

Mr & Mrs Michael S. Bland  
3029 Pecan Plantation Rd  
Valdosta, Ga. 31601

Lowndes County Zoning Board of Appeals  
327 N. Ashley St  
Valdosta, GA. 31601

November 26, 2019

Dear Members of the ZBOA,

In reference to Case Number VAR-2019-15, we respectfully submit the following for your consideration that the request for variance for minimal buffers and landscaping be DISAPPROVED.

The ULDC for Landscaping, Buffers, and Tree Protection clearly states "it is the intent of the County to reduce the adverse visual, environmental, and aesthetic effects of development in order to: 1. Minimize the rate of stormwater runoff; 2. Maximize the capability of groundwater recharge; 3. Provide shade for the ground surfaces; 4. Buffering adjacent incompatible land uses." Section 4.07.06 is even more defining of the intent of Buffer Requirements.

As one of the landowners of adjacent property to parcel # 0058 005B, I have some serious reasons to dispute any variance to the ULDC Buffer Requirements for the proposed solar panel project. These are the concerns of the landowners (me and my in-laws, the O'Neals) immediately adjacent on the east, south, and west boundaries of said parcel.

First, there are there significant environmental impacts of the proposed project. In the short-term, the natural beauty of wildlife and vegetation will be removed. Also, there is significant water run-off from this parcel into the adjacent south property which includes "Junebug Lake." This lake is teeming with wildlife and at risk to contaminants of lead and carcinogenic cadmium found in solar panels. In the long-term, the proper cleanup and disposal of hazardous material will also adversely impact adjacent landowners. (The graphic depicts the proposed solar panel project. The view is from the Northwest with a clear look at the runoff towards "Junebug Lake.")

Second, the aesthetics of of both sight and sound will be negatively affected. In sight, a beautiful Pecan Orchard will be replaced by 30 acres of machines. This is very sad. In sound, the natural sounds of the Pecan Orchard will be replaced by the humming noise of the cooling fans of the panel inverters. Please, think if this was your own residence.

Third, the above will only lower the property values for the adjacent land owners. Given two similar lots, any prospective buyer will choose the lot with no solar panels next door vice the lot with a view and "buzz" of a solar panel farm.

The proposed solar panel project is not in keeping with the Greater Lowndes County Comprehensive Plan adopted Oct 25, 2016 nor the ULDC. Any variance to the Buffer Requirements of the ULDC should be disapproved. In fact, the landowners request enough buffer to prevent any sight or sound of the proposed solar panel project.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters,

Michael S. Bland