Tahoe Program Manager Nevada Tahoe Resource Team

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cc: Scott Carey, Nevada Division of State Lands Alexis Hill, Washoe County Commission Chair