





November 3, 2022

TO:

Mayor Jerry L. Demings -AND-County Commissioners (

Jon V. Weiss, P.E., Director

Services Department

Planning, Environmental, and/Development

FROM:

CONTACT PERSON: David D. Jones, P.E., CEP, Manager Environmental Protection Division (407) 836-1406

SUBJECT:

December 13, 2022 — Consent Item Environmental Protection Commission Recommendation for Request for Waiver and Variance for Luis and Julie Fernandez for Dock Construction Permit BD-22-07-130

The applicants, Luis and Julie Fernandez, are requesting a Dock Construction Permit with a waiver to Orange County Code (Code), Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(b) (terminal platform) and a variance to Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-343(a) (side setback) in order to construct a new boat dock. The project site is located at 14180 Bridgewater Crossings Boulevard, Windermere, FL 34786 (Parcel ID number 15-23-27-1540-00-900) on Lake Speer in District 1.

On July 6, 2022, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) received an Application to Construct a Dock for the subject property. Included with the application was an Application for Waiver to Section 15-342(b) to increase the allowed terminal platform size from 354 to 551 square feet and an Application for Variance to Section 15-343(a) to reduce the minimum required side setback from 10 feet to five feet from the western projected property line.

Terminal Platform Size Waiver

Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(b) of the Code states, "the maximum square footage of the terminal platform shall not exceed the square footage of ten times the linear shoreline frontage for the first seventy-five (75) feet of shoreline and five times the linear shoreline frontage for each foot in excess of seventy-five (75) feet, not to exceed a maximum of 1,000 square feet." The applicants have a shoreline that measures approximately 35.41 linear feet at the Normal High Water Elevation, allowing for a maximum terminal platform size of 354 square feet. The applicants are requesting to construct a new dock with a terminal platform size of 551 square feet (197 square feet larger than allowed).

Waiver Criteria

Pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(2), "the applicant shall describe (1) how this waiver would not negatively impact the environment, and (2) the effect of the proposed waiver on abutting shoreline owners."

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To address Section 15-350(a)(2)(1), the applicants' agent (Ms. Sheila Cichra) states, "The terminal platform will be constructed over open water, so there will not be any impact to wetland vegetation. The proposed terminal platform is only 197 square feet over the allowed limit and similar in size to the adjacent docks."

To address Section 15-350(a)(2)(2), Ms. Cichra states, "The proposed structure will not adversely affect the adjacent property owner's view or navigability."

The shading impacts were evaluated by EPD staff using the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method. The applicant has agreed to provide mitigation for the additional shading impacts from the oversized terminal platform with a payment of \$315 to the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) if the waiver is approved.

Side Setback Variance

Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-343(a) of the Code states, "On lots or parcels having a shoreline frontage of less than seventy-five (75) feet, docks, including designated mooring areas, shall have a minimum side-setback of ten (10) feet from the projected property line." The applicant has a shoreline that measures 35.41 linear feet at the NHWE, requiring a minimum side setback of 10 feet. The applicant is requesting a side setback of five feet from the western projected property line.

Section 15-350(a)(1) Variances states, "A variance application may receive an approval or approval with conditions when such variance: (1) would not be contrary to the public interest; (2) where, owing to special conditions, compliance with the provisions herein would impose an unnecessary hardship on the permit applicant; (3) that the hardship is not self-imposed; and (4) the granting of the variance would not be contrary to the intent and purpose of this article."

Variance Criteria

Pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(1), "the applicant shall also describe (I) how strict compliance with the provisions from which a variance is sought would impose a unique and unnecessary hardship on the applicant-the hardship cannot be self-imposed; and (2) the effect of the proposed variance on abutting shoreline owners."

To address Section 15-350(a)(1)(1), the applicant's agent (Sheila Cichra) states, "These parcels were platted with very narrow shorelines. It is difficult to construct even a below average sized boathouse within the required setbacks. The proposed boat slip is standard sized, but the proposed deck is very narrow to reduce the required deviation from the code."

To address Section 15-350(a)(1)(2), the applicant's agent states, "Due to the angled property lines and the similarity of all of the lots in this area, there is no navigational hazard or view obstruction."

Public Notification, Objection, and Letter of No Objection

On August 5, 2022, a Notice of Application for Waiver and a Notice of Application for Variance were sent to all shoreline property owners within a 300-foot radius of the property. Due to United States Postal Service certified mail delivery issues, EPD was unable to confirm whether two of the notices were received. Accordingly, those notices for which delivery was unconfirmed were also posted onsite at each neighbor's residence or (if

present) hand delivered by Ms. Cichra, who provided documentation to EPD that the noticing was completed on September 13, 2022.

On August 23, 2022, EPD received one letter of objection to both the terminal platform size waiver and the side setback variance. The objectors, Richard and Amy Lerner (5522 Remsen Cay Lane and 5516 Remsen Cay Lane) stated "We have reviewed the request for a variance for the above project and would like to voice our objections to the allowance of a larger dock platform and a reduction of side setback to 5 ft from 10 ft. The size and placement of docks as allowed by the rules helps maintain the character of the lake and would be in keeping with the adjacent docks, ours included. The lake itself is not that massive so the scale as allowed, we feel is quite appropriate. We are the owners of 5522 Remsen Cay Lane and 5516 Remsen Cay Lane (via RemCay LLC). Please let me know if this is sufficient to voice objection or if there are additional steps to take. Thank you very much."

On September 22, 2022, EPD received a notarized Letter of No Objection from the adjacent shoreline property owners affected by the reduced side setback (Luis and Julie Fernandez at 14186 Bridgewater Crossings Blvd.) in regards to the proposed plans. Note the owners of the adjacent property are the same individuals that own the property for which this dock permit is requested.

On September 28, 2022, the applicants, their agent, and objectors (Richard and Amy Lerner) were sent notices to inform them of the Environmental Protection Commission meeting on October 26, 2022.

Enforcement Action

There is no current enforcement action for this property.

EPD Staff Evaluation/Recommendation

Staff evaluated the waiver request for compliance with the criteria for approval. The recommendation of the Environmental Protection Officer (EPO) was to deny the request for waiver to Section 15-342(b) (terminal platform size) based on a finding that the applicants failed to demonstrate there will be no negative effects on the abutting shoreline owners pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(2)(2), as an objection was received.

Staff also evaluated the variance request for compliance with the criteria for approval. The recommendation of the EPO was to deny the request for variance to Section 15-343(a) (side setback) based on a finding that the applicants failed to demonstrate that there will be no adverse effects from the proposed variance on abutting shoreline owners pursuant to Section 15-350(a)(1)(2), as an objection was received.

Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) Public Hearing

EPD presented the applicants' waiver and variance request to the EPC at their October 26, 2022 public meeting. Sheila Cichra spoke on behalf of the applicants and stated that the objectors' dock application received both a side setback and terminal platform size waiver, and that similar dock sizes have been approved for neighboring lots. Chairman Mark Ausley stated that the dock was similar to what they have seen and approved in this area. Vice Chairman Alan Horn stated that the only reason for the side setback variance is because they are asking for a bigger dock.

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Based upon evidence and testimony presented at the hearing, the EPC voted 4-3 to reject the findings and recommendations of the EPO, and recommended approval of the waiver to Section 15-342(b) (terminal platform size) with the condition that the applicants remit a payment in the amount of \$315 to the CTF as mitigation for the additional shading impacts, and recommended approval of the variance to Section 15-343(a) (side setback) to reduce the side setback from ten to five feet from the western projected property line.

ACTION REQUESTED: Acceptance of the findings and recommendation of the Environmental Protection Commission and approval of the request for waiver to Orange County Code, Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-342(b) to increase the maximum allowable terminal platform size from 354 square feet to 551 square feet with a mitigation payment of \$315 to the Conservation Trust Fund within 60 days of the decision of the Board of County Commissioners, and approval of the request for variance to Section 15-343(a) to reduce the side setback from 10 to 5 feet from the western projected property line for the Luis and Julie Fernandez Dock Construction Permit BD-22-07-130. District 1

JVW/DDJ: jk

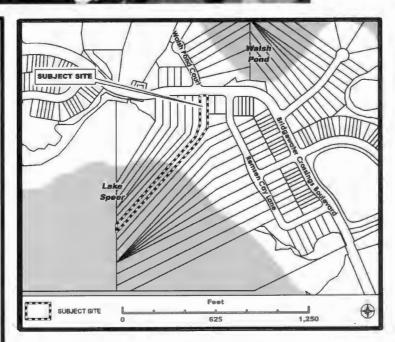
Attachments

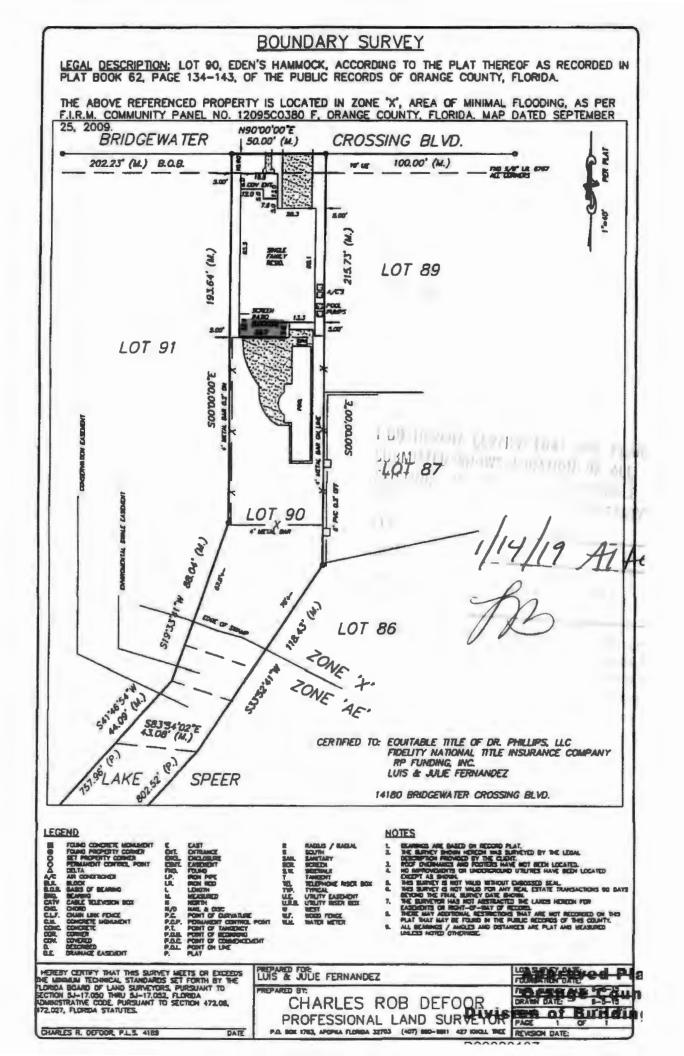
Dock Construction Application for Variance and Waiver

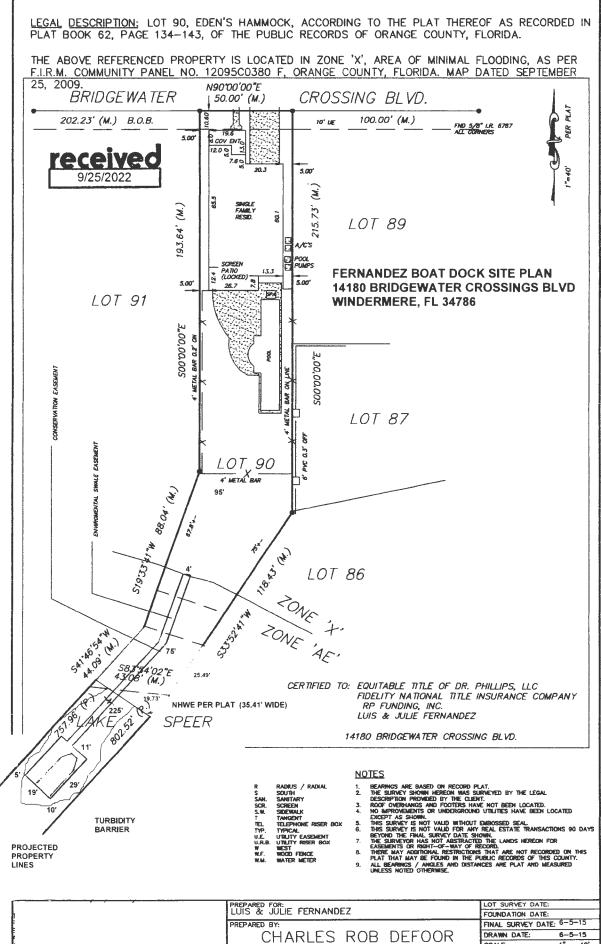


Dock Construction Application for Variance and Waiver BD-22-07-130 District #1 Applicants: Luis and Julie Fernandez Address: 14180 Bridgewater Crossings Blvd. Parcel ID: 15-23-27-1540-00-900 Project Site

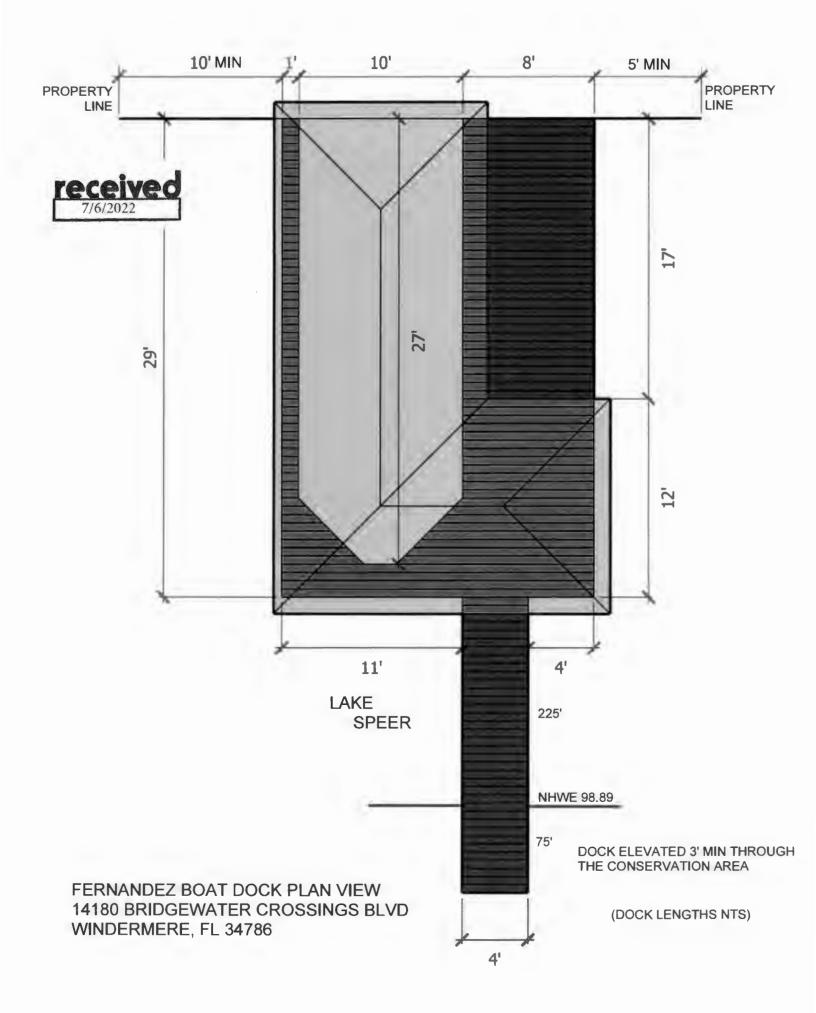
Property Location



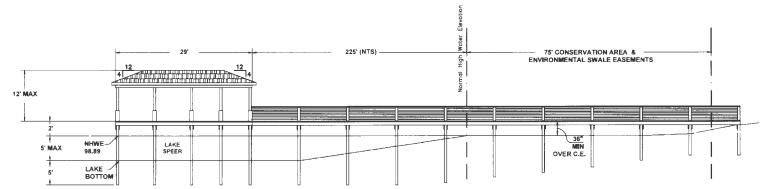




CHARLES R/DEFØÓR, P.L.S. 4189 DATE P.O. BOX 1783, APOPKA FLORIDA 32703 (407) 880-9611 427 KNOLL TREE REVISION DATE:







FERNANDEZ ELEVATION - 14180 BRIDGEWATER CROSSINGS BLVD, WINDERMERE, FL 34786



APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A BOAT DOCK APPLICATION FOR WAIVER

(Pursuant to Orange County Code, Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-350(a)(2))

Mail or
Deliver To:Orange County Environmental Protection Division
800 Mercy Drive, Suite 4
Orlando, Florida 32808
(407) 836-1400, Fax (407) 836-1499

I Sheila Cichra on behalf of Luis Fernandez (if applicable) pursuant to Orange County Code Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-350(a)(2) am requesting a waiver to section (choose and circle from the following: 15-342(b), 15-343(b), 15-344(a) and 15-345(a)) of the Orange County Dock Construction Ordinance.

1. Describe how this waiver would not negatively impact the environment:

The terminal platform will be constructed over open water, so there will not be any impact to wetland vegetation. The proposed terminal platform is only 197 square feet over the allowed limit and similar in size to the adjacent docks.

2. Describe the effect of the proposed waiver on abutting shoreline owners:

The proposed structure will not adversely affect the adjacent property owner's view or navigability.

The environmental protection officer and the board may require of the applicant information necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

By signing and submitting this application form, I am applying for a waiver to the Section indicated of the Orange County Dock Construction Ordinance identified above, according to the supporting data and other incidental information filed with this application. I am familiar with the information contained in this application, and represent that such information is true, complete, and accurate. I understand this is an application and not a permit, and that work conducted prior to approval is a violation. I understand that this application and any permit issued pursuant thereto, does not relieve me of any obligation for obtaining any other required federal, state, or local permits prior to commencement of construction. I understand that knowingly making any false statements or representation in this application is a violation of Sections 15-341 & 15-342, Orange County Code.

Name of Applicant:	Sheila Cichra		
Signature of Applican	nt/Agent	Date:	06/30/2022
Corporate Title (if app	plicable): President, Streamline Permitting, Inc.		



APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT A DOCK APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE

(Pursuant to Orange County Code, Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-350(a)(1))

Mail orOrange County Environmental Protection DivisionDeliver To:800 Mercy Drive, Suite 4Orlando, Florida 32808(407) 836-1400, Fax (407) 836-1499

Enclose a check for \$409.00 payable to The Board of County Commissioners

I <u>Sheila Cichra</u> on behalf of <u>Luis Fernandez</u> (if applicable) pursuant to Orange County Code Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-350(a)(1) am requesting a variance to section <u>15-343 (a)</u> of the Orange County Dock Construction Ordinance.

1. Describe how strict compliance with the provisions from which a variance is sought would impose a unique and unnecessary hardship on the applicant (the hardship cannot be self-imposed):

These parcels were platted with very narrow shorelines. It is difficult to construct even a below average sized boathouse within the required setbacks. The proposed boat slip is standard sized, but the proposed deck is very narrow to reduce the required deviation from the code.

2. Describe the effect of the proposed variance on abutting shoreline owners:

Due to the angled property lines and the similarity of all of the lots in this area, there is no navigational hazard or view obstruction.

Notice to the Applicant:

The environmental protection officer, environmental protection commission and the Board of County Commissioners may require additional information necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

A variance application may receive an approval or approval with conditions when such variance: (1) would not be contrary to the public interest; (2) where, owing to special conditions, compliance with the provisions herein would impose an unnecessary hardship on the permit applicant; (3) that the hardship is not self-imposed; and (4) the granting of the variance would not be contrary to the intent and purpose of this article.

By signing and submitting this application form, I am applying for a variance to the Orange County Dock Construction Ordinance identified above, according to the supporting data and other incidental information filed with this application. I am familiar with the information contained in this application, and represent that such information is true, complete, and accurate. I understand this is an application and not a permit, and that work conducted prior to approval is a violation. I understand that this application and any permit issued pursuant thereto, does not relieve me of any obligation for obtaining any other required federal, state, or local permits prior to commencement of construction. I understand that knowingly making any false statements or representation in this application is a violation of Sections 15-341 & 15-342, Orange County Code.

Name of Applicant: She	a Cichra			
Signature of Applicant/Agent	Mail Cirl	Date:	06/30/2022	
Corporate Title (if applicable)				

From:	Amy Lemer
To:	Dragiev, Caroline M
Subject:	Variance project BD-22-07-130
Date:	Tuesday, August 23, 2022 3:55:36 PM

Dear Ms. Dragiev.

We have reviewed the request for a variance for the above project and would like to voice our objections to the allowance of a larger dock platform and a reduction of side setback to 5 ft from 10 ft. The size and placement of docks as allowed by the rules helps maintain the character of the lake and would be in keeping with the adjacent docks, ours included. The lake itself is not that massive so the scale as allowed, we feel is quite appropriate. We are the owners of 5522 Remsen Cay Lane and 5516 Remsen Cay Lane (via RemCay LLC). Please let me know if this is sufficient to voice objection or if there are additional steps to take. Thank you very much. Sincerely

Richard and Amy Lerner



AFFECTED ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER NOTARIZED STATEMENT OF NO OBJECTION TO BOAT DOCK SIDE-SETBACK WAIVER REQUEST

The following is to be completed by the affected adjacent property owner as required by Section 15-343, Orange County Code. Section 15-343(b) states: "On lots or parcels having a shoreline frontage of seventy-five (75) feet or greater, docks shall have a minimum side setback of twenty-five (25) feet from the projected property line, unless such requirement is reduced by an appropriate waiver which shall be reviewed by the environmental protection division. Waivers from side-setback requirements may be granted by the environmental protection officer if a notarized letter of no objection to the waiver is received from the shoreline property_owner abutting the applicant's property line affected by the waiver."

I. Luis or Julie Fe (Adjacent Property C		, a legal property	owner of property locat		6 Bridgewater Crossings Blvd, (Address)
have reviewed the doc	construction p	plans dated 06/16/20	22. for the property loc	cated at	
14180 Bridgewater	Crossings Blvc	j, and have no of	ojections.		
	-	include a side seth Code. (For lots	oack waiver request (under 75' wide).	of <u>5</u>	feet, in lieu of the
(Signature - Adjaco	MMM ent Affected Pro	operty: Owner)	8-16- (Date	2022	
(Print Name - Adjan		roperty Owner)			
ACKNOWLEDGEM	ENT:				
STATE OF FLORIDA	manor				
The foregoing instrument	was acknowledge	ed before me this 16	Tay of August	20 <u>22</u> , by	Mary Pflanz NAME OF NOTARY
MARY PFLANZ Commission # I Expires July 4, Bonded Thru Troy P	10	(Signature of Note	er Nil	orfida)	
Personally Known	OR Produce	d Identification			
Type of Identification I	Produced				





ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

Mark Ausley Chairman

R. Alan Horn Vice Chairman

Florman Blackburn

Billy Butterfield

Peter Fleck

Elaine Imbruglia

Oscar Anderson

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

David D. Jones, P.E., CEP, Manager 3165 McCrory Place, Suite 200 Orlando, FL 32803 407-836-1400 • Fax 407-836-1499 www.ocfl.net

ORANGE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION October 26, 2022

Applicants: Luis and Julie Fernandez

Permit Application Number: BD-22-07-130

Location/Address: 14180 Bridgewater Crossings Blvd., Windermere, FL 34786

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept the findings and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Officer, and make a finding that the request for waiver is inconsistent with Orange County Code, Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-350(a)(2) and recommend denial of the request for waiver to Section 15-342(b) to increase the maximum allowable terminal platform size from 354 to 551 square feet; and,

Accept the findings and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Officer, and make a finding that the request for variance is inconsistent with Section 15-350(a)(1) and recommend denial of the request for variance to Section 15-343(a) (side setback) to reduce the side setback from 10 to 5 feet from the western projected property line for the Luis and Julie Fernandez Dock Construction Permit BD-22-07-130. District 1

EPC AGREES WITH THE ACTION REQUESTED, AS PRESENTED

EPC DISAGREES WITH THE ACTION REQUESTED, AS PRESENTED AND HAS MADE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATION:

Reject the findings and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Officer, and make a finding that the request for waiver is consistent with Orange County Code, Chapter 15, Article IX, Section 15-350(a)(2) and recommend approval of the request for waiver to Section 15-342(b) to increase the maximum allowable terminal platform size from 354 to 551 square feet with a mitigation payment of \$315 to the Conservation Trust Fund within 60 days of the decision of the Board of County Commissioners; and,

Reject the findings of the Environmental Protection Officer, and make a finding that the request for variance is consistent with Section 15-350(a)(1) and recommend approval of the request for variance to Section 15-343(a) (side setback) to reduce the side setback from 10 to 5 feet from the western projected property line for the Luis and Julie Fernandez Dock Construction Permit BD-22-07-130. District 1

	Mark Durley	
Signature of EPC Chairman:	1 WAL MURREY	
	'	
DATE EPC RECOMMENDATIO	ON RENDERED: 10-26-22	

Serving our community by conserving, protecting, and enhancing the environment for current and future generations.