



Planning Commission Staff Report

Meeting Date: November 4, 2025

Agenda Item: 8B

DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT
CASE NUMBER:

WDCA25-0008 (Small Housing and
Infill Development)

BRIEF SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Development Code Amendments to establish standards to support small lot and infill development, and to modify accessory dwelling unit regulations, cottage court regulations, and clarify common open space regulations.

STAFF PLANNER:

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CASE DESCRIPTION

For hearing, discussion and possible action to initiate an amendment to Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) in Division Three- Regulation of Uses, Division Four- Development Standards, and Division Nine- General Provisions. These amendments include adding various sections to: establish small lot residential development standards and establish infill residential and commercial standards. These amendments also include amending various sections to: include an example of the multi-family, minor residential use type and allow cottage courts on multiple parcels; modify the maximum size of attached and detached accessory dwelling units from 50% to 80% the size of the main dwelling; modify the maximum floor area from 1,000 square feet to 1,200 square feet for cottage court developments; specify that only one community accessory structure is allowed for every four (4) cottages in a cottage court development; clarify the calculation of setbacks for cottage court developments; modify lot and yard standards for common open space developments; add various definitions; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto.

If the proposed amendments are initiated, the Planning Commission may recommend approval of the proposed ordinance as submitted, recommend approval with modifications based on input and discussion at the public hearing, or deny the proposed ordinance. If approval is recommended, the Planning Commission is asked to authorize the Chair to sign a resolution to that effect.

Development Code: Authorized in Article 818, Amendment of Development Code
Commission District: All Districts

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

**INITIATE AND
RECOMMEND
APPROVAL**

DENY

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Development Code Amendments

The Washoe County Development Code is Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code (WCC). The development code broadly regulates allowable and permitted land uses, subdivision of land, planning permit requirements and procedures, signage, infrastructure availability, land use development standards, and other related matters. Because the development code covers so many varying aspects of land use and development standards, it is expected that from time to time it may be necessary to change or amend one or more portions of the Development Code to keep it up to date with the most current and desirable trends in planning and development.

The development code amendment process provides a method of review and analysis for such proposed changes. Development code amendments may be initiated by the Washoe County Commission, the Washoe County Planning Commission, or an owner of real property. Development code amendments are initiated by resolution of the Washoe County Commission or the Planning Commission. Real property owners may submit an application to initiate a development code amendment.

After initiation, the Planning Commission considers the proposed amendment in a public hearing. The Planning Commission may recommend approval, approval with modifications or may deny of the proposed amendment. The Planning Commission records its recommendation by resolution.

The Washoe County Commission hears all amendments recommended for approval, and amendments denied upon appeal. The County Commission will hold a first reading and introduction of the ordinance (proposed amendment), followed by a second reading and possible ordinance adoption in a public hearing at a second meeting at least two weeks after the first reading. Unless otherwise specified, ordinances are effective 10 days after adoption.

Background and Proposed Amendments

Housing affordability and attainability are identified in strategic planning and vision documents as one of the most pressing issues in Washoe County. Currently, 49.7% of renters in Washoe County are cost burdened (e.g. spend more than 30% of household income on housing costs). This disproportionately impacts seniors, 63.6% of whom are cost burdened, and young renters (15-24 years old), 61.4% of whom are cost burdened (see Figure 1 below). In addition to existing affordability issues, the [2024 Consensus Forecast](#) anticipates that unincorporated Washoe County will need to absorb up to a 15,757-person population increase between 2024 and 2044. Diversifying housing opportunities for both rental and purchase will help provide lower cost options for these

groups, supporting seniors and all parts of our community throughout the different stages of their lives.

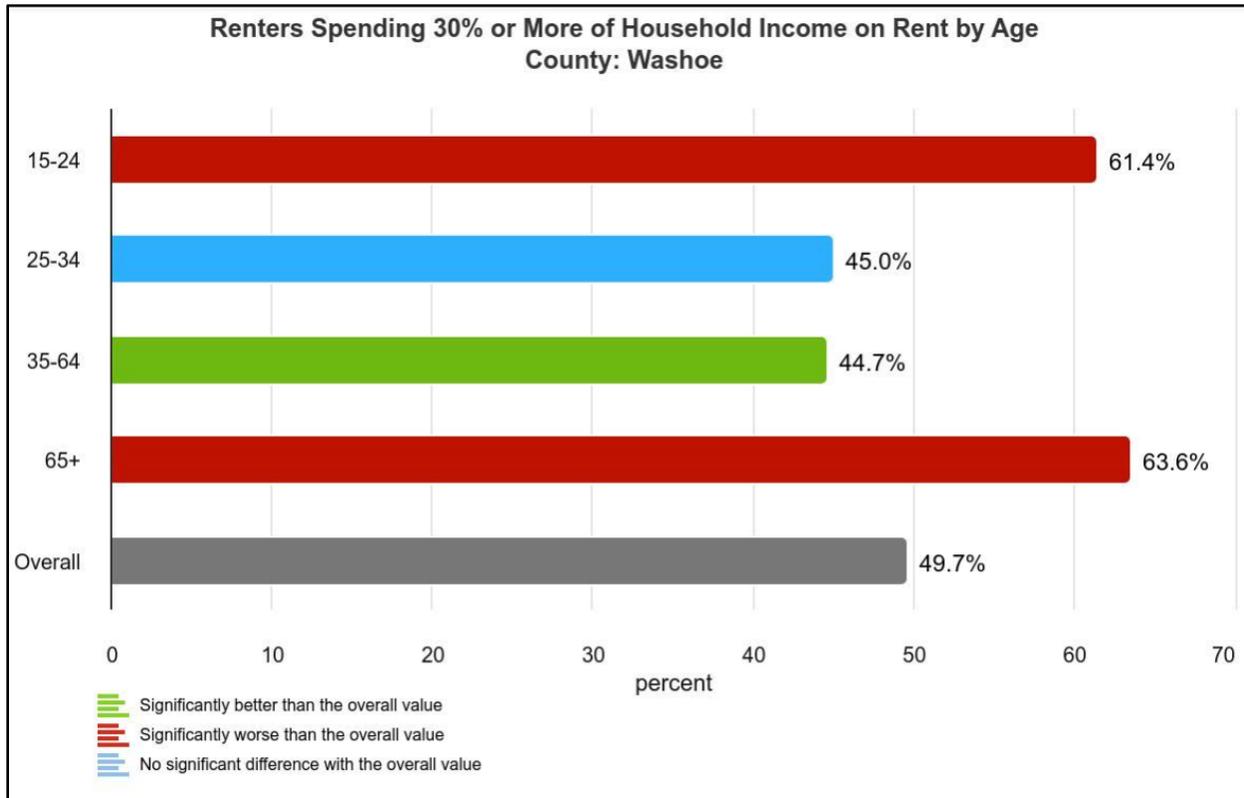


Figure 1: Cost Burdened Households by Age

On November 14, 2023, the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) identified amendments to Washoe County Code to increase housing affordability and accessibility in Washoe County. To date, three separate packages of development code amendments have been adopted which decreased barriers to accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and multifamily housing and expanded allowances for “missing-middle” housing. WDCA25-0008 (Small Housing and Infill Development) focuses on creating new standards and improving existing regulations to support the provision of small housing and infill development. This includes changes to increase flexibility in ADU regulations, changes to allow cottage court subdivisions, new standards to support the development of small and middle housing, and other amendments. Some of the proposed amendments are also identified as an action in Chapter Three of Envision Washoe 2040, specifically ongoing/immediate action items to:

- “Revise the accessory dwelling units section of the Development Code to expand options and reduce regulatory barriers.”
- “Update the development code to remove barriers to provision of affordable and workforce housing consistent with ongoing Washoe County strategic planning efforts.”

Explanations of proposed changes and redlines for each section of code are in the following subsections of the staff report. The proposed text additions are shown in **red**

bold. All deletions are shown in ~~red strike through~~. Only the modified subsections of code are shown.

Article 304 Use Classification System

Two minor revisions to residential uses in Article 304 are proposed:

- Include “courtyard apartments” as an example of the multi-family, minor residential use type.
- Modify the cottage court definition to allow cottage court subdivisions.

The addition of courtyard apartments as an example of the multi-family, minor residential use type is to assist potential developers in understanding what is allowed under Washoe County Code. As part of the amendments to Article 902, Definitions, staff is also proposing a definition for courtyard apartments, which is provided later in this staff report. Developers may search for keywords in the development code and, if they do not find them, assume such a use is not allowed. Adding keywords increases the clarity of the code for those who use it. The modification to the cottage court definition enables dwelling units in cottage courts to be divided and sold individually, which will be regulated by proposed changes to Article 313. The proposed changes to Article 304 are as follows:

Section 110.304.15 Residential Use Types. Residential use types include the occupancy of living accommodations, but exclude institutional living arrangements providing twenty-four-hour skilled nursing, custodial or medical care and those providing forced residence, such as asylums and prisons.

(a) Family Residential. The family residential use type refers to the occupancy of living quarters by one (1) or more households. The following are family residential use types:

(1) Multi-Family, Minor. Multi-family, minor refers to the use of a parcel for between five (5) and twenty (20) dwelling units within one (1) or more buildings, excluding cottage court developments (**e.g. courtyard apartments**).

(4) Cottage Court. Cottage court refers to a housing development of between two (2) and twelve (12) small-scale single family detached dwellings on one **or multiple** parcel(s) that interact together as a small community and meet the standards of WCC 110.313.05.

Article 306 Accessory Uses and Structures

Changes are proposed in Article 306 to the attached and detached accessory dwelling unit regulations, in order to potentially increase the maximum size for ADUs from 50% to 80% the size of the main dwelling. No changes are proposed to the maximum square footage for ADU's, i.e. - 1,500 sf (for most regulatory zones) or 1,200 sf (for the medium density suburban regulatory zone only). One source of diverse and attainable housing can be accessory dwelling units (ADUs). The [Truckee Meadows Regional Strategy for Housing Affordability](#) (TMRSHA) highlights that the smaller size and lower development costs of ADUs generally makes them more affordable (pg. 70). ADUs provide a unique housing option that enables various living arrangements for County residents, including

multi-generational living, caretaker's residences, low-cost rentals, and more. The opportunities of ADUs go beyond just affordability: they can be part of an overall strategy to prepare for an aging population, increase income diversity within neighborhoods, and provide economic opportunity that allows homeowners to age-in-place even as their income is limited in retirement (TMRSHA, pg. 70).

Currently, Washoe County Code limits both attached and detached ADUs to 50% the size of the main dwelling or 1,500 sf (for most regulatory zones) or 1,200 sf (for the medium density suburban regulatory zone only), whichever is smaller. Therefore, residents with smaller principal dwellings may be limited to very small ADU sizes. For example, a parcel with a 1,200 square foot primary residence would be allowed a maximum of 600 sf for an ADU under the current regulations. People with smaller homes often inquire about developing ADUs for family members or other purposes, and staff has found that the 50% proportionality requirement is a discouraging factor. Due to the potential benefits of ADUs as described above, staff proposes to change the proportionality requirement from 50% to 80%, to better facilitate ADU development on parcels with smaller primary residences. An 80% requirement still maintains the accessory nature of ADUs but lowers barriers for those with small homes. The impact of this change will mostly be for parcels with small homes, since the overall maximum sizes of 1,500 sf and 1,200 sf will remain. The proposed changes to Article 306 are as follows:

Section 110.306.20 Attached Accessory Dwellings. Attached accessory dwelling unit is defined in Article 304, Use Classification System, under Section 110.304.15, Residential Use Types. Attached accessory dwellings are permitted in the General Rural (GR), General Rural Agricultural (GRA), and the Residential Regulatory Zones, pursuant to all of the following regulations:

- (d) Parcels with single-family dwellings. Except in the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the High Density Suburban (HDS) Regulatory Zone, and all urban regulatory zones, the attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit or fifteen hundred (1,500) square feet, whichever is smaller. In the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the High Density Suburban Regulatory Zone, and all urban regulatory zones, the attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit or 1,200 square feet, whichever is smaller. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space.

Section 110.306.25 Detached Accessory Dwellings. Detached accessory dwelling unit is defined in Article 304, Use Classification System, under Section 110.304.15, Residential Use Types. Any detached accessory dwelling unit must adhere to the following requirements:

- (d) Parcels with single-family dwellings. Except for in the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed fifteen hundred (1,500) square feet, or ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, whichever is

smaller. In the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed twelve hundred (1,200) square feet or ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, whichever is smaller. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space. The maximum permitted square footage of a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not be increased by use of the variance process contained in Article 804, Variances, except for conversion of a guest house, that was legally constructed prior to May 26, 1993, to a detached accessory dwelling unit.

Article 313 Employee and Cottage Court Housing

Housing Package 2.5a established the cottage court use type and the associated regulations in Article 313. Initially, cottage courts were envisioned as a rentable use type where a single owner may own a parcel with up to 12 cottages. However, staff also recognizes that cottage courts could provide an opportunity for home ownership, particularly of smaller “starter homes.” To enable individually ownable cottages in cottage courts, changes are proposed to Article 313 that would allow the creation of cottage court subdivisions. These provisions would allow the cottages to be divided onto individual parcels and describe how developments with multiple cottage clusters of 2-12 cottages could be permitted. Other improvements to the cottage court regulations are also proposed, including limiting community accessory structures to one per every four cottages and increasing the maximum cottage size from 1,000 sf to 1,200 sf. These changes ensure that cottage court developments aren’t cluttered with accessory structures and that cottages are large enough to accommodate families, in addition to one or two person households.

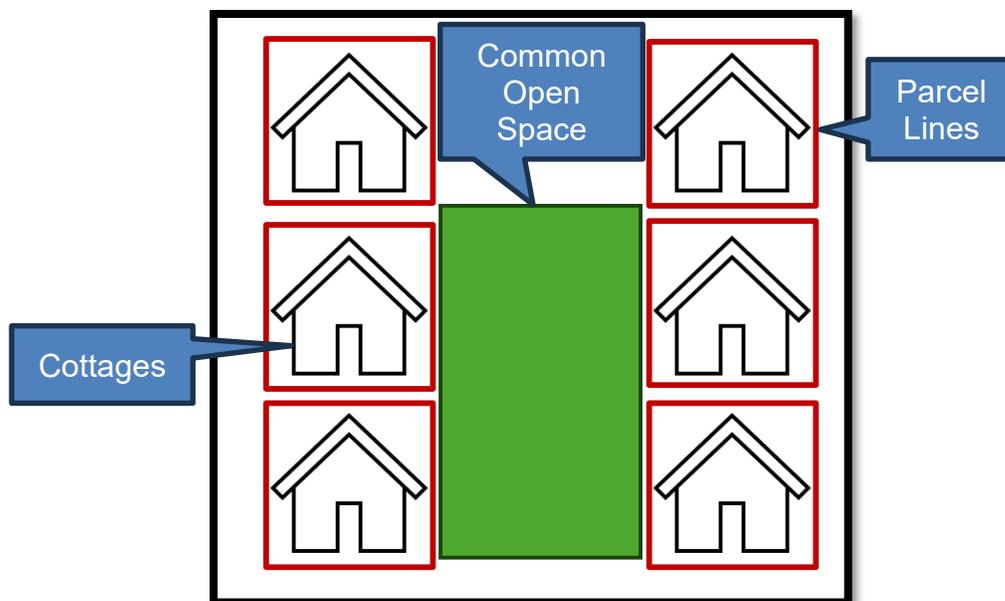


Figure 2 Cottage Court Subdivision with One Cottage Cluster

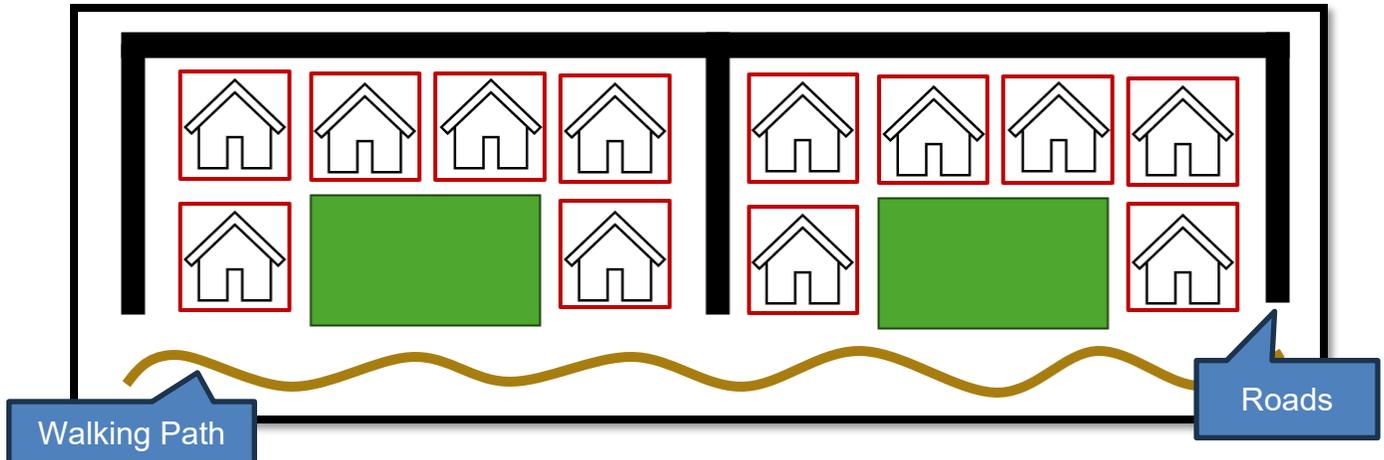


Figure 3 Cottage Court Subdivision with Multiple Clusters

The proposed changes to Article 313 are as follows:

Section 110.313.05 Cottage Court Developments. Cottage court developments shall be subject to the following standards:

- (a) The maximum floor area for each cottage shall be ~~4,000~~ **1,200** square feet. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the cottage, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space.
- (h) Community accessory structures are permitted, subject to the applicable standards of Article 306. They shall not count towards the minimum common open space square footage requirement. **No more than one community accessory structure is permitted per four cottages.**
- (i) Cottage court developments must be connected to sanitary sewer.
- (j) **Cottage court developments may be on a single parcel or contain separate parcels for each cottage. Required setbacks are measured from the edge of the cottage cluster development area for the purpose of calculating perimeter setbacks from surrounding properties. Parcels containing an individual cottage shall be exempt from minimum lot size regulations. For buildings on lots within the cottage court development, the separation between other buildings is measured, not the distances to property lines interior to the cottage cluster.**
- (k) **Cottage court developments may include multiple cottage clusters with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 12 cottages per cluster. However, there can be no more than one cluster on a single parcel. Each cluster must individually meet the standards of sections 110.313.05(a) through (i).**

Article 404 Lot Standards

In order to create new opportunities for the development of small dwellings and other types of housing that tend to be more affordable, staff is proposing new small lot development standards. These standards can be utilized by subdivisions containing exclusively single-family detached homes 1,200 square feet or smaller, single-family attached homes, and/or middle housing types. During public outreach for previous housing-related development code amendments, staff received feedback that some development code standards make it difficult to develop smaller houses on smaller lots, even when a parcel is zoned for a higher residential density. The proposed standards address that barrier to housing provision for providing alternate standards when a subdivision is entirely composed of the aforementioned types of housing that Washoe County is trying to encourage. The small lot development standards include alternate minimum setback and lot size requirements, in addition to alternate roadway design allowances.

Staff is also proposing residential and commercial infill standards to enable appropriate development and redevelopment of already built-up areas. Infill standards are common throughout the nation and recognize the challenge of redeveloping vacant or underutilized parcels in areas that were developed prior to zoning regulations. Due to development pre-dating regulations, such areas tend to be non-conforming and new development compliant with zoning regulations is therefore inconsistent with the prevailing community development style and character. Furthermore, such areas tend to also be important to the community as “town centers.”

The proposed infill standards target the parts of Washoe County with a development pattern that is challenging to redevelop under current regulations and could benefit from infill standards: Verdi, Sun Valley, Wadsworth, and Gerlach. Parcels in those areas will only qualify for infill standards when they are under a certain size which makes them difficult to develop to typical minimum zoning standards. Exhibit C shows maps of the impacted parcels for each area. Parcels within common open space developments or created after 2025 will not qualify for infill standards, regardless of their size and location. The proposed changes to Article 404 are as follows:

Section 110.404.05 Lot Standards. The minimum lot area and lot width are set forth in ~~Part Two of~~ Table 110.406.05.1. The minimum lot area is limited by the ability to maintain the dwelling unit per acre standard set forth in Part One of Table 110.406.05.1.

Section 110.404.30. Small Lot Development Standards. Parcel maps or subdivisions entirely composed of single family detached homes 1,200 square feet or smaller, single family attached homes, and/or middle housing types can utilize the following small lot development standards:

- (a) The side yard setback may be reduced to 5 feet, the rear yard setback to 10 feet, and the front yard setback to 10 feet for the living space and 20 feet for the garage.

- (b) The rear yard setback for garages may be reduced to 5 feet when the garage is accessed from an alley and the dwelling unit faces another street or open space.
- (c) The minimum lot size may be reduced by 50% of the minimum allowed in the subject regulatory zone, or 3,700 square feet, whichever is larger.
- (d) The development may utilize privately maintained roadways that do not have parallel parking lanes and instead incorporate perpendicular parking banks and drive aisles with a minimum width of 24 feet, designed to the satisfaction of the County Engineer.
- (e) Single family detached homes within parcel maps or subdivisions utilizing the small lot development standards herein shall be limited to 1,200 square feet of living space at the time of the issuance of the initial certificate of occupancy. Homes may be expanded under future permits, subject to compliance with setbacks and other applicable development standards.
- (f) Nothing herein shall prevent applicants from varying standards through the common open space development process.

Section 110.404.35 Infill Standards. Infill development standards are intended to encourage the efficient development of underutilized parcels in areas that are primarily built out. The infill development standards set forth in sections 110.404.40 and 110.404.45 may be utilized by parcels considered infill development as defined in Article 902 and located in the following areas:

- (a) The Verdi Planning Area
- (b) The Sun Valley Planning Area
- (c) The Wadsworth Community Area
- (d) The Gerlach Community Area

Section 110.404.40 Residential Infill. Residential infill incentives and standards are established in this section and may be utilized by any permitted development on parcels zoned low density suburban that are 26,250 square feet or smaller, parcels zoned medium density suburban that are 9,000 square feet or smaller, and parcels zoned high density suburban that are 3,750 square feet or smaller. They may not be used by parcels within a common open space parcel map or subdivision, or parcels created after calendar year 2025. Any parcel utilizing the incentives herein must also meet all the standards set forth herein.

- (a) If the proposed project front yard setback is equal to or greater than the average (mean) existing minimum front yard setbacks of legally nonconforming structures on adjoining parcels, reduced front yard setbacks will be permitted. Driveways must be at least 20 feet in length in order to accommodate the parking of a vehicle.
- (b) One off-street parking space shall be provided per dwelling unit. Other parking requirements in Article 410 shall apply.
- (c) Building orientation on infill lots shall match the predominant orientation of other buildings along the street frontage.
- (d) The access and off-street parking site design shall be similar to that of existing developments along the street frontage.
- (e) For middle housing projects utilizing infill development, the parking shall be located to the rear or side of the proposed structures.

Section 110.404.45 Commercial Infill. Commercial infill standards and incentives are established in this section and may be utilized by any permitted development on parcels zoned general commercial or neighborhood commercial that are 21,780 square feet or smaller. They may not be used by any parcel created after calendar year 2025. Any parcel utilizing the incentives herein must also meet all the standards set forth herein.

- (a) Building orientation on infill lots shall match the predominant orientation of other buildings along the street frontage.
- (b) The access and off-street parking shall be similar to that of existing developments along the street frontage.
- (c) Setbacks for structures may be reduced to 10 feet from the front property line, 5 feet from the side property lines, and 5 feet from the rear property line.

Article 408 Common Open Space Development

The most frequently utilized method for creating smaller parcels under existing county code is common open space developments. Common open space development allows the variation of standards such as lot width and setbacks in exchange for the provision of common open space and a design that provides community benefit. Currently, the section of code that enables the variation of minimum standards requires applicants to show “typical building envelopes” on tentative maps. However, applicants often simply propose alternate setbacks which are codified in the conditions of approval. This method results in easy enforcement without the showing of building envelopes. Staff is therefore proposing a change to allow applicants to propose alternate setbacks or show typical building envelopes. The proposed changes to Article 408 are as follows:

Section 110.408.25 Lot and Yard Standards. The complete common open space development must comply with the minimum lot width, front yard setbacks, side yard setbacks, and rear yard setbacks in Table 110.406.05.1, Standards, or **can vary those minimum standards in the following manners: ~~as an alternative,~~**

- (a) **Show** typical building envelopes ~~shall be shown~~ on the tentative subdivision map or parcel map where these standards are proposed to be varied below the minimum standard.; **or**
- (b) **Propose alternative setbacks for the development which, if approved, will be memorialized in the conditions of approval.**

Article 902 Definitions

In order to ensure clarity in the proposed regulations, a few new definitions are proposed. The proposed changes to Article 902 are as follows:

Building Orientation. "Building orientation" refers to the placement and alignment of a building on a lot in relation to property lines, streets, access, and adjacent development.

Cottage. "Cottage" refers to a detached single family dwelling under 1,200 square feet and part of a cottage court development.

Cottage Cluster. "Cottage cluster" refers to a group of 2 through 12 cottages in a cottage court development that are arranged as a small community and meet the requirements for a cottage court. A cottage court development may contain one or multiple cottage clusters.

Courtyard Apartments. A residential development that shares a landscaped courtyard. The structure or structures are arranged around a garden court with parking consolidated and located to the side or rear of the development. All structures are connected by ADA compliant pedestrian pathways. Courtyard apartments fall under the multi-family minor or multi-family residential use types, depending on the number of units.

Infill Development. "Infill development" is the development or redevelopment of vacant or underutilized parcels located within existing developed areas where infrastructure is already in place and the parcel is surrounded by existing development on at least three sides, or two sides if located on a corner lot.

Findings

Washoe County Code Section 110.818.15(e) requires the Planning Commission to make at least one of the following findings of fact. Staff provides the following evaluation for each of the findings of fact and recommends that the Planning Commission make all four findings in support of the proposed Development Code amendment.

1. **Consistency with Master Plan.** The proposed development code amendment is in substantial compliance with the policies and action programs of the Washoe County Master Plan.

Staff comment: *This finding can be made for the following reasons:*

- *The proposed amendments to amend cottage court requirements, common open space requirements, and accessory dwelling unit (ADU) requirements directly address two ongoing and immediate action items identified in Chapter 3 of Envision Washoe 2040. The amendments conform with Population and Housing Policy PH3.2, which directs the county to reduce regulatory barriers to affordable and workforce housing, and PH3.5, which directs the county to require and/or incentivize a mixture of housing types.*
 - *The proposed amendments directly address one of the four cross-cutting themes of Envision Washoe 2040, which is diversifying housing. Refining ADU and cottage court regulations directly enables the creation of more types of housing in Washoe County, so that residents have accessible options at all stages in their lives.*
2. Promotes the Purpose of the Development Code. The proposed development code amendment will not adversely impact the public health, safety or welfare, and will promote the original purposes for the development code as expressed in Article 918, Adoption of Development Code.

Staff comment: *This finding can be made for the following reasons:*

- *The proposed amendments promote the original purpose of the Development Code as expressed in Article 918, Adoption of Development Code, which include “promote[ing] public health [and] safety” (WCC 110.918.10(a)).*
 - *The amendments will promote public health and safety by reducing regulatory barriers to housing in general, supporting the diversification of housing types, and supporting the expansion of housing supply in Washoe County. It is well recognized that housing affordability is a social determinant of health; that is to say, unaffordable housing is linked to many negative health outcomes.¹ The proposed changes would support increasing the supply of accessible, quality, and safe housing by easing regulations related to cottage court subdivisions; by modifying ADU proportionality requirements to allow those with smaller houses to build ADUs that can more than 1-2 persons; and by creating infill standards to support commercial and residential redevelopment in areas that historically have been under-invested. These changes lower barriers to housing development while not adversely affecting public health and safety.*
3. Response to Changed Conditions. The proposed development code amendment responds to changed conditions or further studies that have occurred since the Development Code was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, and the requested amendment allow for a more desirable utilization of land within the regulatory zones.

Staff comment: *This finding can be made for the following reasons:*

¹ Carolyn B. Swope, Diana Hernández. Housing as a determinant of health equity: A conceptual model. *Social Science & Medicine*, Volume 243, 2019.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7146083/#R199>.

- *As described within this staff report, the proposed amendments respond to an increased demand for more diverse and accessible housing options. They support the creation of smaller housing units by allowing more flexibility in ADU allowances, easing regulations related to cottage court subdivisions, and incentivizing infill development.*
 - *Unincorporated Washoe County is expected to absorb up to a 15,757-person population increase through 2044 and the proposed changes will provide for more attainable and affordable housing use types throughout unincorporated Washoe County.*
4. No Adverse Affects. The proposed development code amendment will not adversely affect the implementation of the policies and action programs of the Conservation Element or the Population Element of the Washoe County Master Plan.

Staff comment: *This finding is able to be made for the following reasons:*

- *The Conservation Element addresses protecting sensitive and important lands, cooperation with other agencies to minimize wildlife conflicts, and considerations for air quality, among other policies. The Conservation Element does not prohibit development code amendments, nor does it prohibit the addition of new housing use types.*
- *The Population and Housing Element specifically identifies opportunities to enhance the ability for the population to age in place, including improved public transportation and expanded housing diversity and options. These amendments explicitly pursue these goals by modifying regulations for ADUs and cottage court subdivisions.*
- *The Population and Housing Element has the following action items, which WDCA25-0008 is attempting to complete.*
 - *“Align zoning with the Regional Plan, particularly allowing a greater diversity of housing types.”*
 - *“Support a greater mix of housing types (including infill development) and implement identified opportunities.”*
- *The following policies are outlined within the Population and Housing Element and supported by these amendments.*
 - *“3.1. Allow for more flexibility in the zoning and land use regulations to enable more housing types to be built throughout the community where adequate infrastructure exists.”*
 - *“3.4. Support accessory dwelling units as a method of providing affordable and workforce housing.”*

Public Notice

Pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 110.818.20, notice of this public hearing was published in the newspaper at least 10 days prior to this meeting. Members of the Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs) also received notice, as a courtesy.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Washoe County Planning Commission recommend approval of WDCA25-0008, to amend Washoe County Chapter 110 (Development Code) within Articles 304, 306, 313, 404, 408, and 902. The following motion is provided for your consideration.

Motion

I move that, after giving reasoned consideration to the information contained in the staff report and information received during the public hearing, the Washoe County Planning Commission recommend approval of WDCA25-0008, to amend Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) within Articles 304, 306, 313, 404, 408, and 902, as reflected within the proposed ordinance contained in Exhibit A-1. I further move to authorize the Chair to sign the resolution contained in Exhibit A on behalf of the Washoe County Planning Commission and to direct staff to present a report of this Commission's recommendation to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners within 60 days of today's date. This recommendation for approval is based on the ability to make at least one of the four findings set forth in Washoe County Code Section 110.818.15(e).

1. Consistency with Master Plan. The proposed Development Code amendment is in substantial compliance with the policies and action programs of the Washoe County Master Plan;
2. Promotes the Purpose of the Development Code. The proposed Development Code amendment will not adversely impact the public health, safety or welfare, and will promote the original purposes for the Development Code as expressed in Article 918, Adoption of Development Code;
3. Response to Changed Conditions. The proposed development code amendment responds to changed conditions or further studies that have occurred since the Development Code was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, and the requested amendment allow for a more desirable utilization of land within the regulatory zones; and,
4. No Adverse Affects. The proposed development code amendment will not adversely affect the implementation of the policies and action programs of the Conservation Element or the Population Element of the Washoe County Master Plan.

Appeal Process

An appeal of the Planning Commission's denial of a development code amendment may be made to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners within 10 calendar days from the date that the Planning Commission's decision is filed with the Secretary to the Planning Commission, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 110.818.25 and Washoe County Code Section 110.912.20.



RESOLUTION OF THE WASHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Initiating and recommending approval of an ordinance amending Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) in Division Three—Regulation of Uses, Division Four—Development Standards, and Division Nine—General Provisions. These amendments include adding various sections to: establish small lot residential development standards and establish infill residential and commercial development standards. These amendments also include amending various sections to: include an example of the multi-family, minor residential use type and allow cottage courts on multiple parcels; modify the maximum size of attached and detached accessory dwelling units from 50% to 80% the size of the main dwelling; modify the maximum floor area from 1,000 square feet to 1,200 square feet for cottage court developments; specify that only one community accessory structure is allowed for every four (4) cottages in a cottage court development; clarify the calculation of setbacks for cottage court developments; modify lot and yard standards for common open space developments; add various definitions; and all matters necessarily connected therewith and pertaining thereto.

Resolution Number 25-14

WHEREAS;

- A. Washoe County Code Section 110.818.05 requires that amendments to Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) be initiated by resolution of the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners or the Washoe County Planning Commission; and
- B. The Washoe County Planning Commission initiated amendments to the Washoe County Code at Chapter 110 (Development Code) within Article 304 Use Classification System, Article 306 Accessory Uses and Structures, Article 313 Employee and Cottage Court Housing, Article 404 Lot Standards, Article 408 Common Open Space Development, and Article 902 Definitions, on November 4, 2025, as fully described in Exhibit A-1 to this resolution; and
- C. Development Code Amendment Case Number WDCA25-0008 came before the Washoe County Planning Commission for a duly noticed public hearing on November 4, 2025; and
- D. The Washoe County Planning Commission gave reasoned consideration to the information it received regarding the proposed Development Code Amendment; and
- E. Whereas, pursuant to Washoe County Code Section 110.818.15(e), the Washoe County Planning Commission made at least one of the following findings to support its recommendation for adoption of the proposed Development Code Amendment Case Number WDCA25-0008:

1. Consistency with Master Plan. The proposed amendment is in substantial compliance with the policies and action programs of the Washoe County Master Plan;
2. Promotes the Purpose of the Development Code. The proposed development code amendment will not adversely impact the public health, safety or welfare, and will promote the original purposes for the Development Code as expressed in Article 918, Adoption of Development Code;
3. Response to Changed Conditions. The proposed development code amendment responds to changed conditions or further studies that have occurred since the Development Code was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, and the requested amendment allow for a more desirable utilization of land within the regulatory zones; and,
4. No Adverse Affects. The proposed development code amendment will not adversely affect the implementation of the policies and action programs of the Conservation Element or the Population Element of the Washoe County Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washoe County Planning Commission recommends approval of the ordinance attached hereto as Exhibit A-1.

A report describing this amendment, discussion at this public hearing, this recommendation, and the vote on the recommendation will be forwarded to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners within 60 days of this resolution's adoption date.

ADOPTED on November 4, 2025.

WASHOE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

ATTEST:

Trevor Lloyd, Secretary

Daniel Lazzareschi, Chair

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~~STRIKEOUT TEXT: DELETE LANGUAGE~~

BOLD TEXT: NEW LANGUAGE

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Summary: Amends Washoe County Code Chapter 110 (Development Code) to create standards for small lot and infill development, and to modify provisions related to cottage courts, accessory dwelling units, and common open space development.

BILL NO. _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

Title:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING WASHOE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 110 (DEVELOPMENT CODE) IN DIVISION THREE-REGULATION OF USES, DIVISION FOUR-DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, AND DIVISION NINE-GENERAL PROVISIONS. THESE AMENDMENTS INCLUDE ADDING VARIOUS SECTIONS TO: ESTABLISH SMALL LOT RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND ESTABLISH INFILL RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS. THESE AMENDMENTS ALSO INCLUDE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS TO: INCLUDE AN EXAMPLE OF THE MULTI-FAMILY, MINOR RESIDENTIAL USE TYPE AND ALLOW COTTAGE COURTS ON MULTIPLE PARCELS; MODIFY THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF ATTACHED AND DETACHED ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS FROM 50% TO 80% OF THE SIZE OF THE MAIN DWELLING; MODIFY THE MAXIMUM FLOOR AREA FROM 1,000 SQUARE FEET TO 1,200 SQUARE FEET FOR COTTAGE COURT DEVELOPMENTS; SPECIFY THAT ONLY ONE COMMUNITY ACCESSORY STRUCTURE IS ALLOWED FOR EVERY FOUR (4) COTTAGES IN A COTTAGE COURT DEVELOPMENT; CLARIFY THE CALCULATION OF SETBACKS FOR COTTAGE COURT DEVELOPMENTS; MODIFY LOT AND YARD STANDARDS FOR COMMON OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENTS; ADD VARIOUS DEFINITIONS; AND ALL MATTERS NECESSARILY CONNECTED THEREWITH AND PERTAINING THERETO.

WHEREAS:

- A. This Commission desires to amend the Washoe County Development Code (Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code) in Article 304 Use Classification System, Article 306 Accessory Uses and Structures, Article 313 Employee and Cottage Court Housing, Article 404 Lot Standards, Article 408 Common Open Space Development, and Article 902 Definitions, as set forth in this ordinance; and
- B. The Washoe County Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing for DCA25-0008 and initiated the proposed amendments to Washoe County Code Chapter 110, Articles 304, 306, 313, 404, 408, and 902, by Resolution Number 25-XX on November 4, 2025; and
- C. The amendments and this ordinance were drafted in concert with the District Attorney's Office; and
- D. Following a first reading and publication as required by NRS 244.100(1), and after a duly noticed public hearing, this Commission desires to adopt this Ordinance; and
- E. This Commission has determined that this ordinance is being adopted pursuant to requirements set forth in NRS Chapter 278; and therefore, it is not a "rule" as defined in NRS 237.060 requiring a business impact statement.

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF WASHOE COUNTY DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall be labeled 110.404.30 and shall read as follows:

Section 110.404.30. Small Lot Development Standards. Parcel maps or subdivisions entirely composed of single family detached homes 1,200 square feet or smaller, single family attached homes, and/or middle housing types can utilize the following small lot development standards:

- (a) **The side yard setback may be reduced to 5 feet, the rear yard setback to 10 feet, and the front yard setback to 10 feet for the living space and 20 feet for the garage.**
- (b) **The rear yard setback for garages may be reduced to 5 feet when the garage is accessed from an alley and the dwelling unit faces another street or open space.**

- (c) The minimum lot size may be reduced by 50% of the minimum allowed in the subject regulatory zone, or 3,700 square feet, whichever is larger.
- (d) The development may utilize privately maintained roadways that do not have parallel parking lanes and instead incorporate perpendicular parking banks and drive aisles with a minimum width of 24 feet, designed to the satisfaction of the County Engineer.
- (e) Single family detached homes within parcel maps or subdivisions utilizing the small lot development standards herein shall be limited to 1,200 square feet of living space at the time of the issuance of the initial certificate of occupancy. Homes may be expanded under future permits, subject to compliance with setbacks and other applicable development standards.
- (f) Nothing herein shall prevent applicants from varying standards through the common open space development process.

SECTION 2. Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall be labeled 110.404.35 and shall read as follows:

Section 110.404.35 Infill Standards. Infill development standards are intended to encourage the efficient development of underutilized parcels in areas that are primarily built out. The infill development standards set forth in sections 110.404.40 and 110.404.45 may be utilized by parcels considered infill development as defined in Article 902 and located in the following areas:

- (a) The Verdi Planning Area
- (b) The Sun Valley Planning Area
- (c) The Wadsworth Community Area
- (d) The Gerlach Community Area

SECTION 3. Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall be labeled 110.404.40 and shall read as follows:

Section 110.404.40 Residential Infill. Residential infill incentives and standards are established in this section and may be utilized by any permitted development on parcels zoned low density suburban that are 26,250 square feet or smaller, parcels zoned medium density suburban that are 9,000 square feet or smaller, and parcels zoned high density suburban that are 3,750 square feet or smaller. They may not be used by parcels within a common open space parcel map or subdivision, or parcels created after calendar year 2025. Any parcel utilizing the incentives herein must also meet all the standards set forth herein.

- (a) If the proposed project front yard setback is equal to or greater than the average (mean) existing minimum front yard setbacks of legally nonconforming structures on adjoining parcels, reduced front yard setbacks will be permitted. Driveways must be at least 20 feet in length in order to accommodate the parking of a vehicle.

- (b) One off-street parking space shall be provided per dwelling unit. Other parking requirements in Article 410 shall apply.
- (c) Building orientation on infill lots shall match the predominant orientation of other buildings along the street frontage.
- (d) The access and off-street parking site design shall be similar to that of existing developments along the street frontage.
- (e) For middle housing projects utilizing infill development, the parking shall be located to the rear or side of the proposed structures.

SECTION 5. Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended by adding a new section which shall be labeled 110.404.45 and shall read as follows:

Section 110.404.45 Commercial Infill. Commercial infill standards and incentives are established in this section and may be utilized by any permitted development on parcels zoned general commercial or neighborhood commercial that are 21,780 square feet or smaller. They may not be used by any parcel created after calendar year 2025. Any parcel utilizing the incentives herein must also meet all the standards set forth herein.

- (a) Building orientation on infill lots shall match the predominant orientation of other buildings along the street frontage.
- (b) The access and off-street parking shall be similar to that of existing developments along the street frontage.
- (c) Setbacks for structures may be reduced to 10 feet from the front property line, 5 feet from the side property lines, and 5 feet from the rear property line.

SECTION 6. Section 110.304.15 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.304.15 Residential Use Types. Residential use types include the occupancy of living accommodations, but exclude institutional living arrangements providing twenty-four-hour skilled nursing, custodial or medical care and those providing forced residence, such as asylums and prisons.

- (a) Family Residential. The family residential use type refers to the occupancy of living quarters by one (1) or more households. The following are family residential use types:
 - (1) Multi-Family, Minor. Multi-family, minor refers to the use of a parcel for between five (5) and twenty (20) dwelling units within one (1) or more buildings, excluding cottage court developments (**e.g. courtyard apartments**).
 - (2) Multi-Family. Multi-Family refers to the use of a parcel for twenty-one (21) or more dwelling units within one (1) or more buildings, excluding cottage court developments.
 - (3) Single Family, Attached. Single family, attached refers to two (2) or more dwelling units constructed with a common or abutting wall with each located on its own separate parcel. Typical uses include townhomes or condominiums.

- (4) Single Family, Detached. Single family, detached refers to the use of a parcel for only one (1) dwelling unit.
- (b) Middle Housing. The middle housing use types refer to a range of housing with multiple dwelling units that are compatible in scale with detached single-family housing.
 - (1) Duplex. Duplex refers to the use of a parcel for two (2) dwelling units in a single structure.
 - (2) Triplex. Triplex refers to the use of a parcel for three (3) dwelling units in a single structure.
 - (3) Quadplex. Quadplex refers to the use of a parcel for four (4) dwelling units in a single structure.
 - (4) Cottage Court. Cottage court refers to a housing development of between two (2) and twelve (12) small-scale single family detached dwellings on one **or multiple** parcel(s) that interact together as a small community and meet the standards of WCC 110.313.05.
- (c) Accessory Residential. Accessory residential refers to use types that are accessory to family residential and middle housing use types. They cannot be established independent of these primary use types and are not considered in calculations of density.
 - (1) Attached Accessory Dwelling Unit. An attached accessory dwelling unit is a portion of or an addition to a dwelling unit that has been designed or configured to be used as a separate and independent dwelling unit. An attached accessory dwelling unit includes, at a minimum, permanent kitchen and bathroom (i.e. a toilet) facilities, but may also include living, sleeping, and eating facilities, all separated from the main unit by walls or ceilings and accessed through a lockable exterior or interior door. An attached accessory dwelling unit may be created by converting part of, or adding on to, an existing single family main dwelling. To be considered attached, the accessory dwelling unit must abut (i.e. be on the opposite side of a wall or ceiling) the habitable space of the main dwelling, or the ceiling of a garage attached to the main dwelling. Incidental and accessory features such as trellises, decks, patios, breezeways, or tool sheds will not be considered as establishing an attached structure/dwelling. Typical uses include second units, guest rooms, and guest apartments.
 - (2) Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit. A detached accessory dwelling unit refers to a dwelling unit on the same lot as the main dwelling unit, but which is physically separated from the main dwelling unit. A detached accessory dwelling unit is designed and configured to provide independent living facilities for one or more persons, and includes, at a minimum, permanent kitchen and bathroom (i.e. a toilet) facilities, but which may also include living, sleeping, and eating facilities. Typical uses include second units and caretaker's quarters.
 - (3) Minor Accessory Dwelling Unit. A minor accessory dwelling unit refers to a type of detached accessory dwelling unit that is under five hundred (500) square feet. A minor accessory dwelling unit is designed and configured to provide independent living facilities for one or more persons, and includes, at a minimum, permanent kitchen and bathroom (i.e. a toilet) facilities, but which may also include living, sleeping, and eating facilities. Typical uses include second units and caretaker's quarters.

- (4) Detached Accessory Structure. A detached accessory structure refers to a building or structure on the same lot as the main residential structure and devoted to a use incidental to that main residential structure. A detached accessory structure is not designed, configured, or used for human habitation. Installation of both a kitchen (as defined in Article 902) and a toilet in a detached accessory structure shall render the structure as a dwelling unit and subject to the accessory dwelling unit provisions. Typical uses include storage buildings and sheds, barns and detached garages.
 - (5) Guest Quarters. Guest quarters refers to a detached accessory structure or an attached accessory space with no internal access to the main dwelling that contains living space, including a bedroom and bathroom, but no kitchen or cooking facilities. Incidental and accessory features such as trellises, decks, patios, breezeways, or tool sheds will not be considered as establishing an attached structure/dwelling.
- (d) Short-term rental. Short-term rental (STR) refers to existing single-family dwelling units where, for compensation, lodging is provided within either the entire home or a portion of the home for a rental period of less than 28-days. STRs may be permitted to operate out of legally permitted, permanent dwelling units or accessory dwelling units in accordance with the standards within Article 319. Short-term rentals are distinguishable from commercial lodging use types in that no meals may be provided within short-term rentals as part of the rental agreement and the home may only be rented out for short-term rental use to one group at a time. STRs are also often referred to as vacation rentals and are commonly made available through property management companies or online booking platforms. The following are short-term rental use types:
- (1) Tier 1 Short-Term Rental. A Tier 1 STR has a maximum occupancy of 10 persons or fewer.
 - (2) Tier 2 Short-Term Rental. A Tier 2 STR has a maximum occupancy of 11-20 persons and due to its higher occupancy, may require additional limitations to ensure compatibility with surrounding residential properties.
 - (3) Tier 3 Short-Term Rental. A Tier 3 STR has a maximum occupancy of 21 or more persons. This highest tier of STRs is still operated out of a pre-existing dwelling unit, but due to the high number of occupants, is expected to have more significant impacts to surrounding properties. As a result, it is considered inappropriate to be located in residential regulatory zones, but may be appropriate on properties with commercial regulatory zones that are located nearer tourist and commercial services.
- (e) Employee Housing. Employee housing refers to a building or a portion of a building where, for a benefit of employment, lodging is provided. Such lodging can be fully independent dwelling units, or be of a dormitory style meeting the requirements of Section 110.313.10. Employee housing must meet all applicable standards for the subject housing type.
- (f) Manufactured Home Parks. Manufactured home parks use type refers to the occupancy of a dwelling unit defined as a mobile home or a manufactured home and which is located in a site defined as a manufactured home park.
- (g) Group Home. Group home use type refers to the occupancy of a single family dwelling or cottage court by a group of ten (10) or fewer persons on a weekly or longer basis who

are cared for by a professional caregiver. The number of persons who reside in a group home excludes any caregivers and their family who also reside in the group home.

- (1) This term includes specifically the following uses:
 - (i) Residential facility for groups; or
 - (ii) Home for individual residential care;
 - (iii) Halfway house for recovering alcohol or drug abusers;
 - (iv) Group foster home.
- (2) The term group home does not include a child care institution or a facility for transitional living for released offenders.
- (h) Senior Housing. A residential development in which at least eighty percent (80%) of the occupied dwelling units are occupied by at least one individual who is fifty-five (55) years of age or older. The use shall be operated and maintained with the intent of providing housing for older persons, consistent with the federal Housing for Older Persons Act. The required permitting and base density are based on the underlying housing type and zoning per Table 110.302.05.1 and Table 110.406.05.1. The maximum density for senior housing developments is found in Article 336, Housing Incentives. Commercial use types that are part of the amenities provided to residents of a senior housing development are permitted as part of senior housing, including administrative offices, indoor entertainment, indoor sports and recreation, outdoor sports and recreation, and medical services. Other commercial use types that do not have undo impacts outside of the senior housing development may be approved with a Director's Modification.¹

SECTION 7. Section 110.306.20 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.306.20 Attached Accessory Dwellings. Attached accessory dwelling unit is defined in Article 304, Use Classification System, under Section 110.304.15, Residential Use Types. Attached accessory dwellings are permitted in the General Rural (GR), General Rural Agricultural (GRA), and the Residential Regulatory Zones, pursuant to all of the following regulations:

- (a) A main residential unit exists.
- (b) A minimum lot area of five-thousand (5,000) square feet exists.
- (c) Compliance with the setback and height standards of the regulatory zone and the lot coverage standards established in Article 406.
- (d) Parcels with single-family dwellings. Except in the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the High Density Suburban (HDS) Regulatory Zone, and all urban regulatory zones, the attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit or fifteen hundred (1,500) square feet, whichever is smaller. In the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the High Density Suburban Regulatory Zone, and all urban regulatory

¹ Addition of the senior housing use type to be considered by the Board of County Commissioners November and December of 2025.

zones, the attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit or 1,200 square feet, whichever is smaller. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space.

- (e) Parcels with duplex, triplex, or quadplex. The attached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 800 square feet. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the attached accessory dwelling unit, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space. A maximum of one accessory dwelling unit or guest quarters is permitted per parcel.
- (f) An attached accessory dwelling unit may be created by converting part of, or adding on to, an existing single family main dwelling unit. To be considered attached, the accessory dwelling unit must abut (i.e. be on the opposite side of a wall or ceiling) the habitable space of the main dwelling, or the ceiling of a garage attached to the main dwelling. Incidental and accessory features such as trellises, decks, patios, breezeways, or tool sheds will not be considered as establishing an attached structure/dwelling. Any exterior entrance to the attached accessory dwelling shall not be located along the same wall as the main entrance to the main unit.
- (g) A minimum of one (1) off-street parking space shall be added, in addition to the applicable parking requirements of the main unit. Additional parking beyond the one (1) off-street parking space added may be required pursuant to the provisions of Article 410, Parking and Loading.
- (h) Only one (1) accessory dwelling unit or guest quarters is allowed per parcel. Neither an accessory dwelling unit nor a guest quarters is allowed on parcels with cottage court or multifamily developments.

SECTION 8. Section 110.306.25 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.306.25 Detached Accessory Dwellings. Detached accessory dwelling unit is defined in Article 304, Use Classification System, under Section 110.304.15, Residential Use Types. Any detached accessory dwelling unit must adhere to the following requirements:

- (a) A main residential unit exists.
- (b) A minimum lot area of twelve thousand (12,000) square feet exists.
- (c) Compliance with the setback and height standards of the regulatory zone and the lot coverage standards established in Article 406.
- (d) Parcels with single-family dwellings. Except for in the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed fifteen hundred (1,500) square feet, or ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, whichever is smaller. In the Medium Density Suburban (MDS) Regulatory Zone, the detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed twelve hundred (1,200) square feet or ~~fifty (50)~~ **eighty (80)** percent of the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, whichever is smaller. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars,

attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the main dwelling unit, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space. The maximum permitted square footage of a detached accessory dwelling unit shall not be increased by use of the variance process contained in Article 804, Variances, except for conversion of a guest house, that was legally constructed prior to May 26, 1993, to a detached accessory dwelling unit.

- (e) Parcels with duplex, triplex, or quadplex. The detached accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 800 square feet. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the detached accessory dwelling unit, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space. A maximum of one accessory dwelling unit or guest quarters is permitted per parcel.
- (f) A manufactured or modular home constructed within six (6) years of the date of its placement is permitted as a detached accessory dwelling unit, subject to the size and regulatory zone requirements in (d) above and the provisions of Article 312, Fabricated Housing, provided that the unit is permanently affixed to the property, its foundation system is masked and the unit is converted to real property pursuant to the provisions of Article 312, Fabricated Housing, at the time of the final inspection date. Fabricated homes are permitted as detached accessory dwelling units in a manufactured home subdivision.
- (g) A minimum of one (1) off-street parking space shall be added, in addition to the applicable parking requirements of the main unit. Additional parking beyond the one (1) off-street parking space added may be required pursuant to the provisions of Article 410, Parking and Loading.
- (h) Only one (1) accessory dwelling unit or guest quarters is allowed per parcel. Neither an accessory dwelling unit nor guest quarters is allowed on parcels with cottage court or multifamily developments.
- (i) A detached accessory dwelling unit may be converted to a main dwelling unit by subdividing the original parcel. The newly subdivided parcels (and any structures thereon) must meet all provisions of the Development Code, including the setback, height, and minimum lot dimension standards of the applicable regulatory zone.
- (j) A detached accessory dwelling unit shall include the installation of a water meter if the detached accessory dwelling unit proposes to use a domestic well as its source of water.
- (k) On any parcel half an acre in size or smaller, a detached accessory dwelling unit shall be permitted only pursuant to the administrative review process in Article 809.
- (l) If a detached accessory dwelling unit qualifies as a minor accessory dwelling unit as defined in WCC 110.304.15(c)(3) and is 12 feet in height or less, it can be located as close as 5 feet from the side and rear property lines. Minor accessory dwelling units located on parcels larger than ½ acre in size do not require an offstreet parking space. Minor accessory dwelling units located on parcels ½ acre in size or smaller are required to have one off-street parking space, unless this requirement is waived by the Director of Planning and Building or their designee through a Director's modification of standards.

SECTION 9. Section 110.313.05 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.313.05 Cottage Court Developments. Cottage court developments shall be subject to the following standards:

- (a) The maximum floor area for each cottage shall be ~~4,000~~ **1,200** square feet. The square footage of garages, crawl spaces, cellars, attics, or basements not designed for human occupancy shall not be included when calculating the total square footage of the cottage, unless such areas have been legally converted into habitable space.
- (b) There must be a minimum separation of five feet between the building footprints of each cottage. On cottage sides with a main entrance, there must be a minimum separation of ten feet.
- (c) Attached or detached garages must not exceed 400 square feet in floor area per cottage.
- (d) A minimum of 200 square feet of common open space per cottage is required and is intended to be an amenity shared by all residents of the cottage court development. The common open space shall be completed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the first cottage. The common open space must meet the following standards:
 - (1) Have a minimum average width of 20 feet.
 - (2) Be composed of one or more of the following amenities:
 - (i) Shaded seating areas
 - (ii) Shared garden area
 - (iii) Sports court/field
 - (iv) Pool
 - (v) Large lawn area
 - (vi) Park area
 - (vii) Similar outdoor recreation facilities not otherwise prohibited in the development code, as approved by the Director of Planning and Building pursuant to a director's modification of standards.
- (e) A minimum of 60% of the cottages must be oriented around and have their main entrance facing common open space.
- (f) Pedestrian pathways at least four (4) feet in width meeting Americans with Disabilities Act surfacing requirements must be provided to connect parking facilities, cottages, and common open space.
- (g) Parking shall not be placed between the cottages and the common open space.
- (h) Community accessory structures are permitted, subject to the applicable standards of Article 306. They shall not count towards the minimum common open space square

footage requirement. **No more than one community accessory structure is permitted per four cottages.**

- (i) Cottage court developments must be connected to sanitary sewer.
- (j) **Cottage court developments may be on a single parcel or contain separate parcels for each cottage. Required setbacks are measured from the edge of the cottage cluster development area for the purpose of calculating perimeter setbacks from surrounding properties. Parcels containing an individual cottage shall be exempt from minimum lot size regulations. For buildings on lots within the cottage court development, the separation between other buildings is measured, not the distances to property lines interior to the cottage cluster.**
- (k) **Cottage court developments may include multiple cottage clusters with a minimum of 2 and maximum of 12 cottages per cluster. However, there can be no more than one cluster on a single parcel. Each cluster must individually meet the standards of sections 110.313.05(a) through (i).**

SECTION 10. Section 110.404.05 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.404.05 Lot Standards. The minimum lot area and lot width are set forth in ~~Part Two of~~ Table 110.406.05.1. The minimum lot area is limited by the ability to maintain the dwelling unit per acre standard set forth in Part One of Table 110.406.05.1.

SECTION 11. Section 110.408.25 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.408.25 Lot and Yard Standards. The complete common open space development must comply with the minimum lot width, front yard setbacks, side yard setbacks, and rear yard setbacks in Table 110.406.05.1, Standards, or **may vary those minimum standards in the following manners: as an alternative,**

- (a) **Show** typical building envelopes ~~shall be shown~~ on the tentative subdivision map or parcel map where these standards are proposed to be varied below the minimum standard; **or**
- (b) **Propose alternative setbacks for the development which, if approved, will be memorialized in the conditions of approval.**

SECTION 12. Section 110.902.15 of the Washoe County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 110.902.15 General Definitions. Unless otherwise specified, the following definitions shall be applicable throughout the Development Code:

A-Weighted Sound Level. "A-weighted sound level" means the sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. Sounds measured with an A-weighted filter are abbreviated dba or db(a).

Accessory Structure. "Accessory structure" means a subordinate structure, the use of which is incidental to that of the main structure or potential main structure, or main dwelling.

Accessway. "Accessway" means vehicular ingress and egress to a property or use.

Adequate Public Facilities Management. "Adequate public facilities management" means a method for ensuring that the infrastructure necessary to support a development project will be available concurrently with the impacts of that development, without causing the level of service provided by said infrastructure to fall below adopted standards.

Affordable Housing. "Affordable housing" means housing which is affordable to low-income households (not exceeding eighty (80) percent of the County median income) or moderate-income households (not exceeding one-hundred twenty (120) percent of County median income).

Agricultural Building. "Agricultural building" is a structure designed and constructed to store farm implements and equipment or hay, grain, poultry, livestock, fruit and other agricultural products. Cold storage warehouses are not agricultural buildings. An agricultural building shall not be used for human habitation; processing, treating, packaging agricultural products; or as a place used by the public. The term shall not include dwellings, but does include greenhouses.

Approved Access. "Approved access" means a way or means of approach to a parcel from either an abutting public road or from a private road, street or right-of-way approved by the County.

Area of Shallow Flooding. "Area of shallow flooding" means a designated AO or AH Zone on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps. The base flood depths range from 1 to 3 feet, a clearly defined channel does not exist, the path of flooding is unpredictable and indeterminate, and velocity flow may be evident.

Area Plan. "Area plan" means plans adopted by Washoe County which cover specific subareas of the unincorporated County. These plans may also be referred to as "Planning Areas". These plans provide basic information on the natural features, resources and physical constraints that affect the development of the area plan or planning area. They also may specify detailed land use designations which are then used to review specific development proposals and to plan services and facilities.

Arterial. "Arterial" means a main highway that is a through street.

Attached Accessory Dwelling Unit. "Attached accessory dwelling unit" means a portion of or an addition to a dwelling unit that has been designed or configured to be used as a separate and independent dwelling unit and is further defined in Article 304.

Base Flood Calculation. "Base flood calculation" means a flood having a one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. See "Flood, One Hundred (100) Year."

Basement. "Basement" means the portion of a building between floor and ceiling, which is partly below and partly above grade, but so located that the vertical distance from grade to the floor below is less than the vertical distance from grade to ceiling.

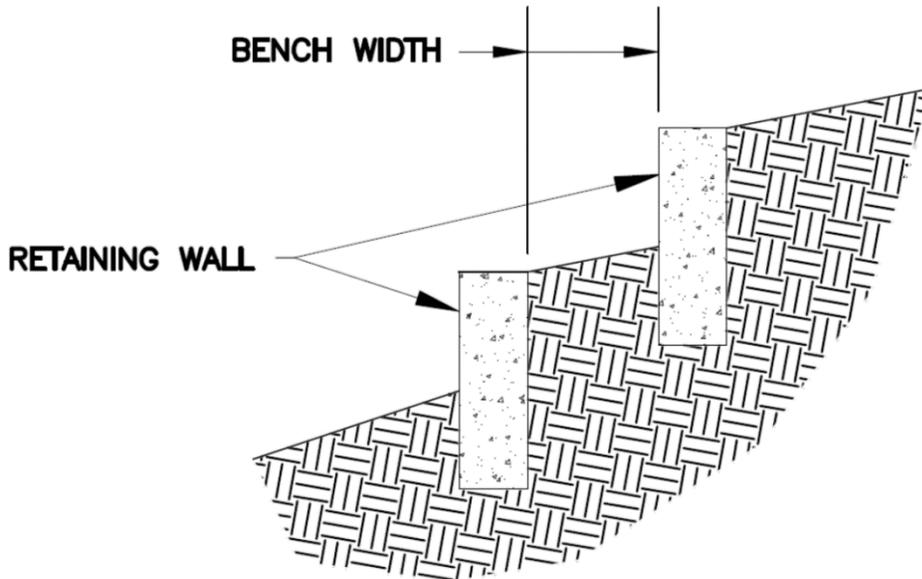
Bed and Breakfast Establishment. "Bed and breakfast establishment" means a single-family dwelling containing not more than five (5) guest rooms (no cooking facilities in guest rooms) where, for compensation, meals and lodging are provided.

Bench. "Bench" means a step excavated into earth material no steeper than five units horizontal to one unit vertical (5:1).

Bench Width. "Bench width" means a measurement from the closest points of two (2) adjacent retaining walls.

Figure 110.902.15.BW

Bench Width



Source: Washoe County Engineering Division

Berm. "Berm" means earthen material placed so as to create a bench or similar structures:

- (1) Which the plans show will remain at the completion of the work; or
- (2) Which will remain for more than one (1) year under separate permit and approvals for purposes of storage until a use for the soil is found elsewhere.

Bicycle Parking Facility. A secure installation designed for the support and secure attachment and/or storage of bicycles (e.g. bicycle rack, bicycle lockers).

Bicycle Parking, Long-Term. Secure bicycle parking, typically at one's place of residence, intended for the long-term storage of bicycles. This type of bicycle parking is located within a building or portion of a building with restricted access.

Bicycle Parking, Short-Term. Secure bicycle parking intended for short-term use, while away from one's residence where the bicycle is permanently stored (e.g. bicycle racks at a grocery store, place of employment, etc.).

Billboard. "Billboard" means an outdoor advertisement making a material or services known, such advertisement being remote from the point of sale of such material or service.

Board. "Board" refers to the Board of County Commissioners of Washoe County.

Boardinghouse. "Boardinghouse" means a building or portion thereof (not a motel) where, for compensation, meals and lodging are provided for more than three (3) guests.

Breezeway. A "breezeway" means a covered walkway, passageway, or corridor that has at least one (1) side entirely or partially open (except for necessary supporting columns), is not intended nor designed as habitable space, and which may or may not be connected to a structure.

Building. "Building" means any structure having a permanent foundation, a roof supported by columns or walls and used for the enclosure of persons, animals or chattels, but not including a trailer (mobile home) or tent.

Building Envelope. "Building envelope" means the area to be occupied by any structure and associated development.

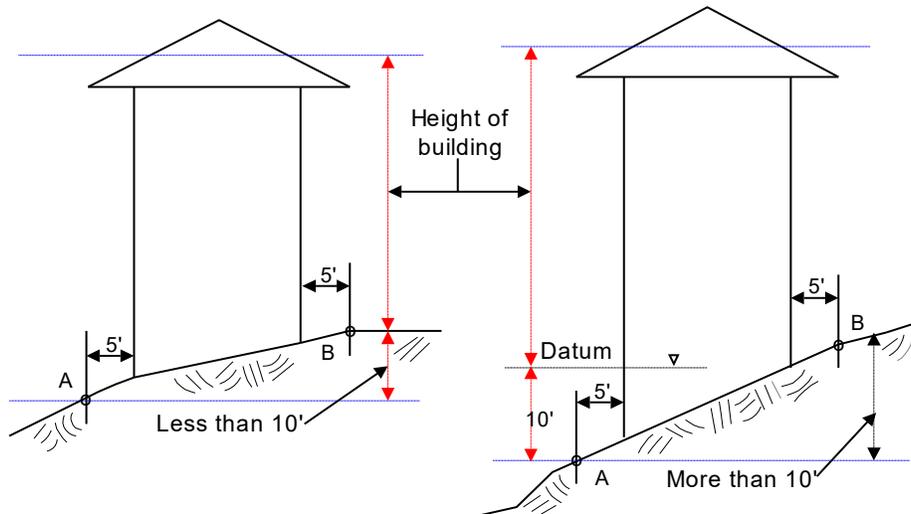
Building Height. "Building height" is the vertical distance above a reference datum measured to the highest point of the coping of a flat roof or to the deck line of a mansard roof or to the average height of the highest gable of a pitched or hipped roof. As illustrated in Figure 110.902.15.BH1, the reference datum shall be selected by either of the following, whichever yields a greater height of building:

- (a) The elevation of the highest adjoining sidewalk or ground surface within a five (5) foot horizontal distance of the exterior wall of the building when such sidewalk or ground surface is not more than ten (10) feet above lowest grade.
- (b) An elevation ten (10) feet higher than the lowest grade when the sidewalk or ground surface described in Item 1 above is more than ten (10) feet above lowest grade.

The height of a stepped or terraced building is the maximum height of any segment of the building.

Figure 110.902.15.BH1

DETERMINATION OF BUILDING HEIGHT IN FEET



Source: International Building Code Interpretation Manual.

Building Intensity. "Building intensity" refers to the bulk and concentration of physical development of uses permitted in a district. Lot coverage and height are examples of measures of building intensity.

Building Orientation. "Building orientation" refers to the placement and alignment of a building on a lot in relation to property lines, streets, access, and adjacent development.

Cargo Container. "Cargo Container" means an Intermodal Container, Sea-land Container, ISO Container, or Conex Box that is not designed for independent or "In-tow Trailer" highway use, and that was originally designed and constructed as a standardized, reusable storage and shipping vessel to be loaded on a truck, rail car or ship.

Cellar. "Cellar" means the portion of a building between floor and ceiling which is wholly or partially below grade and so located that vertical distance from grade to the floor below is equal to or greater than the vertical distance from grade to ceiling.

Certificated Water Rights. "Certificated water rights" means the right to put surface water or groundwater to beneficial use that is identified by a record document issued by the Nevada State Engineer after satisfactory proof of "perfection of application" for a permitted water right has been filed in accordance with NRS Chapter 533.

Child Care Institution. "Child care institution" means a facility which provides care and shelter during the day and night and provides developmental guidance to sixteen (16) or more children who do not routinely return to the homes of their parents or guardians. Such an institution may also provide, without limitation:

- (a) Education to the children according to a curriculum approved by the Department of Education;
- (b) Services to children who have been diagnosed as severely emotionally disturbed as defined in NRS 433B.080, including, without limitation, services relating to mental health and education; or
- (c) Emergency shelter to children who have been placed in protective custody pursuant to Chapter 432B of NRS.

Civil Engineer. "Civil Engineer" means a professional engineer licensed in Nevada to practice in the field of civil works.

Civil Engineering. "Civil engineering" means the application of the knowledge of the forces of nature, principles of mechanics and the properties of materials to the evaluation, design and construction of civil works.

Clearing. "Clearing" means the removal of surface vegetation from an area or tract of land.

Climatic Adaptive Planting Material. "Climatic adaptive planting material" means vegetation which is adapted to the climate or microclimate of the planting site and can flourish given the soil and water environment surrounding its roots. Microclimates, large bodies of water, soil drainage, soil pH, adequate moisture, the presence of soil salts, and both summer and winter wind affect a plant's ability to grow and survive.

Cluster or Clustered Development. See "Common Open Space Development."

Collector. "Collector" means the highest order of residential streets.

Commercial Coach. "Commercial coach" means structure without motive power which is designed and equipped for human occupancy for industrial, professional or commercial purposes.

Commercial Vehicle. "Commercial vehicle" means any vehicle designed, maintained or used for business, commercial, construction or industrial purposes that infringes on the residential character of residential districts; or for the transportation of property in furtherance of commercial enterprise; or having more than two (2) axles on the road; or, any vehicle in excess of eight thousand (8,000) pounds unladen weight. Commercial vehicles includes, but is not limited to: a cement truck, commercial tree-trimming equipment, construction equipment, dump truck, garbage truck, panel truck, semi-tractor, semi-trailer, stake bed truck, step delivery van, tank truck, tar truck, and other vehicles customarily used for commercial purposes.

Commission. "Commission" means the Washoe County Planning Commission.

Common Interest Community. "Common interest community" means real estate in which a person, by virtue of ownership of a unit, is obligated to pay for real estate other than that unit. "Ownership of a unit" does not include holding a leasehold interest of less than twenty (20) years in a unit, including options to renew.

Common Open Space Development. "Common open space development" means a technique whereby minimum lot sizes may be reduced below the regulatory zone requirements for residential and commercial use types, if compensating amounts of open space are provided within the same development (also called "cluster development"). This type of development allows for structures to be grouped on smaller lots, provided the total density for the development is not exceeded.

Community Accessory Structure. "Community accessory structure" means a structure not containing a dwelling unit in a cottage court development that serves residents through providing shared facilities such as parking, laundry, or other amenities.

Compaction. "Compaction" means the densification of a fill or subgrade by mechanical means.

Company Town. "Company town" means employee housing and supporting commercial, office, recreational, professional, administrative and other ancillary uses associated with the functioning of an isolated industrial, mining, energy production, utilities, resorts or agricultural based use. This development may occur on a single parcel or multiple parcels.

Condominium. "Condominium" means an estate in real property consisting of an undivided interest in common in portions of a parcel of real property together with:

(a) A separate interest in space in a residential, industrial or commercial building or industrial and commercial building on such real property, such as, but not restricted to, an apartment, office or store; or

(b) A separate interest in air space only, without any building or structure, to be used for a mobile home.

A condominium may include in addition a separate interest in other portions of such real property. Such estate may, with respect to the duration of its enjoyment, be either an estate of inheritance or perpetual estate, an estate for life, or an estate for years.

Consistency. "Consistency" means free from variation or contradiction.

Constraints. "Constraints" mean limitations or actions which cannot be taken or which must be taken.

Construct. "Construct" includes "erect," "reconstruct," "alter," "move in" and "move upon."

Contiguous Parcel of Land. "Contiguous parcel of land" means a parcel of land either abutting directly on the boundary or separated by a street, alley, public right-of-way, creek, river or the right-of-way of a railroad or other public service corporation of another parcel of land.

Continuum of Care Unit. A unit that is within a continuum of care facility that includes living and sleeping facilities as defined by the Development Code, the International Building Code, and/or the National Manufactured Home and Safety Standards Act.

Corner Lot. See "Lot, Corner."

Cost. "Cost" means the price paid or what is given up in order to acquire, produce, accomplish or maintain anything.

Cottage. "Cottage" refers to a detached single family dwelling under 1,200 square feet and part of a cottage court development.

Cottage Cluster. "Cottage cluster" refers to a group of 2 through 12 cottages in a cottage court development that are arranged as a small community and meet the requirements for a cottage court. A cottage court development may contain one or multiple cottage clusters.

County. "County" refers to the unincorporated area of Washoe County, Nevada.

County Standards. "County standards" means improvement standards set forth in this Development Code or adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Courtyard Apartments. A residential development that shares a landscaped courtyard. The structure or structures are arranged around a garden court with parking consolidated and located to the side or rear of the development. All structures are connected by ADA compliant pedestrian pathways. Courtyard apartments fall under the multi-family minor or multi-family residential use types, depending on the number of units.

Cross-Section. "Cross-section" is a drawing or photograph showing a cutting through something, especially at right angles to its axis. A cross section of a roadway usually indicates the width of the street, the number of lanes, and the width of any median, parkways, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

Cumulative Impact. "Cumulative impact" means an effect which is a result of several related projects. Each increment from each project may not be noticeable but cumulative impacts may be noticeable when all increments are considered.

Cut. "Cut" means a portion of land surface which earth has been removed or will be removed by excavation.

Decibel. "Decibel" means a unit for describing the amplitude of sound, equal to twenty (20) times the logarithm to the base ten (10) of the ratio of the pressure of the sound measured to the reference pressure, which is twenty (20) micropascals (20 micronewtons per square meter).

Density or Residential Density. "Density" or "residential density" means the number of dwelling units per gross acre for residential uses as defined in Article 304, Use Classification System.

Density Bonus. "Density bonus" means an increase in residential density over and above the density specified in the Development Code. A "density bonus unit" is one of the additional housing units built as a result of granting a density bonus.

Destination Resort. "Destination resort" is a self-contained development that provides for visitor-oriented accommodations and developed recreational facilities in a setting with high natural amenities. Visitor-oriented accommodations are overnight lodging and facilities designed for visitors, not permanent residents, and overnight lodging excludes RV and mobile home parks. Visitor accommodations must include meeting rooms and restaurants.

Detached Accessory Dwelling Unit. "Detached accessory dwelling unit" means a dwelling unit on the same lot as a main dwelling, but which is physically separated from the main dwelling unit and is further defined in Article 304.

Detached Accessory Structure. Except as provided for under Section 110.306.15, "detached accessory structure" means a building or structure on the same lot as the main residential structure and devoted to a use incidental to that main residential structure. A detached accessory structure is not designed, configured, or used for human habitation. The detached accessory structure may be connected to water and wastewater systems subject to the recordation of a deed restriction as required by Washoe County Code. Installation of both a kitchen and a toilet in a detached accessory structure shall render the structure as a dwelling unit and subject to the accessory dwelling unit provisions contained in Article 306, Accessory Uses and Structures. Typical uses include storage buildings, sheds, barns, and detached garages.

Development. "Development" means any man-made change to improved or unimproved real estate including the construction of buildings or other structures, mining, dredging, filling, grading, paving, excavation, drilling operations or storage of equipment or materials.

Development Agreement. "Development agreement" means an agreement entered into by Washoe County and any person having a legal or equitable interest in land concerning the development of that land, pursuant to NRS Chapter 278.

Development Code. "Development Code" refers to Chapter 110 of the Washoe County Code which incorporates all County development-related ordinances and standards to ensure conformity with the Master Plan.

Division into Large Parcels. "Division into large parcels" means division of land if each proposed lot is at least forty (40) acres in area including roads and easements or at least one-sixteenth (1/16) of a section as described by a government land office.

Dog Training Center. "Dog training center" means a facility where dogs are boarded and trained for a long-term period of time.

Dog Training Services. "Dog training services" means the training of dogs with their owners or owners' designee, where both owner and dog participate in dog training.

Domestic Water. "Domestic water" means water supplied to individual dwellings and other land uses which is suitable for drinking.

Dormitory/Bunkhouse. "Dormitory/bunkhouse" means a building or a portion of a building where, for a benefit of employment, lodging is provided. This use type is considered employee dormitory housing and subject to the applicable regulations for that use type.

Drainage Facility. "Drainage facility" means an engineered water conveyance facility which can include, but not be limited to, a paved or unpaved graded swale, a paved or unpaved graded ditch, a gutter, a culvert, a trench drain, a catch basin, a drop inlet, a bio retention swale, a detention/retention basin, an infiltration basin, a dam, a pond (especially those in a series), a wetland, or a natural drainage-way with the approval of the County Engineer.

Drainage, Natural. "Natural drainage" means any channel, swale or depression which conducts water as part of the natural drainage pattern of a site.

Driveway, Residential. "Residential driveway" means a private paved or unpaved area used for ingress or egress of vehicles, and allowing access extending from a property line to a building or other structure or facility on the subject parcel.

Dwelling. "Dwelling" means any building or portion thereof used exclusively for residential purposes and built to the standards of the building code adopted at the time of construction. It does not include hotels, clubs, boardinghouses or rooming houses, fraternity or sorority houses, continuum of care facilities, or institutions.

Dwelling Unit. "Dwelling unit" means any building or portion thereof, including a fabricated home or portion thereof, which contains at a minimum permanent kitchen and bathroom (i.e. a toilet) facilities for residential use types as defined in Article 304, Use Classification System, but which may also include living, sleeping, and eating facilities as required by the Development Code, the International Building Code, and/or the National Manufactured Home and Safety Standards Act.

Earthen Material. "Earthen material" means any rock, natural soil or fill or any combination thereof.

Electronic Notice. "Electronic notice" means any notice required by law that is transmitted via electronic means and which provides a method of verifying receipt to the sender that the receiver has received the notice. Electronic includes, but is not limited to, e-mail, facsimile transmission that identify the receiver and have a time and date stamp.

Endangered Species. "Endangered species" means any species listed as such in the Federal Register which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Engineer. "Engineer" means a Nevada registered engineer pursuant to NRS Chapter 625.

Ephemeral Stream. "Ephemeral stream" means a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, and thus discontinues its flow during dry seasons. Such flow is usually of short duration. Most of the dry washes of more arid regions may be classified as ephemeral streams.

Erosion. "Erosion" means the wearing away of the ground surface as a result of the movement of wind, water or ice.

Excavation. "Excavation" means the mechanical removal of earth material.

Existing Grade. "Existing grade" means the grade prior to new grading activity.

Fabricated Home. "Fabricated home" means a dwelling unit fabricated in an off-site manufacturing facility for installation or assembly at the building site. Fabricated homes include modular homes, manufactured homes and mobile homes. The term "fabricated home" does not include a "recreational vehicle."

Facility for Transitional Living for Released Offenders. "Facility for transitional living for released offenders" means a residence that provides housing and a living environment for persons who have been released from prison and who require assistance with reintegration into the community, other than such a residence that is operated or maintained by a state or local government or an agency thereof. The term does not include a halfway house for recovering alcohol and drug abusers or a facility for the treatment of abuse of alcohol or drugs. As used in this section, person who has been released from prison means:

- (a) A parolee.

- (b) A person who is participating in:
 - (1) A judicial program pursuant to NRS 209.4886 or 213.625; or
 - (2) A correctional program pursuant to NRS 209.4888 or 213.371.
- (c) A person who is supervised by the Division of Parole and Probation of the Department of Public Safety through residential confinement.
- (d) A person who has been released from prison by expiration of his or her term of sentence.

Fence. "Fence" means a wall or barrier constructed of boards, masonry, wire or any other material for the purpose of enclosing space or separating parcels of land. The term "fence" does not include retaining walls, but does include fence gates and gateposts.

Fence, Security. "Security Fence" means a fence that is located on the property lines of a parcel of land that does not have a main use established and complies with WCC 110.406.50(e).

Fill. "Fill" means depositing to the land surface of soil, rock or other earthen materials.

Final Map. "Final map" means the map or recording instrument for subdivisions of land as described in Article 610. A final map may also be used to record an approved parcel map at the option of either the subdivider or the County.

Final Stabilization. "Final stabilization" means the placement of permanent structures, pavement, parking areas, landscaped areas, revegetation and other required improvements upon areas previously disturbed by grading activity.

Finish Grade. "Finish grade" means the final grade of the site that conforms to the approved plan.

Fire Management. "Fire management" means activities required for the protection of resources and values from fire, or the use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives.

Flood or Flooding. "Flood" or "flooding" means a general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from the overflow of inland waters; or the unusual and rapid accumulation of runoff of surface waters from any source.

Flood, One Hundred (100) Year. "One hundred (100) year flood" also called the "base flood" means a flood having a one (1) percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The boundaries of the one hundred (100) year flood include both the floodway and the flood fringe areas as shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps (Floodway). "Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps" means the official maps on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated both the areas of flood hazard and the floodway.

Flood Elevation. "Flood elevation" means the elevation of the water surface of the base flood based on the National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD) of 1929.

Flood Elevation, Increase In. "Increase in flood elevation" means an increase in flood elevation of more than one (1) foot at any point.

Flood Fringe. "Flood fringe" means the area of the one hundred (100) year flood, exclusive of the floodway, as shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and any area determined by the Floodplain Administrator to have a one (1) percent or greater probability of flood in a given year.

Flood Hazard Areas. "Flood hazard areas" means the area designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as being flooded by the base flood, and is designated as "Zone A, AO, AH, AE and A99" on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps.

Flood Height. "Flood height" means the depth of the floodwater during the one hundred (100) year flood, computed as the difference between the elevation of the one hundred (100) year floodwater surface and the elevation ground surface at a given point in the flooded area.

Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). "Flood Insurance Rate Maps" means the official maps on which the Federal Insurance Administration has delineated the flood hazard area, the limited flooding area and the risk premium zones applicable to the community.

Flood Insurance Study (FIS). "Flood Insurance Study" means the official report provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency that includes flood profiles, the Flood Insurance Rate Maps, the Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps, and the water surface elevation of the base flood.

Floodplain. "Floodplain" means any land area susceptible to being inundated by water from any source.

Floodplain Administrator. "Floodplain Administrator" means the person appointed to administer and implement the provisions of Article 416 of this Development Code.

Floodplain Management. "Floodplain management" means the operation of an overall program of corrective and preventive measures for reducing flood damage.

Floodproofing. "Floodproofing" means any combination of structural and nonstructural additions, changes or adjustments to structures which reduce or eliminate flood damage to real estate or improved property, water and sanitary facilities, structures and their contents.

Floodway. "Floodway" means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than one (1) foot. The floodway is delineated on the Flood Boundary and Floodway Maps.

Floor Area Ratio (FAR). "Floor area ratio" means the ratio of floor area permitted on a lot to the size of the lot. For example, a permitted FAR of 6.0 on a 10,000 square foot lot would allow a building with a total floor area of 60,000 square feet.

Front Line. "Front line" means the narrowest lot dimension fronting on a street.

Front Yards. See "Yard, Front."

Fuel Management. "Fuel management" means treating or controlling any vegetative material which adversely affects meeting fire management direction based upon resource management goals and objectives.

Fuelbreak. "Fuelbreak" means a strip of land, strategically placed for fighting anticipated fires, where hazardous fuels have been replaced with less burnable fuels (like grass). They divide fire-prone areas into smaller parcels for easier fire control and provide access for fire fighting.

Fuels. "Fuels" mean any material capable of sustaining or carrying a wildfire, usually natural material both live and dead.

Gabion. "Gabion" means a container or basket fabricated of thick galvanized wire, filled with stone.

Gaming. "Gaming" means any legally constituted gambling enterprise authorized under the laws of the State of Nevada other than slot machines when such machines are operated incidentally to the conduct of a licensed retail business.

Geotechnical Engineer. "Geotechnical Engineer" means an engineer experienced and knowledgeable in the practice of soils engineering (geotechnical engineering).

Geotechnical Engineering. "Geotechnical engineering" means the application of the principles of soils mechanics in the investigation, evaluation and design of civil works involving the use of earth materials and the inspection or testing of the construction thereof.

Geothermal Resource. "Geothermal resource" means the natural heat of the earth and the energy associated with the natural heat, pressure and all dissolved or entrained minerals, but excluding hydrocarbons and helium, that may be obtained from the medium used to transfer that heat.

Governing Body. "Governing body" refers to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners, unless otherwise clearly indicated.

Government Patent Easement. "Government patent easement" means an easement granted through a patent by the federal government for a public purpose, generally for public access and utility purposes.

Grade. "Grade" is the lowest point of elevation of the finished surface of the ground, paving or sidewalk within the area between the building and the property line or, when the property line is more than 5 feet from the building, between the building and a line 5 feet from the building.

Gradient. "Gradient" is the slope of a lot measured as the difference in elevation of finished grade between the midpoint of the front property line and the farthest opposite point of the lot depth.

Grading. "Grading" means any clearing, excavation, cutting, filling, or other disturbance of the natural state of the landform or natural vegetation and/or any combination thereof.

Greenbelt. "Greenbelt" means an area where measures such as fuel management, land use planning and development standards are applied to mitigate fire, flood and erosion hazard. More traditionally, an irrigated landscaped buffer zone between development and wildlands, usually put to additional uses (e.g. golf course, park, etc.).

Gross Density. "Gross density" is the ratio of the total number of units to the total site area.

Ground Cover. "Ground cover" means low, dense-growing plants such as shrubs or vines, or inert materials such as rock or bark used to cover bare ground.

Ground Water Recharge. "Ground water recharge" means the infiltration of water into the earth. It may increase the total amount of water stored underground or only replenish the groundwater supply depleted through pumping or natural discharge. The natural or intentional infiltration of surface water into the Zone of Saturation (i.e. into the Ground Water). Also, the inflow of water to a ground water reservoir (Zone of Saturation) from the surface. Infiltration of precipitation and its movement to the water table is one form of natural recharge.

Group Foster Home. "Group foster home" means a natural person, partnership, firm, corporation or association who provides full-time care for seven (7) to fifteen (15) children who are:

- (a) Under eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) Not related within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity to any natural person maintaining or operating the home; and received, cared for, and
- (c) Maintained for compensation or otherwise, including the provision of permanent free care.

Halfway House for Recovering Alcohol and Drug Abusers. "Halfway house for recovering alcohol and drug abusers" means a residence that provides housing and a living environment for recovering alcohol and drug abusers and is operated to facilitate their reintegration into the community, but does not provide any treatment for alcohol or drug abuse. The term does not include a facility for transitional living for released offenders.

Hallway. "Hallway" means a completely enclosed corridor, passageway, or other similar enclosed space that connects two (2) separate rooms, or ingress and egress points, and which is not intended nor designed as habitable space. A hallway shall not be used to connect two (2) separate dwelling units.

Hedge. "Hedge" means a dense row of plant material, such as shrubs, which are arranged to form a boundary or screen.

Highest Existing Grade. "Highest existing grade" means the highest natural elevation of the ground surface prior to construction next to the proposed walls of a structure.

Hillside Development. "Hillside development" means any development including individual lots which has slopes greater than fifteen (15) percent on twenty (20) percent or more of the site.

Historic Structure. "Historic structure" means any structure that is:

- (a) Listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places (a listing maintained by the Department of the Interior) or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as meeting the requirements for individual listing on the National Register;
- (b) Certified or preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior as contributing to the historic significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined by the Secretary of the Interior to qualify as a registered historic district;
- (c) Individually listed on a state inventory of historic places in states with historic preservation programs which have been approved by the Secretary of the Interior; or
- (d) Individually listed on a local inventory of historic places in communities with historic preservation programs that have been certified either:
 - (1) By an approved state program as determined by the Secretary of the Interior; or
 - (2) Directly by the Secretary of the Interior in states without approved programs.

Home for Individual Residential Care. "Home for individual residential care" means a home in which a natural person furnishes food, shelter, assistance and limited supervision, for compensation, to not more than two (2) persons with intellectual, developmental, or physical disabilities or who are aged or infirm,

unless the persons receiving those services are related within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity to the person providing those services. The term does not include:

- (a) A halfway house for recovering alcohol and drug abusers; or
- (b) A home in which supported living arrangement services are provided to assist individuals in maximizing their independence, including without limitation training and habitation services.

Hoop House/High Tunnel. "Hoop House" or "High Tunnel" means an enclosure that is used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold, to extend the growing season in an environmentally safe manner and having a life span of approximately 5 years. The coverings for these enclosures utilize flexible, not rigid materials.

Hotel. "Hotel" means a building occupied or intended to be occupied, for compensation, as the temporary residence for transient guests, primarily persons who have residence elsewhere, with an interior hall and lobby.

House Construction Factory. "House construction factory" means a building used for the construction of a single or multiple family dwelling, or the assembly of prefabricated single or multiple family dwelling components, or a combination of the above-described procedures, which results in a completed single or multiple family dwelling that can be transported to a lot for which service has been provided and which has been improved to accommodate the installation of the dwelling.

Household. "Household" means the person or persons occupying a housing unit.

Impervious Surface. "Impervious surface" means the surface through which water cannot penetrate, such as a roof, road, sidewalk or paved parking area.

Incorporated City. "Incorporated city" means a city incorporated under the laws of the State of Nevada.

Infrastructure. "Infrastructure" means the basic facilities such as roads, schools, power plants, transmission lines, transportation and communication systems on which the continuance and growth of a community depends.

Infill Development. "Infill development" is the development or redevelopment of vacant or underutilized parcels located within existing developed areas where infrastructure is already in place and the parcel is surrounded by existing development on at least three sides, or two sides if located on a corner lot.

Inoperable Vehicle. "Inoperable vehicle" means a vehicle, as defined by NRS 482.135, which:

- (a) Does not display current license plates (from any state) registered to the vehicle; and,
- (b) Is visibly damaged, wrecked, dismantled, in serious disrepair, deteriorating (rusting, rotting) or missing major components, or is being salvaged, parted out, prepared for crushing, shredding or scrapping; and,
- (c) Is not awaiting disposition instructions as a result of a collision.

Interior Lot. See " Lot, Interior."

Junkyard. "Junkyard" means any space for storage, abandonment or sale of junk, scrap material or similar waste, including the dismantling, demolition or abandonment of automobiles, other vehicles, machinery or parts. Junkyard shall be synonymous with salvage yard.

Key. "Key" means a designed compacted fill placed in a trench excavated in earth material beneath the toe of a proposed fill slope.

Kitchen. "Kitchen" means a room or space within a room equipped with such electrical or gas hook up that would enable the installation of a range, oven, or like appliance using 220/40 volts or natural gas (or similar fuels, such as propane) for the preparation of food, and also containing either or both a refrigerator and sink for the washing and/or disposal of food.

Landscaped Buffer. "Landscaped buffer" means an area of landscaping which separates two (2) distinct land uses, or a land use and a public right-of-way, and which acts to soften or mitigate the effects of one (1) land use on the other.

Landscaping. "Landscaping" means an area devoted to and maintained with a mixture of existing or new native or exotic plants such as turf, groundcover, shrubs, flowers, vines and trees, as well as additional complementary decorative features such as rocks, decorative pavement, fountains, pools, sculpture and decorative wall.

Ldn. "Ldn" means the average equivalent A-weighted sound level during a 24-hour day obtained by adding ten decibels to the hourly noise levels measured during the night (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). In this way, Ldn takes into account the lower tolerance of people for noise during nighttime periods. Ldn noise level measurements are typically plotted onto a map to identify noise contours around a significant noise generator (e.g. freeways, airports, etc.).

Limited Gaming. "Limited gaming" means gaming enterprises authorized by the State Gaming Control Board whereby any person or gaming establishment may be issued a limited gaming license or have such conditions placed on a gaming license as necessary to protect the public interest.

Livestock. "Livestock" means:

- (a) All cattle or animals of the bovine species;
- (b) All horses, mules, burros and asses or animals of the equine species;
- (c) All goats or animals of the caprine species;
- (d) All swine or animals of the porcine species; and
- (e) All sheep or animals of the ovine species.

Loading Space. "Loading space" means an off-street space or berth on the same lot with a building or contiguous to a group of buildings for the temporary parking of vehicles while handling merchandise or materials.

Lot. "Lot" means a distinct part or parcel of land divided with the intent to transfer ownership or for building purposes, which abuts upon a permanent means of access and is assigned a single parcel number by the Washoe County Assessor's Office.

Lot, Corner. "Corner lot" means a lot situated at the intersection of two (2) or more streets or a lot that abuts one (1) street that changes directions, curves or turns around the lot with an interior angle of 135 degrees or less.

Lot, Interior. "Interior lot" means either (a) a lot bounded by a street on only one (1) side; or, (b) a lot situated at the intersection of (2) streets having an interior angle of one hundred thirty-five (135) degrees or more; or, (c) a lot that has continuous street frontage on only one (1) street and when the curvature of the lot along the street frontage exceeds one hundred thirty-five (135) degrees or more.

Lot, Through. "Through lot" means a lot bounded by two (2) streets that do not intersect at the boundaries of the lot.

Lot Coverage. "Lot coverage" is a measure of intensity of land use which represents the portion of a site that is impervious (i.e. does not absorb water). This portion includes, but is not limited to, all areas covered by buildings, parking structures, driveways, roads, sidewalks, and any areas of concrete asphalt. In the case of lumberyards, areas where lumber is stored also constitutes impervious surfaces.

Lot Depth. "Lot depth" is the distance between the front and rear lot lines measured in the mean direction of the side lines.

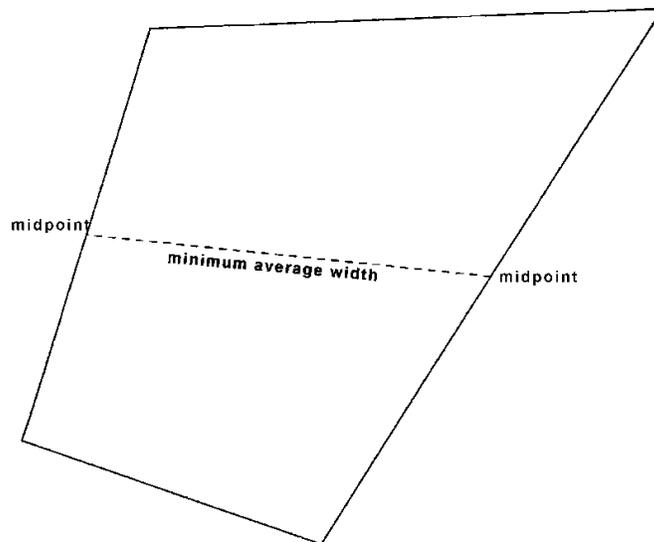
Lot Size. "Lot size" is the total square footage of a lot.

Lot Width. "Lot width" may be determined in one of the following three ways:

- (a) The distance between the side lot lines measured at right angles to the lot depth at a point midway between the front and rear line (see Figure 110.902.15LW1);

Figure 110.902.15.LW1

DISTANCE BETWEEN SIDE LOT LINES

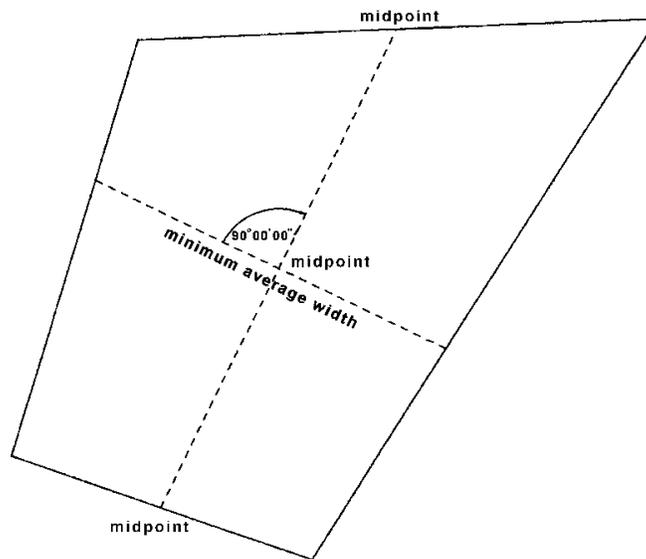


Source: George Lindesmith, PLS.

- (b) The distance between the midpoints of the side lot lines (see Figure 110.902.15LW2); or

Figure 110.902.15.LW2

DISTANCE BETWEEN MIDPOINTS

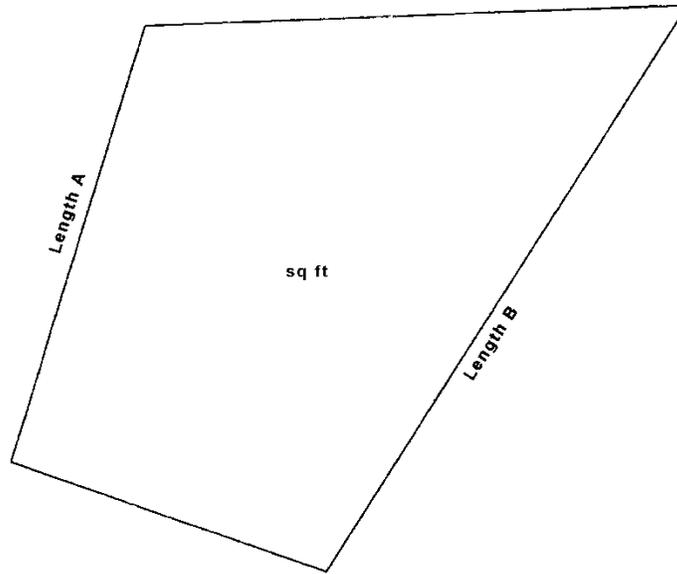


Source: George Lindesmith, PLS.

(c) $\text{Area/Average Depth} = \text{Average Width}$ (see Figure 110.902.15LW3).

Figure 110.902.15.LW3

AREA/AVERAGE WIDTH



$$\text{Area/Average Depth} = \text{Average Width}$$
$$\text{Area Sq Ft} / \frac{\text{Length A} + \text{Length B}}{2} = \text{Average Width}$$

Source: George Lindesmith, PLS.

Lowest Floor. "Lowest floor" means the lowest floor of the lowest enclosed area (including basement). An unfinished or flood resistant enclosure, usable solely for parking of vehicles, building access or storage, in an area other than a basement area is not considered a building's lowest floor, provided that such enclosure is not built so as to render the structure in violation of the applicable non-elevation design requirements.

Main Building. "Main building" means a building devoted to the principal use of the lot on which it is situated.

Major Subdivision. "Major subdivision" means a subdivision which contains five (5) or more lots, parcels, sites, units, plots or interests.

Manufactured Home. "Manufactured home" is a dwelling unit fabricated in an off-site manufacturing facility for installation or assembly at the building site, bearing the label certifying that it is built in compliance with the Federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards in effect on the date of manufacture. A manufactured home is further defined by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 489.113). A manufactured home is not a mobile home, nor a modular home.

Manufactured Home Park Site. "Manufactured home park site" is the entire tract of land used for a manufactured home park.

Manufactured Home Space. "Manufactured home space" is the area in a manufactured home park that is rented or leased to the occupant or occupants of a manufactured home.

Manufactured Home Subdivision. "Manufactured home subdivision" is a subdivision designed and/or intended for the sale of lots for siting manufactured homes.

Master Plan. "Master Plan" means the Washoe County Master Plan including both countywide elements and planning areas.

Median Income or County Median Income. "Median income" or "County median income" means the level of income in Washoe County whereby one-half (1/2) of the population earns greater than that level of income and one-half (1/2) of the population earns less than that level of income. Median income is determined on a yearly basis by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Military Installation. "Military installation" means a base or facility at which or from which the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force Reserve, Army Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve or National Guard conducts exercises, maneuvers, operations, patrols or training.

Minor Subdivision. "Minor subdivision" means a subdivision which contains four (4) or less lots, parcels, sites, units, plots or interests.

Minute Action. "Minute action" means an official final decision made by the Board of County Commissioners, as recorded in the County Clerk's minutes.

Mobile Home. "Mobile home" is a transportable, fabricated home, designed to be used as a year-round residential dwelling and built prior to enactment of the Federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, which became effective June 15, 1976. A mobile home, further defined by Nevada Revised Statute (NRS 489.120), does not bear an insignia of approval that the dwelling unit was built in compliance with NRS Chapter 461. A mobile home is not a manufactured home, nor a modular home.

Mobile Home Park. "Mobile home park" means a tract of land under single ownership within which two (2) or more manufactured homes are occupied as residences on a permanent or semi-permanent basis. The homes are located on spaces that are rented or leased. Special facilities for the common use of the occupants may be included.

Mobile Home Park Site. "Mobile home park site" is the entire tract of land used for a mobile home park.

Modular Home. "Modular home" is a dwelling unit fabricated in an off-site manufacturing facility for installation or assembly at the building site, bearing a label certifying that it is built in compliance with local International Building Code standards and further meets all requirements of County Code Chapter 100. Modular homes shall be subject to the same permit process as site-built homes. A modular home is not a manufactured home, but includes what is commonly referred to as a panelized home.

Motel. "Motel" means a building occupied or intended to be occupied, for compensation, as the temporary residence for transient guests, primarily persons who have residence elsewhere, with access to each room or unit from an outside porch or landing (whether or not such outside porch or landing is enclosed with screen, glass, plastic or similar material).

Mulch. "Mulch" means an organic or inorganic material applied to landscaped areas to help minimize evaporation from the soil, reduce weeds, moderate soil temperatures and slow erosion.

National Register of Historic Places. "National Register of Historic Places" means the listing maintained by the U.S. National Park Service of areas which have been designated as historically significant. The Register includes places of local and state significance, as well as those of value to the nation in general.

Natural Area. "Natural area" means a land area which is unimproved and not occupied by any structures or man-made elements, and set aside for the conservation of permanent, undisturbed open space.

Net Density. "Net density" is the ratio of the total number of units to the site area minus the area of the streets, parking areas and undevelopable land.

Nevada Natural Heritage Site. "Nevada Natural Heritage Site" means areas of land or water which either:

- (a) Have unusual flora, fauna, geological, scenic or similar features of scientific, educational or recreational interest; or
- (b) Retain some degree, or have re-established, a natural character (although it need not be completely undisturbed).

Non-municipal Air Strips and Glider Ports. "Non-municipal air strips and glider ports" means any Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognized public use landing area, privately owned and operated for scheduled or non-scheduled air transportation activities, where commercial uses and aviation related commerce can occur. Such use may include provision of landing privileges, hangar and tie-down lease/rental spaces, fuel and lubrication service, flight instruction, plane rental, mechanical repairs, or any other form of aviation commerce. Uses can also include scenic and sightseeing transportation service including helicopter rides, glider plane rides, air balloon rides, ultra-light and experimental aircraft activities and aircraft charters. The term "non-municipal air strips and glider ports" does not apply to public airports operated by any federal, state or local government agencies. The term also does not apply to a personal landing field that is used for fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter landing operations that are incidental and ancillary to established allowable uses including, but not limited to, agricultural, ranching or mining activities, as long as no aviation related commerce is conducted at the personal landing fields.

NRS. "NRS" means Nevada Revised Statutes.

Open Space, Common. "Common open space" means the total land area, not individually owned or dedicated for public use, which is designed and intended for the common use or enjoyment of the residents or occupants of the common open space development. Common open space can include swimming pools, putting greens, playgrounds, and other recreational-leisure facilities; areas of scenic or natural beauty and habitat areas; hiking, riding or off-street bicycle trails; and landscaped areas adjacent to roads which are in excess of minimum required rights-of-way.

Open Space, Private. "Private open space" means the outdoor living area directly adjoining a dwelling unit or building which is intended for the private enjoyment of the residents or occupants of the dwelling unit or building and which is defined in such a manner that its boundaries are evident.

Open Space Use. "Open space use" means the current employment of land, the preservation of which use would conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources, protect streams and water supplies or preserve sites designated as historic pursuant to law, provided such land has a greater value for another use than for open space use.

Outdoor Storage. "Outdoor Storage" means the outside placement of items and materials that are incidental to the existing principal use of the property, except as provided for under Section 110.306.35(d), for a period of more than seventy-two (72) consecutive hours. Outdoor storage is further defined and regulated in the Washoe County Nuisance Code (WCC Sections 50.300 to 50.310, inclusive).

Parcel Map. "Parcel map" means a map for a minor subdivision.

Parcel of Land. "Parcel of land" means any unit or contiguous units of land assigned a single parcel number by the Washoe County Assessor's Office.

Parking Area. "Parking area" means an open area, excluding a street or other public right-of-way, used for the parking of vehicles and available to the public, whether for free or for compensation.

Permanent Employee Housing. "Permanent employee housing" means housing for employees of an isolated industrial, mining, railroad, highway, utilities or agricultural based use where those employees occupy the housing on a permanent basis year round. This development may occur on a single parcel or multiple parcels. This use type is considered employee housing and subject to the applicable regulations for that use type.

Permitted Water Rights. "Permitted water rights" means the right, in accordance with NRS Chapter 533 and as approved by the Nevada State Engineer, to appropriate public waters, or to change the place of diversion, manner of use or place of use of water already appropriated.

Perennial Stream. "Perennial stream" means a stream that flows from source to mouth throughout the year. This definition does not apply to a man-made watercourse constructed for irrigation, aesthetic or other purposes.

Person. "Person" means a firm, association, corporation, partnership or an individual.

Personal Landing Field. "Personal landing field" means a private use aviation landing area that is used for fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter landing operations that are incidental and ancillary to established allowable land uses including, but not limited to, agricultural, ranching or mining activities, as long as no aviation related commerce is conducted at the personal landing fields. Personal landing fields do not engage in scheduled or non-scheduled air transportation activities, or in any scenic and sightseeing transportation service, or any other form of aviation commerce. The term "personal landing field" does not apply to "non-municipal air strips and glider ports," or to public airports operated by any federal, state or local government agencies.

Placement. "Placement" means the issuance of a set-up permit by the Building and Safety Department for a manufactured home or mobile home.

Planting Area. "Planting area" means an area devoted to or maintained predominantly with native or exotic plants including turf, groundcover, shrubs, flowers, vines and trees with a limited portion of complementary decorative features.

Plumbing Fixture. A "plumbing fixture" is a receptacle, device, or appliance that is supplied with water or which receives liquid or liquid-borne wastes, and which discharges into a drainage system to which it may be directly or indirectly connected.

Police Powers. "Police powers" means powers reserved to the states by the U.S. Constitution and delegated to cities and counties through the Nevada Constitution and the Nevada Revised Statutes; it is the authority to create and enforce ordinances and regulations that are not in conflict with general laws in order to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the public.

Print. "Print" means and includes a blueprint, photostat, direct process print or other copy which reproduces exactly the original drawing from which it was made.

Private Communication Antenna. "Private communication antenna" means any system of wires or poles or similar devices, excluding satellite dish antennas, used for the transmission or reception of electromagnetic waves by federally licensed amateur radio or citizen band radio operators, which system is external to or attached to the exterior of any building.

Private Garage. "Private garage" means a space intended for or used by the private automobiles of families resident upon the lot.

Professional Inspection. "Professional inspection" means the inspection required by this code to be performed by a civil engineer or geotechnical engineer licensed in Nevada. Such inspections include that

performed by persons supervised by such engineers and shall be sufficient to form an opinion relating to the conduct of the work.

Public Garage. "Public garage" means a building for the repair, storage or hire of motor vehicles.

Rear Line. "Rear line" means the lot line most directly opposite the front line. A parcel of land may have only one (1) rear line.

Rear Yard. See "Yard, Rear."

Recreational Vehicle. "Recreational vehicle" means a vehicular structure that is primarily designed as temporary living quarters for travel, recreation and camping uses. A recreational vehicle can be self-propelled, mounted on, or towed by a separate vehicle.

Recreational Vehicle Park. "Recreational vehicle park" means a tract of land for the transient use by two or more recreational vehicles.

Regional Plan. "Regional Plan" means the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan.

Required Area. "Required area" means the minimum area of a lot or parcel necessary to permit its use under the provisions of the Development Code. Required area refers to:

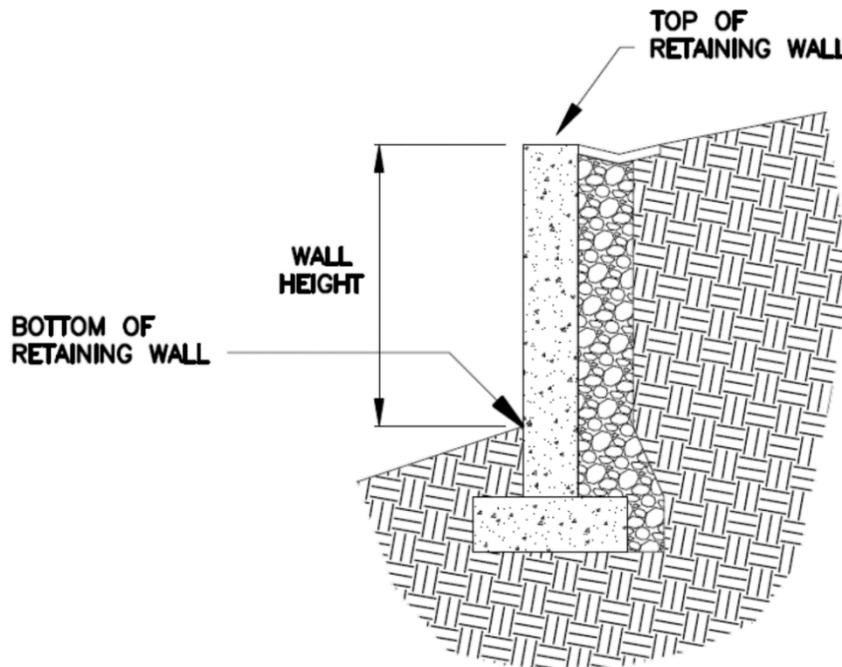
- (a) Any lot shown as part of a subdivision recorded as a final plat in the manner provided by law;
- (b) Any parcel of land separated as a lot prior to the adoption and effective date of the original Washoe County Land Use Ordinance or the adoption of additional regulatory zones; or
- (c) Any lot or parcel of land which has an area not less than that required in the respective regulatory zone.

Residential Facility for Groups. "Residential facility for groups" means an establishment that furnishes food, shelter, assistance and limited supervision to a person with an intellectual, developmental, or physical disability or a person who is aged or infirm. The term includes, without limitation, an assisted living facility. The term does not include:

- (a) An establishment which provides care only during the day;
- (b) A natural person who provides care for no more than two (2) persons in his or her own home;
- (c) A natural person who provides care for one (1) or more persons related to him or her within the third degree of consanguinity or affinity;
- (d) A halfway house for recovering alcohol and drug abusers; or
- (e) A facility funded by a division or program of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Retaining Wall Height. "Retaining wall height" means the exposed height of the retaining wall from finished grade at the bottom of the wall to the top of the wall.

Figure 110.902.15.RWH
Retaining Wall Height



Source: Washoe County Engineering Division

Revegetation. "Revegetation" means stabilizing disturbed or graded soils after construction by replanting with indigenous or natural appearing plants.

Ridgeline. "Ridgeline" means the topmost line connecting the series of highest elevation points of a ridge, running center and parallel to the long axis of the ridge and from which all water drains down.

Ridgeline, Significant. "Significant ridgeline" means the topmost line connecting the series of highest elevation points of a ridge, as identified in the Washoe County Master Plan.

Right-of-Way. "Right-of-way" is a strip of land occupied or intended to be occupied by a publicly dedicated street, including the pavement, sidewalks and parkways, crosswalk, railroad, electric transmission line, oil or gas pipeline, water main, sanitary or storm sewer main, shade streets or other special use.

Riparian. "Riparian" means related to or located on the bank of a natural water course.

Riparian Habitat. "Riparian habitat" means the land and plants bordering a watercourse or lake.

Riprap. "Riprap" means consists of large pieces of angular rock (usually six (6) to thirty (30) inches in diameter) which have undergone only primary crushing and sizing; or larger, uncrushed pieces. Riprap is used to permanently stabilize slopes and construct erosion-control structures.

Room. "Room" is space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet compartments, closets, halls, storage or utility space, and similar areas, are not considered habitable space and therefore, not a room.

Roominghouse. "Roominghouse" means a building or portion thereof (not a motel) where, for compensation, lodging is provided for more than three (3) guests.

Runoff. "Runoff" means that part of precipitation which flows over the land without filtering into the soil.

Rural Regulatory Zones. "Rural regulatory zones" means the Low Density Rural Regulatory Zone, Medium Density Rural Regulatory Zone, and High Density Rural Regulatory Zone.

Satellite Dish Antenna. "Satellite dish antenna" means a device incorporating a reflective surface that is solid, open mesh or bar configured and is in the shape of a shallow dish, cone, horn or cornucopia. Such device shall be used to transmit and/or receive radio or electromagnetic waves between terrestrially and/or orbitally based uses. This definition is meant to include, but not be limited to, what are commonly referred to as satellite earth stations, TVROs (television reception only satellite dish antennas), and satellite microwave antennas.

Scenic Corridor. "Scenic corridor" means a roadway with recognized high quality visual amenities that include background vistas of mountains, open country or city.

School. "School" means an institution of learning which offers instructions in the several branches of learning required to be taught in the public schools of the State of Nevada.

Screen. "Screen" means to provide physical separation and complete visual obscuration of one area from another on all sides and in all seasons. Such separation must be at least six (6) feet high and includes, but is not limited to, the combination or individual use of a fence, decorative wall, structure, earth berm or dense landscaping.

Section 404 (Clean Water Act). "Section 404 (Clean Water Act)" means that section of the Clean Water Act delineating restrictions on the dredging and filling (only) of Wetlands in the United States. While Section 404 Permits are issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), Section 404 regulations are written by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Section 404 (Clean Water Act) Permit. "Section 404 (Clean Water Act) Permit" means the Wetland dredge and fill permit issued under regulations written to conform to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The permit is actually granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE).

Sedimentation. "Sedimentation" means the act or process of depositing sediment from suspension in water. All the processes whereby particles of rock material are accumulated to form sedimentary deposits. Sedimentation, as commonly used, involves not only aqueous but also glacial, aeolian, and organic agents. (Water Quality) Letting solids settle out of wastewater by gravity during treatment.

Service Standards. "Service standards" means a measurement of municipal services used to monitor or compare services provided by the County and other service providers.

Setback. "Setback" means the required distance between every structure and the lot line of the lot on which the structure(s) is located.

Shrubs. "Shrubs" means a self-supporting woody species of plants characterized by persistent stems and branches springing from the base.

Side Yard. See "Yard, Side."

Site. "Site" means any lot or parcel of land or contiguous combination thereof, under the same ownership, where grading is performed or permitted.

Site-Built Home. "Site-built home" means a dwelling unit where the major components are fabricated and assembled at the building site or a dwelling unit constructed at a house construction factory located within Washoe County. Site-built homes shall comply with Washoe County building codes and other adopted local codes.

Slope. "Slope" means an inclined ground surface, the inclination of which is expressed as a ratio of horizontal distance to vertical distance.

Slaughter House, Agricultural. "Agricultural slaughter house" means a building used as an ancillary structure on a farm or ranch for the non-profit slaughtering of animals raised on-site and the processing and storage of animal products and waste that results from a slaughtering process.

Slaughter House, Commercial. "Commercial slaughter house" means a building used for the for-profit slaughtering of animals that are either raised on-site or transported to the building and the processing and storage of animal products and waste that results from a slaughtering process.

Solar Energy. "Solar energy" means energy derived from the sun's rays.

Special Flood Hazard Area. "Special flood hazard area" means the land area covered by the floodwaters of the base flood is the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) on NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) maps. The SFHA is the area where the NFIP's floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the area where the purchase of flood insurance is mandatory.

Specific Plan. "Specific plan" means a plan prepared for an area which prescribes uses and development standards for that area and is further defined in Article 442.

Stabilized Soil. "Stabilized soil" means earth or soil treated by the application of other materials such as rock, chemical palliatives or vegetation to inhibit creation of dust and erosion by wind or water.

Stockpile. "Stockpile" means any temporary storage of earth, soil, rock, or aggregate either excavated onsite from a permitted activity or imported from an offsite source to be to be utilized onsite for a permitted activity and will be removed at the completion of the construction project.

Story. "Story" is that portion of a building included between the upper surface of any floor and the upper surface of the floor next above, except that the topmost story shall be that portion of a building included

between the upper surface of the topmost floor and the ceiling or roof above. If the finished floor level directly above a usable or unused under-floor space is more than six (6) feet above grade as defined herein for more than fifty (50) percent of the total perimeter or is more than twelve (12) feet above grade as defined herein at any point, such usable or unused under-floor space shall be considered as a story.

Story, First. "First story" is the lowest story in a building which qualifies as a story, as defined herein, except that a floor level in a building having only one (1) floor level shall be classified as a first story, provided such floor level is not more than four (4) feet below grade, as defined herein, for more than fifty (50) percent of the total perimeter, or more than eight (8) feet below grade, as defined herein, at any point.

Stream. "Stream" means a general term for a body of flowing water; natural watercourse containing water at least part of the year. In hydrology, the term is generally applied to the water flowing in a natural channel as distinct from a canal. Some classifications of streams include, in relation to time:

- (a) Ephemeral Streams. Streams that flow only in direct response to precipitation and whose channel is at all times above the water table.
- (b) Intermittent or Seasonal Streams. Streams that flow only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs, rainfall, or from surface sources such as melting snow.
- (c) Perennial Streams. Streams that flow continuously.

Streambanks. "Streambanks" mean the usual boundaries, not the flood boundaries, of a stream channel. Right and left banks are named facing downstream (in the direction of flow).

Street. "Street" means a public right-of-way or easement which affords a primary means of access to abutting property.

Structure. "Structure" means a walled and roofed building or manufactured home, including a gas or liquid storage tank that is primarily above ground. "Structure" does not include a tent, trailer or vehicle.

Subdivider. "Subdivider" means any person or persons, firm, corporation, partnership or association that causes land to be divided into a subdivision for himself or itself or for others. A consultant, engineer or surveyor who does not hold title to the land is not considered a subdivider.

Subdivision. "Subdivision" means any land, vacant or improved, which is divided or proposed to be divided vacant or improved, into two (2) or more lots, parcels, sites, units or plots for the purposes of any transfer, development or any proposed transfer or development unless exempted by one of the following provisions:

- (a) "Subdivision" does not apply to any division of land which creates lots, parcels, sites, units or plots of land each of which comprise forty (40) or more acres of land, or 1/16 of a section, including roads and roadway easements, which is subject to the provisions of Article 612.
- (b) Any joint tenancy or tenancy in common shall be deemed a single interest in land.
- (c) Unless a method of disposition is adopted for the purpose of evading this Development Code or would have the effect of evading this Development Code, the term "subdivision" does not apply to:

- (1) Any division of land which is ordered by any court in this state or created by operation of law;
 - (2) A lien, mortgage, deed of trust or any other security instrument;
 - (3) A security or unit of interest in any investment trust regulated under the laws of this state or any other interest in an investment entity;
 - (4) Cemetery lots; or
 - (5) An interest in oil, gas, minerals or building materials which are not or hereafter severed from the surface ownership or real property.
- (d) "Subdivision" does not apply to creation of parcels of more than (10) acres for agricultural purposes if a street, road or highway opening, widening or easement of any kind is not involved.
- (e) For the purposes of the definition "subdivision," any interest in land created or established as joint tenancy or a tenancy in common shall be a single interest and not an interest in common, if, and only if, the use or development or the proposed use or development of such land would not be a subdivision as defined in this section if undertaken or proposed by a single entity, whether corporate or an individual. See "Major Subdivision" and "Minor Subdivision."

Substantial Improvement. "Substantial improvement" means any repair, reconstruction, additions or other improvement of a structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds fifty (50) percent of the market value of the structure either before the improvement or addition is started or, if the structure has been damaged, before the damage occurred, regardless of the actual repair work performed. For the purpose of this definition, "substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure. "Substantial improvement" does not include:

- (a) Any project for improvement of a structure to comply with existing state or local health, sanitary or safety code specifications; or
- (b) Any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places.
 - (1) "Substantial improvement" is considered to occur when the first alteration of any wall, ceiling, floor or other structural part of the building commences, whether or not that alteration affects the external dimensions of the structure; and
 - (2) "Substantial improvement" does not include improvement of a structure solely to comply with existing state or local health, sanitary or safety code specifications, or any alteration of a structure listed on the National Register of Historic Places or a State Inventory of Historic Places.

Suburban Regulatory Zones. "Suburban regulatory zones" means the Low Density Suburban Regulatory Zone, Medium Density Suburban Regulatory Zone, and High Density Suburban Regulatory Zone.

Surface Runoff. "Surface runoff" means water that results from precipitation which is not absorbed by the soil, evaporated into the atmosphere or entrapped by ground surface depressions and vegetation, and which flows over the ground surface to adjoining properties, storm drains or waterways.

Surveyor. "Surveyor" means a land surveyor registered pursuant to NRS Chapter 625.

Temporary Employee Housing. "Temporary employee housing" means housing for employees of an isolated industrial, mining, railroad, highway, utilities or agricultural based use where those employees occupy the housing on a seasonal basis not more than six (6) months per year. This development may occur on a single parcel or multiple parcels. This use type is considered employee housing and subject to the applicable regulations for that use type.

Tentative Parcel Map. "Tentative parcel map" means a map which is filed pursuant to Article 606, conforming to the standards and requirements set forth therein.

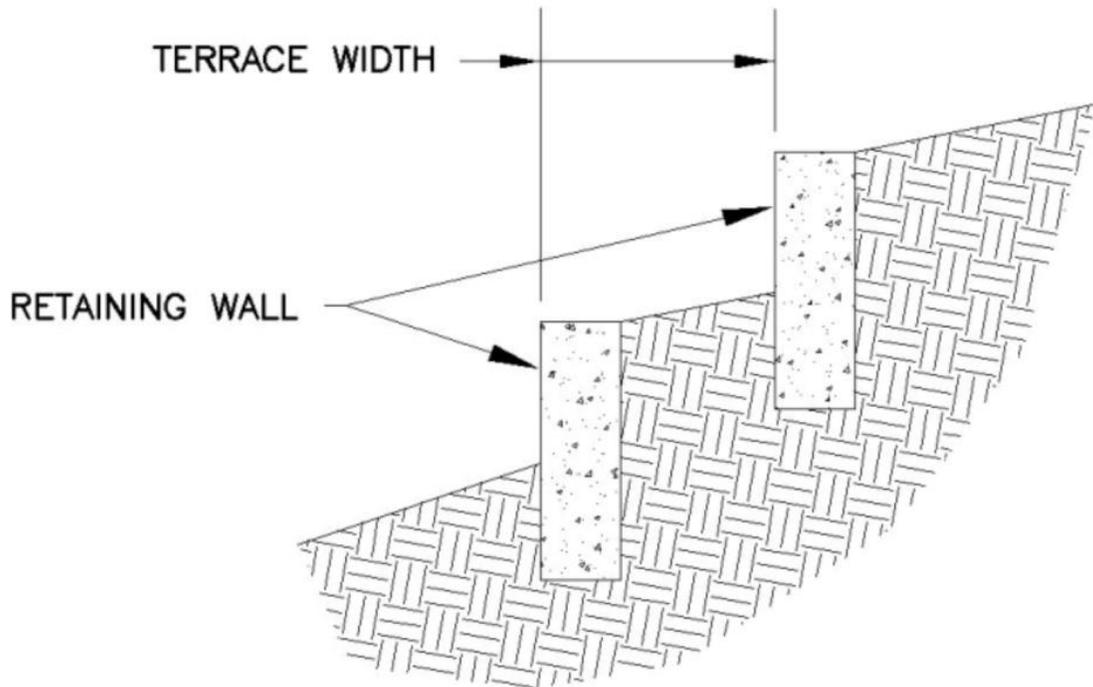
Tentative Subdivision Map. "Tentative subdivision map" means a preliminary map made to show lot lines, roads, buildings, rights-of-ways and other design factors of a proposed subdivision.

Terrace. "Terrace" means a relatively level step constructed in the face of a graded slope surface for drainage, maintenance and/or development purposes.

Terrace Width. "Terrace width" means the width of a relatively level step constructed in the face of a graded slope or between two (2) retaining walls.

Figure 110.902.15.TW

Terrace Width



Source: Washoe County Engineering Division

Threatened Species. "Threatened species" means any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future and which has been designated in the Federal Register as a threatened species.

Through Lot. See "Lot, Through."

Tiny House. "Tiny house" means a dwelling that is 400 square feet or less in floor area excluding lofts, built to the standards of the building code and appendices adopted at the time of construction.

Topography. "Topography" means configuration of a surface, including its relief and the position of natural and man-made features.

Topsoil. "Topsoil" means the upper part of the soil profile that is relatively rich in humus, known in agronomy as the "A-horizon."

Total Developed Land Area. "Total developed land area" means that portion of a property which is disturbed for development purposes including, but not limited to, areas covered by buildings, landscaping, impervious surfaces and other areas graded or excavated to support the development.

Townhouse. "Townhouse" means a form of single-family attached housing where each unit extends from foundation to roof and with a yard or public way on not less than two sides.

Trailer Coach. See "Mobile Home."

Travel Trailer. See "Recreational Vehicle."

Tree. "Tree" means a large, woody perennial plant with one main trunk or multiple trunks, and many branches.

Unladen Weight. "Unladen weight" means the weight of any vehicle without load, but fully equipped with accessories and appliances belonging to and used by such vehicle in the transportation of persons or property.

Uplighting. "Uplighting" means a source of light where the center of the light beam is at an angle greater than the horizontal.

Urban Regulatory Zones. "Urban regulatory zones" means the Low Density Urban Regulatory Zone, Medium Density Urban Regulatory Zone, and High Density Urban Regulatory Zone.

Use or Land Use. "Use" or "land use" means the primary or primary and secondary use(s) of land such as single family residential, multi-family residential, commercial, industrial, agriculture, etc. The description of a particular land use should convey the dominant character of a geographic area and, thereby, establish types of activities which are appropriate and compatible with primary use(s).

Used. "Used" includes "arranged," "designed" or "intended to be used."

Vegetation, Native. "Native vegetation" means plants that grow naturally in Washoe County, Nevada and have adapted to the climate, soil, location and rainfall patterns of their area.

Vegetation, Natural. "Natural vegetation" means plants which exist on a site before clearing or grading.

Viewshed. "Viewshed" means the surface area that can be seen from a specific viewpoint.

Vista. "Vista" means an area of high ground or projecting earth from which there is a dominant and unobstructed view of surrounding areas.

Watercourse. "Watercourse" means any natural or artificial watercourse, stream, river, creek, ditch, channel, canal, conduit, culvert, drain, gully, ravine, arroyo or wash in which water flows in a definite channel, bed or bank.

Waters of the State (Defined) (Nevada Revised Statutes 445A.415). "Waters of the State" means all waters situated wholly or partly within or bordering upon the State of Nevada, including, but not limited to:

- (a) All streams, lakes, ponds, impounding reservoirs, marshes, water courses, waterways, wells, springs, irrigation systems and drainage systems; and
- (b) All bodies or accumulations of water, surface and underground, natural or artificial.

Wetland. "Wetland" means an area that is periodically inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater on an annual or seasonal basis, that displays hydric soils, and that typically supports or is capable of supporting hydrophytic vegetation.

Wetlands (COE and EPA) (Regulatory). "Wetlands (COE and EPA)" means the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have adopted a regulatory definition for administering the Section 404 permit program of the Clean Water Act (CWA) as follows: [Wetlands are] those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas.

Wetlands (NRCS) (Technical). "Wetlands (NRCS)" mean the (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS)] uses the following definition for identifying wetlands on agricultural land in assessing farmer eligibility for U.S. Department of Agriculture program benefits under the "Swampbuster" provision of the Food Security Act (FSA) of 1985. As amended in 1990, the FSA states that the term "wetland," except when such term is part of the term "converted wetland," means land that:

- (a) Has a predominance of hydric soils;
- (b) Is inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and
- (c) Under normal circumstances does support a prevalence of such vegetation.

Will Serve Letter. "Will serve letter" means a letter from a utility purveyor assuring the provision of services for proposed development.

Yard. "Yard" means an open space on the same lot or parcel used with the building, extending from the setback line to the nearest lot line, to be unoccupied and unobstructed except as provided in the Development Code.

Yard, Front. "Front yard" means a yard lying between the setback line and the front lot line and extending across the full width of the lot or parcel. In the case of either a corner lot or an interior lot with multiple street frontages, all yards abutting streets, other than collectors or arterials, shall be considered as front yards.

Yard, Rear. "Rear yard" means a yard between the setback line and the rear lot line and extending across the full width of the lot or parcel. On a corner lot, the side opposite the shortest front yard width is considered the rear yard of the lot.

Yard, Side. "Side yard" means a yard lying between the setback line and the side lot line and extending from the front yard line to the rear yard line.

Zone or Regulatory Zone. "Zone" or "Regulatory Zone" means a portion of the unincorporated area of Washoe County which is specifically designated in Article 106 of this Development Code.

SECTION 13. General Terms.

1. All actions, proceedings, matters, and things heretofore taken, had and done by the County and its officers not inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are ratified and approved.
2. The Chair of the Board and officers of the County are authorized and directed to take all action necessary or appropriate to effectuate the provisions of this Ordinance. The District Attorney is authorized to make non-substantive edits and corrections to this Ordinance.
3. All ordinances, resolutions, bylaws and orders, or parts thereof, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent only of such inconsistency. This repealer shall not be construed to revive any ordinance, resolution, bylaw or order, or part thereof, heretofore repealed.
4. Each term and provision of this Ordinance shall be valid and shall be enforced to the extent permitted by law. If any term or provision of this Ordinance or the application thereof shall be deemed by a court of competent jurisdiction to be in violation of law or public policy, then it shall be deemed modified, ipso facto, to bring it within the limits of validity or enforceability, but if it cannot be so modified, then the offending provision or term shall be excised from this Ordinance. In any event, the remainder of this Ordinance, or the application of such term or provision to circumstances other than those to which it is invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected.

DRAFT: October 15, 2025

Passage and Effective Date

Proposed on _____ (month) _____ (day), 2025.

Proposed by Commissioner _____.

Passed on _____ (month) _____ (day), 2026.

Vote:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Alexis Hill, Chair
County Commission

ATTEST:

Jan Galassini, County Clerk

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the
_____ day of the month of _____ of the year _____.



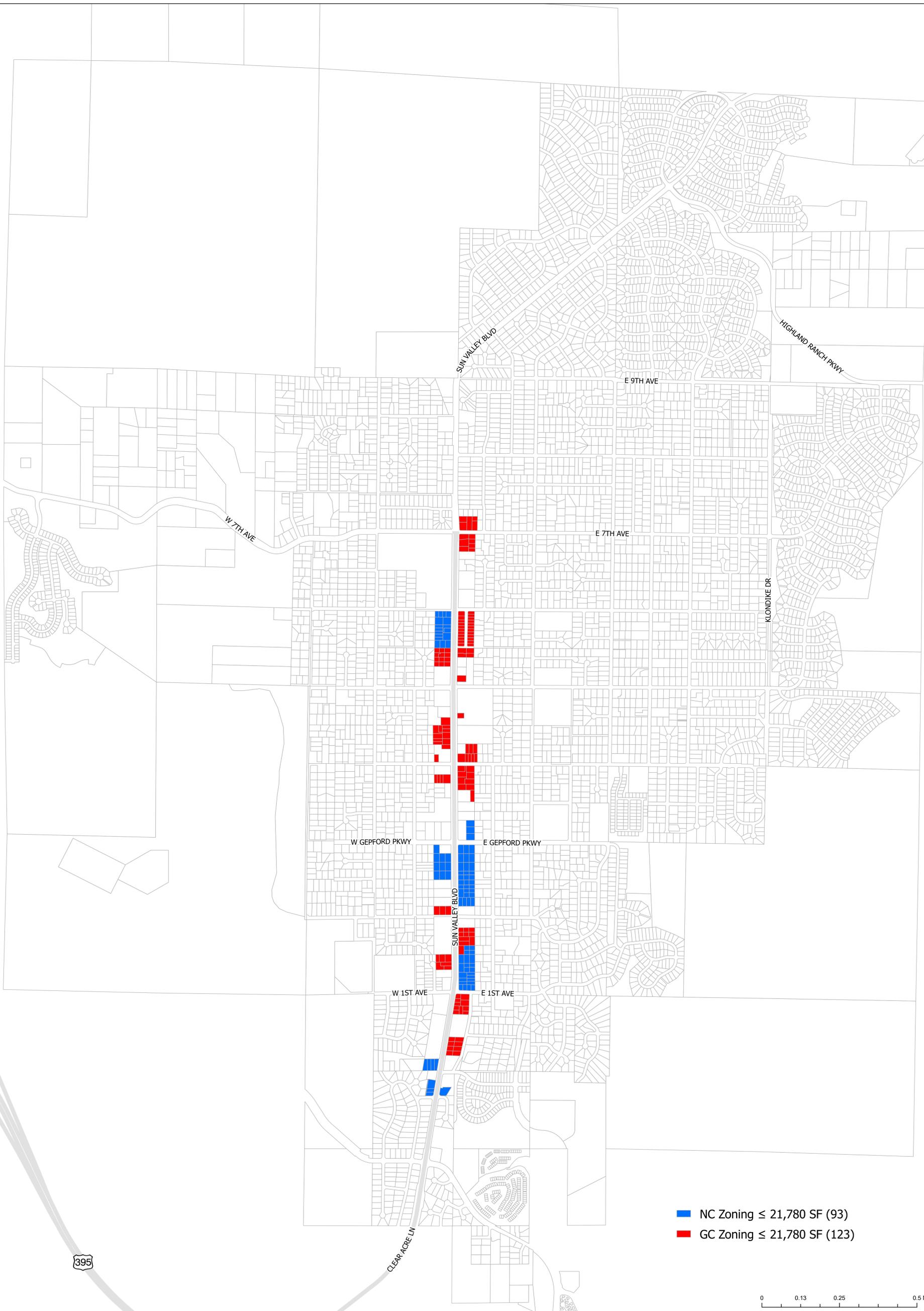
WDCA25-0008 (Small Housing and Infill Development)—9/24/25 Neighborhood Meeting Summary

Kat Oakley, Chris Bronczyk, and Brandon Roman from the Washoe County Planning Division conducted a neighborhood meeting on WDCA25-0008 (Small Housing and Infill Development) via Zoom from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Six members of the public attended. Planning representatives gave a [presentation](#) which covered background on population/housing trends and an overview of draft amendments. The following topics were discussed and/or commented on:

- Comments in support of allowing cottage court subdivisions
- Recommendation to include a diagram showing cottage clusters/multiple cottage clusters to improve clarity around what is proposed
- Comment supporting restrictions on cottage court location to only locations with a certain level of access to transit and employment and prohibiting the addition of cottage courts in existing subdivisions.
- Comment advocating for the removal of setback and minimum lot size flexibility in common open space developments.
- Comment suggesting that code amendments that impact all areas of the county should be required to go to each of the Citizen Advisory Boards (CABs).
- Question about the process and schedule for adopting these code amendments. Staff responded that the Planning Commission hearing is anticipated to occur in November or December, and that two Board of County Commissioner (BCC) meetings will occur after as schedules allow.

If people have further questions or comments, please reach out to Kat Oakley at koakley@washoecounty.gov or Chris Bronczyk at cbronczyk@washoecounty.gov.

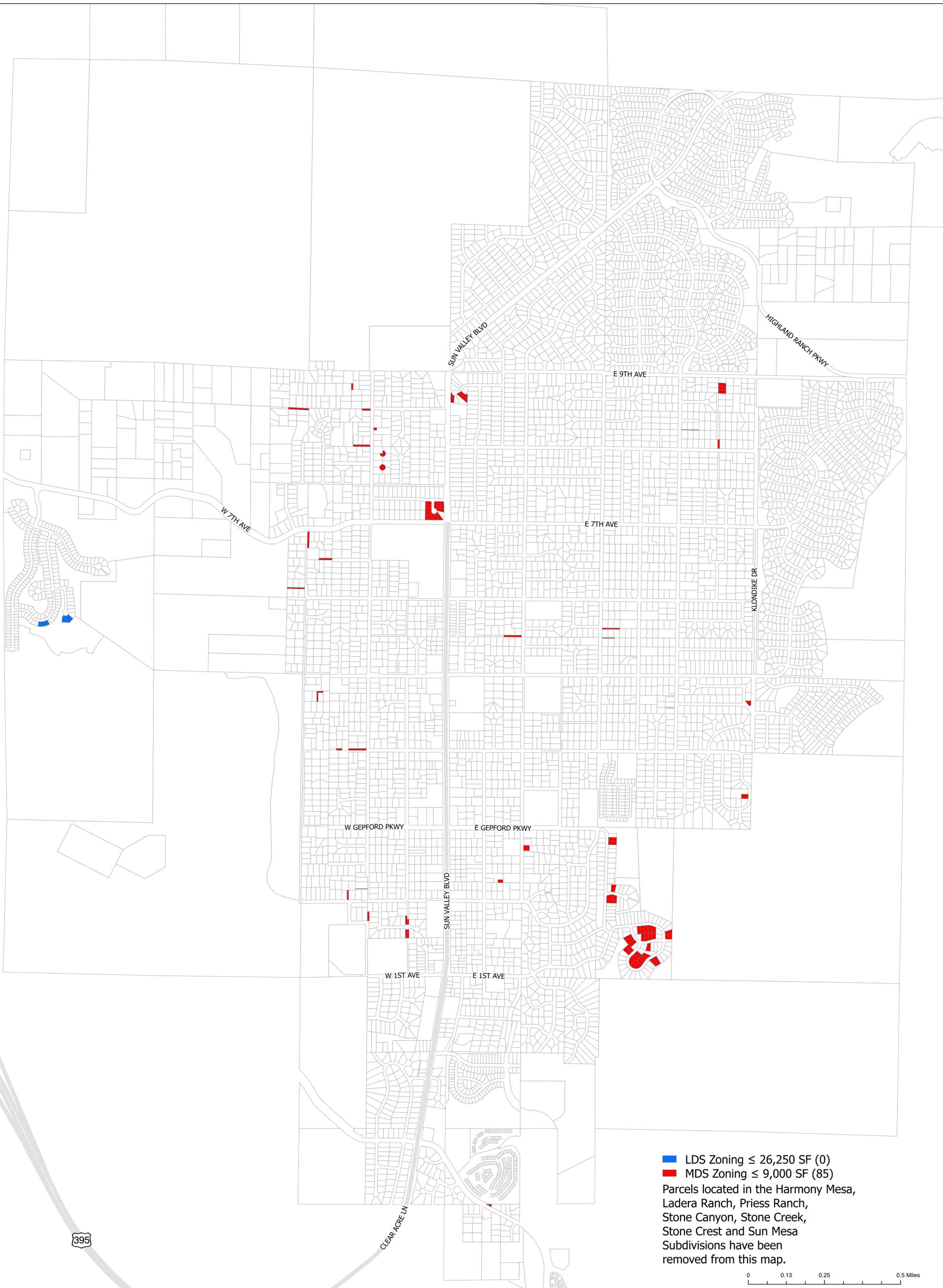




Washoe County
Community Services
Department

Commercial - Set 2 Sun Valley Planning Area Infill Sites



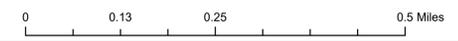
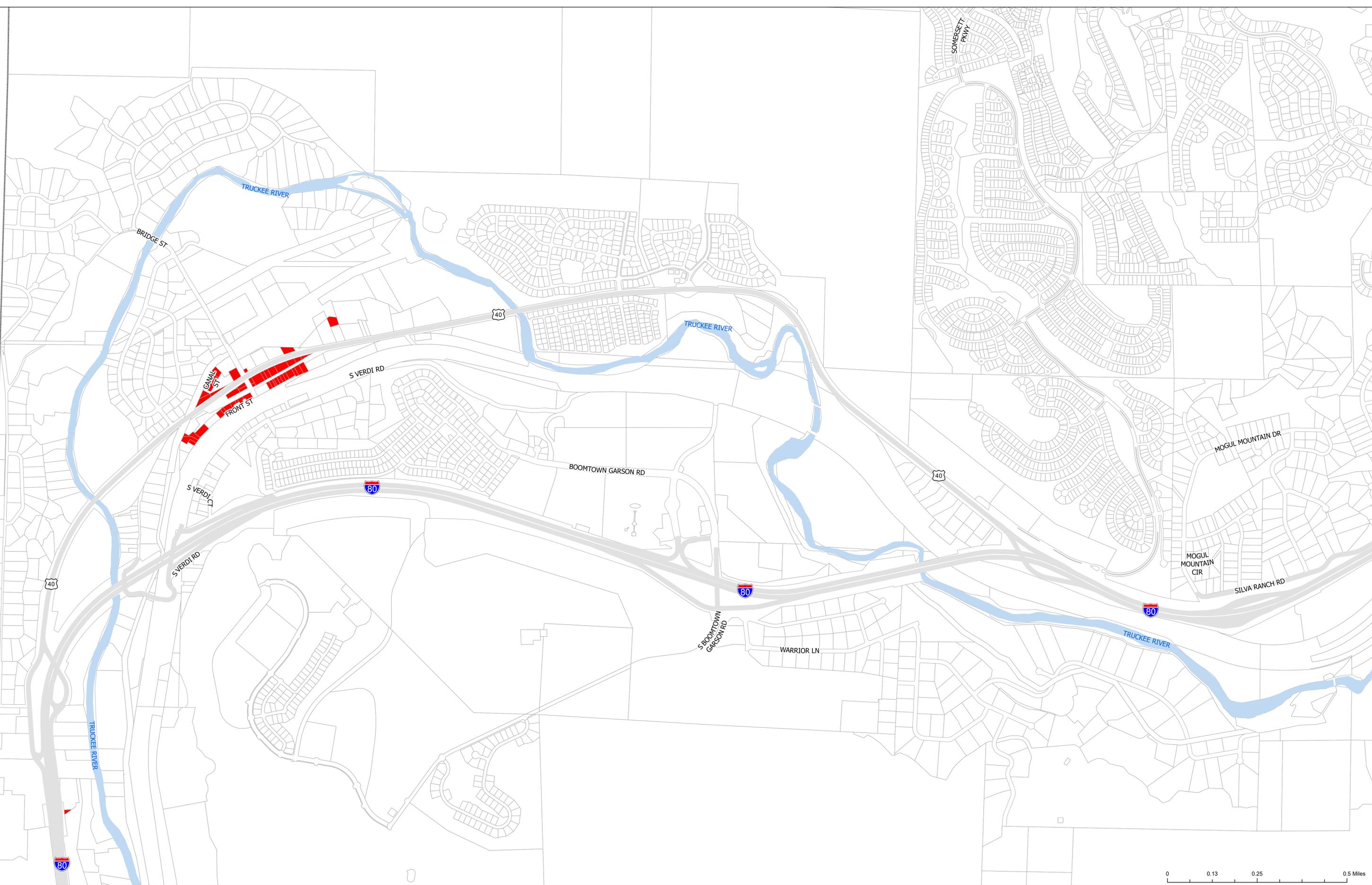


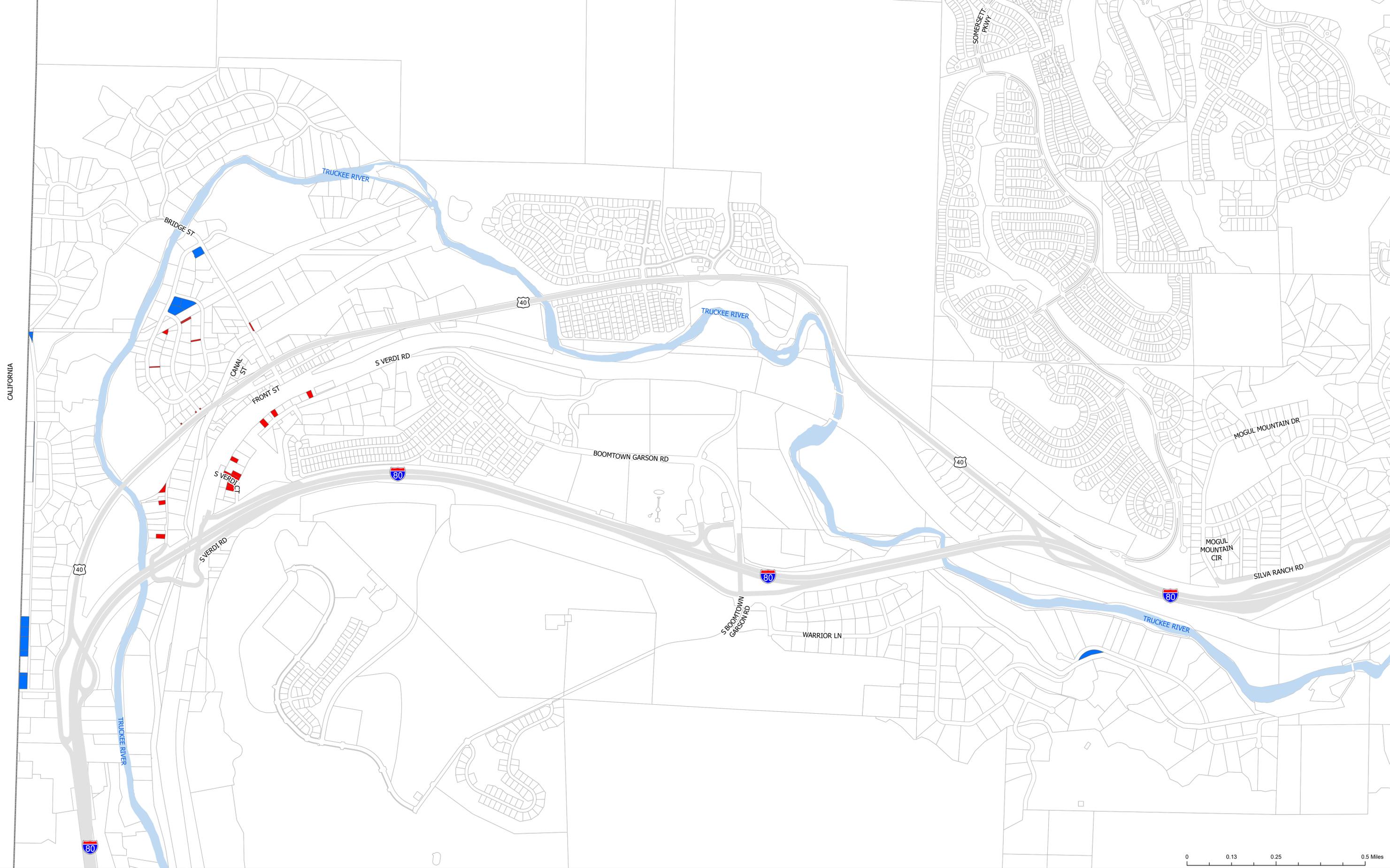
Washoe County
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Department

Residential - Sun Valley Planning Area Infill Sites



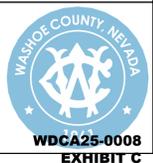
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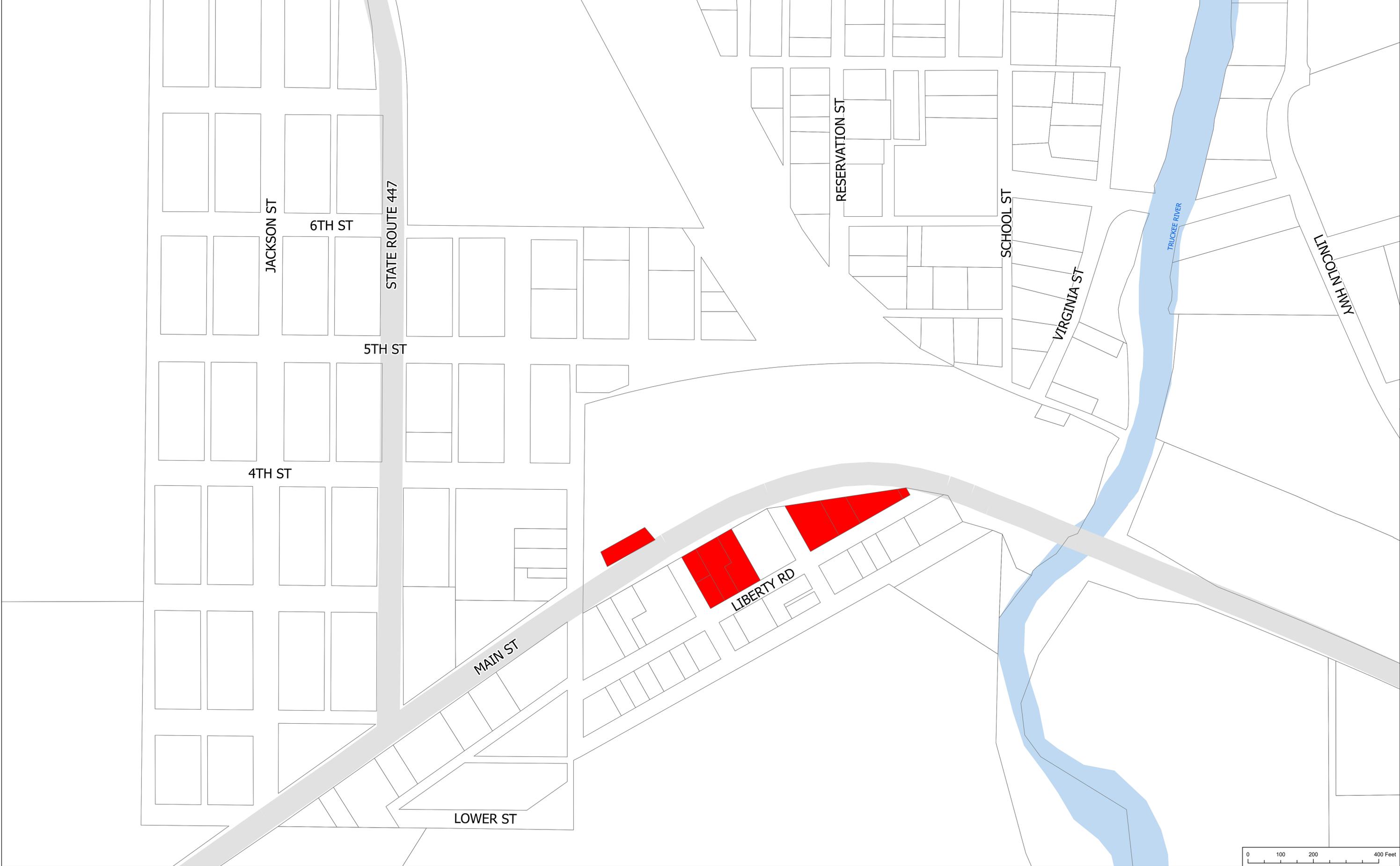


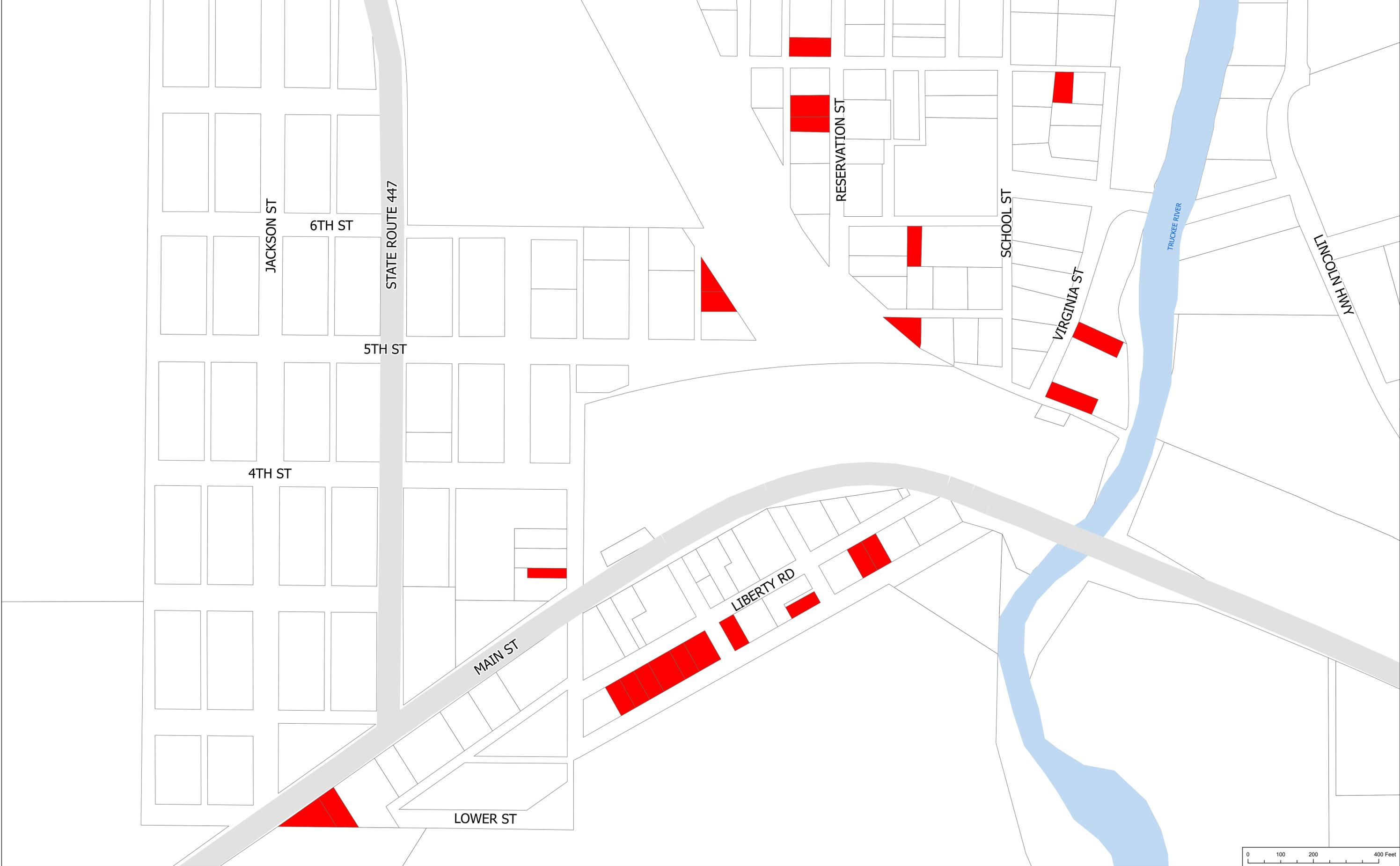


Parcels located in the Mogul Highlands Subdivision have been removed from this map.

- LDS Zoning ≤ 26,250 SF (14)
- MDS Zoning ≤ 9,000 SF (21)







Oakley, Katherine

From: Pat Davison <pat.davison@att.net>
Sent: Monday, September 29, 2025 8:30 AM
To: Oakley, Katherine; Bronczyk, Christopher
Subject: Followup from last week's mtg re: Small Housing & Infill

This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside of Washoe County -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

[Report Suspicious](#)

Hi Kat and Chris - thanks again for your time last week to explain the draft language for the "Small Housing and Infill Development" code amendment (WDCA25-20008). Here is my followup:

Courtyard Apartments - this term is being introduced to describe a specific type of apartment complex on a parcel. These apartments fall in the Multi Family Minor or Multi Family residential use type, depending on number of units. A new definition is being added to 902 but we are not adding Courtyard Apartments to the master table of residential use types (110.302.05.1). Would you consider adding a new sentence to the definition in 902?? Something that notes the housing type and conveys the distinction: **These apartments fall in the Multi Family Minor or Multi Family residential use type, depending on number of units.**

Notification - I also support notifying CABs of these (and future) Development Code changes. Have the owners of the infill parcels in Gerlach, Sun Valley, Verdi, and Wadsworth been notified of these proposed changes to the Development Code??

And a couple of general questions:

- 1) Do you know what % of all homes under the County's jurisdiction are less than 2000 SF?
- 2) Do you know if most newer homes (built within the last 10 years or 2015) under the County's jurisdiction are on average larger than homes built before 2015?

Thanks so much for your help! pat

Oakley, Katherine

From: Lloyd, Trevor
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Oakley, Katherine; Young, Eric
Cc: Paul Malikowski
Subject: FW: Building houses can be super easy. This city is proving it 🏠

Good morning Kat and Eric, please see the email from Paul Malikowski below.



Trevor Lloyd, Planning Manager
Planning & Building | Community Services Dept.
tlloyd@washoecounty.gov | Office: 775.328.3617
1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89512



From: Paul Malikowski <nvlawcom@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 19, 2025 11:32 AM
To: Lloyd, Trevor <TLloyd@washoecounty.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Building houses can be super easy. This city is proving it 🏠

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Re:

Small Housing and Infill Development DCA Community Workshop - All Districts

<https://neighborhood-washoe.hub.arcgis.com/events/small-housing-and-infill-development-dca-community-workshop-all-districts-cmffxzsm001pfbz4hcf64kl>

Hello, TLloyd:

I saw this news note today, which may have been a press release:

<https://thisisreno.com/2025/09/community-input-small-housing/>

Wouldn't pre-approved housing plans move this agenda along faster, cheaper, and with greater certainty?

If Kalamazoo can do this, why can't Reno and Washoe County?

<https://academy.strongtowns.org/p/housingplans-lmfall25?apcid=0060f5c46eb5b5bba4382600>

Please advise.

Paul J. Malikowski, Esq.
Malikowski Law Offices, Ltd.
Reno, Nevada Office: (775) 786-0758
USA fax and voicemail: (800) 331-9501

Caughlin Professional Park
Caughlin Ranch Professional Building
4747 Caughlin Parkway, Suite 7
Reno, Nevada 89519

Post Office Box 9030
Reno, Nevada 89507-9030

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Our physical office will be open to the public, with Covid-19 protocols in place.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mya at Strong Towns** <mya@strongtowns.org>

Date: Thu, Sep 18, 2025 at 6:30 AM

Subject: Building houses can be super easy. This city is proving it 🏠

To: Paul Malikowski <paul@nvlaw.com>

Kalamazoo, Michigan, is leading the way on housing reform.

STRONG TOWNS

This city made building homes easy — here's how they did it.



Pre-approved housing plans helped Kalamazoo turn vacant lots into vibrant neighborhoods. (Source: Rebekah Kik.)

Kalamazoo, Michigan, was stuck with vacant lots, slow permitting, and zoning hurdles that blocked new housing. Then they created a portfolio of pre-approved housing plans.

The results? Dozens of new homes built quickly and affordably — without destroying neighborhood character.

Here's how pre-approved plans work: Instead of each developer going through repeated permit reviews, the city created ready-to-

build designs for duplexes, ADUs, narrow infill homes, and more. All plans comply with building codes and come bundled with necessary permits.

Reducing red tape makes it cheaper to build and buy houses, making homeownership possible for more people. (Source: Rebekah Kik.)

Before launching the program, **city officials built homes themselves.** This let them identify and remove hidden friction points so the process was as easy as possible.

Small developers can now invest without endless approvals. Buyers and renters can move in sooner. And Kalamazoo's vacant lots can become vibrant neighborhoods.

Want to launch pre-approved plans in your city? Join us for a **live virtual workshop on September 25** with Deputy City Manager Rebekah Kik, who helped spearhead Kalamazoo's housing reforms.

Make Housing Easy

Workshops are \$25 each or \$125 for all 8. Strong Towns members get free access. Members, check your weekly member email for your code.

— Mya at Strong Towns

Strong Towns is a member-powered movement for change. A national nonprofit, media organization and bottom-up movement, we tell stories that inspire people to take the future of their neighborhoods, towns and cities into their own hands.

♥ [Check your membership status here.](#)



What did you think of this email?



Strong Towns

1001 Kingwood St, Brainerd, MN 56401, USA

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