# BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of the Proposed Vacation of a	ı )
Portion of Elder Street Situated in the	)
Hillcrest Subdivision, Part I, near	ORDER NO. 76-00
Scappoose, Oregon	) (Finalizing Vacation Proceedings)
[Columbia Hills/Gravestock/Hunt/	ý
Simmons and Nelson Petition]	_ )

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 368.341(1)(b) the Board of County Commissioners (the Board) for Columbia County, Oregon adopted Order No. 22-2000 initiating proceedings to vacate a portion of Elder Street in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part I, near Scappoose, Oregon, pursuant to a petition filed with the Board by Columbia Hills Development Company, Donald Gravestock, William and Lesley Hunt, Terri Simons and Monika Nelson (née Zimmerman); and

WHEREAS, the county road official filed a report with the Board dated April 5, 2000, a copy of which is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference, which recommended that the request for vacation of this portion of Elder Street be denied pending receipt of an aggregated lot consolidation plan from the petitioners to ensure that the vacation of Elder Street, as requested, would not result in the land-locking of any parcel of land; and

WHEREAS, the county road official further advised that he would **not** recommend that the portion of Elder Street lying between Lot 32, Block 16 and Lot 2, Block 17 be vacated because that portion of Elder Street is currently being used for acces to at least one of the two lots; and

WHEREAS, petitioners Columbia Hills Development Company, Donald Gravestock, William and Lesley Hunt, and Monika Nelson submitted Irrevocably Bound Parcel Creation Covenants, copies which are attached hereto, labeled Exhibit B and incorporated herein by this reference, to ensure that future reconfigured parcels or lots would not be land-locked; and

WHEREAS, the county road official filed a report with the Board dated May 17, 2000, a copy of which is attached, labeled Exhibit C and incorporated herein by this reference, again recommending that this request for vacation be denied, in part because the Irrevocably Bound Parcel Creation Covenants had been signed by J. Richard Recht, as attorney-in-fact for all petitioners with the exception of Terri Simons, but that the Power of Attorney relied upon had expired; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated June 22, 2000, a copy of which is attached, labeled Exhibit D and incorporated herein by this reference, Terri Simons and J. Richard Recht, attorney-in fact for the remaining petitioners, submitted an updated Power of Attorney which established the right of Mr. Recht to act as attorney-in-fact for the remaining petitioners in this matter, and further amended their petition for vacation by agreeing to withdraw the request for vacation of Elder Street laying between Lot 32, Block 16 and Lot 2, Block 17; and

WHEREAS, the property proposed for vacation, as amended, is generally described as follows:

Beginning at the Southwest corner of Block 17, Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, as per plat on file and of record in the clerk's office of Columbia County, Oregon; thence Northeast along the Northwest line of said Block 17 and the Southeast line of Elder Street a distance of 558.77 feet to the Northeasterly corner of Lot 3, Block 17; thence Northwest a distance of 60 feet to the Southeast corner of Lot 31, Block 16 of said Hillcrest; thence Southwest along the Southeast line of said Block 16 and Northwest line of said Elder Street a distance of 640.86 feet to the Southeast corner of said Block 16 (in Lot 23); thence East a distance of 86.34 feet to the point of beginning; and

WHEREAS, a map of the area proposed to be vacated is attached hereto, labeled Exhibit E and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, ORS 368.351 requires that the Board make a determination on the vacation of property after having a hearing if it receives a written report from the county road official indicating that the vacation is not in the public interest. As the county road official determined that it would not be in the public interest to vacate Elder Street absent resolution of the various concerns outlined above, the Board was required to hold a hearing pursuant to ORS 368.346; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 368.346, a public hearing was held on June 28, 2000, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Room 308 of the Columbia County Courthouse, St. Helens, Oregon, to determine if the proposed vacation was in the interest of the public; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ORS 368.401 to 368.426, notice of the hearing was provided by posting and publication and by service on each person with a recorded interest in the proceeding; and

WHEREAS, at said public hearing the Board heard testimony in favor of and in opposition to the proposed vacation, closed the hearing, directed Columbia County staff to further consider the proposals of the petitioners set forth in Exhibit D and report back to the Board at the time set for deliberations; and

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2000, during its deliberations on the proposed vacation, the Board heard the recommendations of staff that the petition for vacation, as amended, be approved with conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the petition meets the requirements of ORS 368.341 and contains the acknowledged signatures and owners' approval as required by ORS 368.351(2);

## NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Vacation of that portion of Elder Street lying within the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part I, near Scappoose, Oregon, as more particularly described above and as shown in Exhibit E, is in the public interest.

- 2. The Irrevocably Bound Parcel Creation Covenants attached hereto as Exhibit B are hereby deemed insufficient to ensure that an aggregated lot consolidation plan will not result in land-locking any parcel of land.
- 3. The public right-of-way described above, and as depicted in Exhibit E, shall be vacated upon satisfactory completion of the following conditions:
- a. Irrevocably Bound Parcel Creation Covenants, identical to those referenced above with the exception of the following additions to paragraph 3 thereof, shall be submitted to the Office of Columbia County Counsel:
  - "3. Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of useable and/or feasible frontage on a public right-of-way in compliance with Columbia County road standards and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of useable and/or feasible frontage on a public right of way in compliance with Columbia County road standards or are bound together in an irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage."
- b. Said Covenants shall be submitted to Columbia County Counsel along with payment of recording fees to the Columbia County Clerk's in the amount of \$26 for the first page and \$5 for each additional page for each Covenant to be recorded;
- c. Upon approval of County Counsel, the Covenants shall be recorded with the County Clerk.
- 4. The Board declares that upon signing and recording said Irrevocably Bound Parcel Creation Covenants, as amended, petitioners have met the standards needed for approval of a road vacation. However, by signing and recording said Covenants, such petitioners have not met development requirements for the property under the Columbia County Zoning Ordinance or other applicable law. All subject lots of parcels, as they currently exist or as they may be reconfigured in the future, must meet all applicable zoning standards prior to development, and any reconfiguration shall be done so as to ensure that each reconfigured lot or parcel retains at least 50 feet of feasible and useable frontage on a public right-of-way in compliance with Columbia County road standards.
- 5. The Board specifically declares that the approval of this petition for vacation in no way implies or represents that lots or parcels, as they are currently configured or as they may be reconfigured in the future, are buildable parcels or lots under the Columbia County Zoning Ordinance. Development of each current parcel or lot or future reconfigured parcel or lot remains subject to a minimum area size requirements, access requirements, service requirements, and all other applicable zoning requirements and standards.

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- 6. This vacation is being made with a specific reservation of any existing right-of-way for utility easements.
- 7. Pursuant to Order No. 96-93, the following costs are due from this vacation and shall be deducted from the \$500.00 deposit paid by the petitioners:

SERVICE	FEE	SUBTOTAL
Filing Petition by the Clerk	\$ 28.50	\$ 28.50
Review for Correct Property Description by County Surveyor [if required]	\$ 30.00 [per parcel]	\$ 00.00
Review by other County Departments	\$175.00 [per single street or alley (or portion thereo	\$175.00 f)]
	\$ 50.00 [each additional street or alley]	\$ 00.00
Hearing (if required)	\$100.00	\$100.00
Recording Final Order by the Clerk	\$ 26 .00 [first page] 5.00 [each additional page x 4]	\$ 26.00 20.00
Two Certified Copies By the Clerk [one to Assessor, one to Surveyor]	\$ 3.75 [per copy x 2] \$ .25 [per page x 12 pp.]	\$ 7.50 2.50
Posting the Approved Road Vacation by County Surveyor	\$ 45.00 [per parcel]	\$45.00
·	TOTAL	\$404.50

8. The Clerk has already deducted the \$28.50 filing fee from the \$500.00 deposit, leaving a balance of \$471.50 in the trust account. The Clerk is hereby authorized to disburse the remainder of the deposit as follows:

To County Clerk : \$ 56.00
To County Treasurer : \$ 320.00
To: Koski Corporation : \$ 95.50

31750 Callahan Road Scappoose, OR 97056

9. This order shall be recorded with the County Clerk, a copy inserted in the appropriate

road jacket, and certified copies of it shall be filed with the County Surveyor and the County Assessor.

DATED this \_1941/2 day of July, 2000.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By:

Chair

Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: C

Office of County Counsel

(

Commissioner

## **EXHIBIT A**



Columbia County Road Department

P.O. Box 366, 1004 Oregon Street, St. Helens, OR 97051

COLUMBIA COUNTY

**COLUMBIA COUNTY** 

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Board of Commissioners

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**COUNTY COUNSEL** 

to:

from: Dave Hill

subject: Proposed Vacation, Elder Street, Hillcrest Subdivision

date:

April 5, 2000

Recommendation: Deny the vacation of Elder Street until such time that the Land Development Services Department approves of the plan for "irrevocable bound parcels".

Columbia Hills Development Company, and others, have petitioned the Board of Commissioners to vacate a section of Elder Street in the Hillcrest Subdivision from its intersection with Fir Street to the far corner of lots 32, block 16 and lot 2, block 17, as I have shown on the attached maps.

The area to be vacated is forested and undeveloped on steep side slopes. Because of the steep topography, it is not feasible to construct a public road to current standards within the right-ofway.

The County requires 50 feet of useable frontage on a public road right-of-way and therefore, even though there may be 100% consent of adjacent property owners to this road vacation, there are many individual lots within this subdivision that could be individually sold and if so, they might not have public road frontage and therefore, no legal access to the property.

The petitioners propose to establish "irrevocably bound parcel creation covenants" for the bound parcels insuring that each lot maintain 50 feet of frontage on a public road. The Land Development Services Department would approve of this covenant for the parcels, however before doing so they need to see which parcels were being bound together and where the frontage is for each of the "bound" properties.

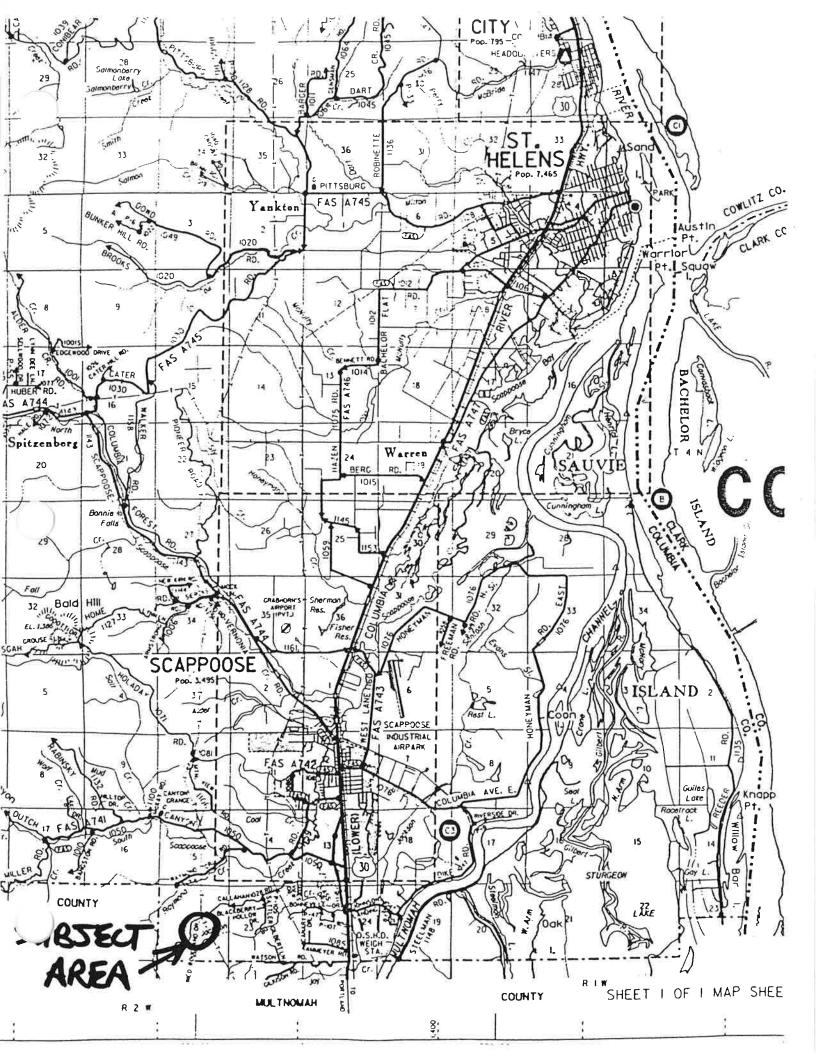
I would also like to include that we require the frontage to be "useable" to be able to reasonably access the properties per the road access standards.

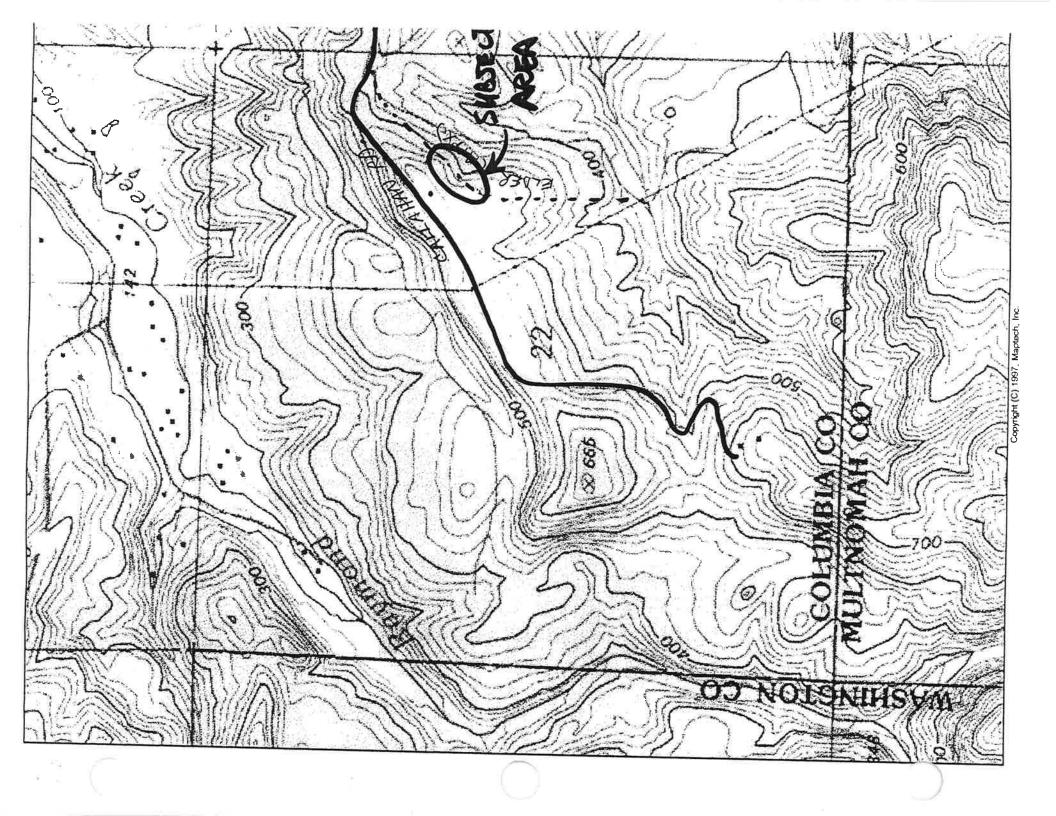
The petitioners also request the vacated property to be vested in a specified manner, however if this road was vacated I would suggest that it be split down centerline with half going to each adjacent property.

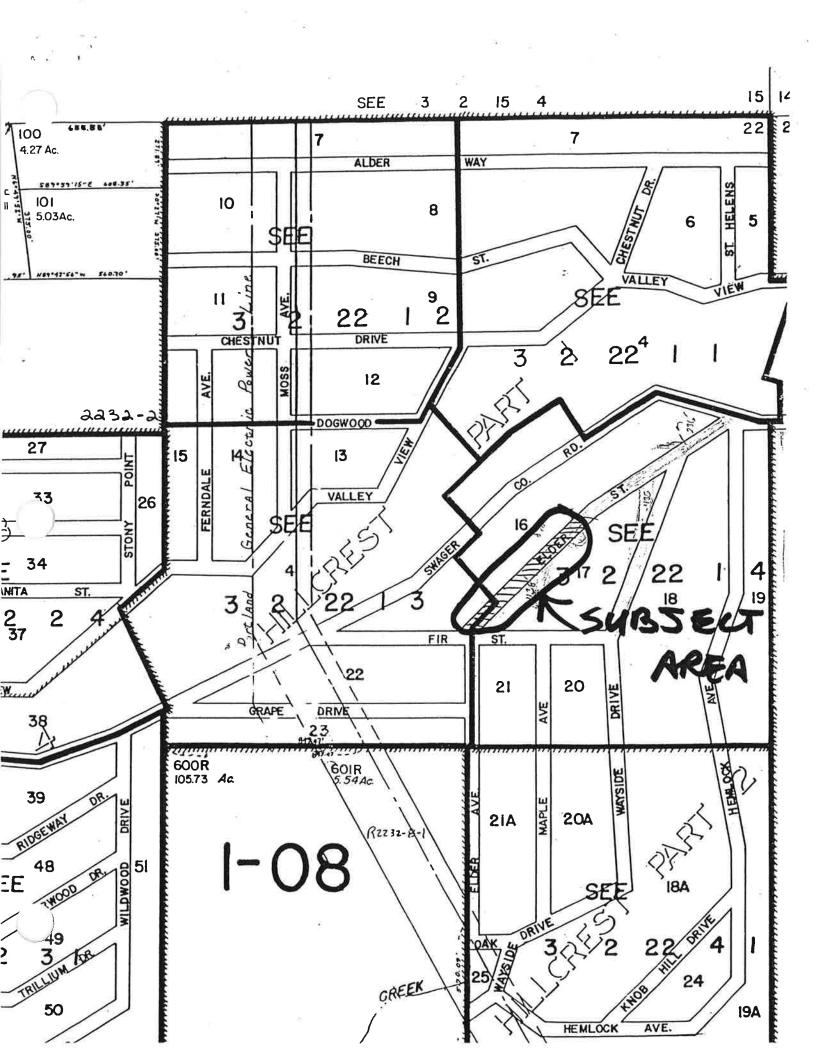
Therefore, in order to assure legal access to all parcels in the future, I recommend denial of this request until such time that the Land Development Services Department approves of the "irrevocable bound parcel" agreement and plan to show how each of the lots are aggregated.

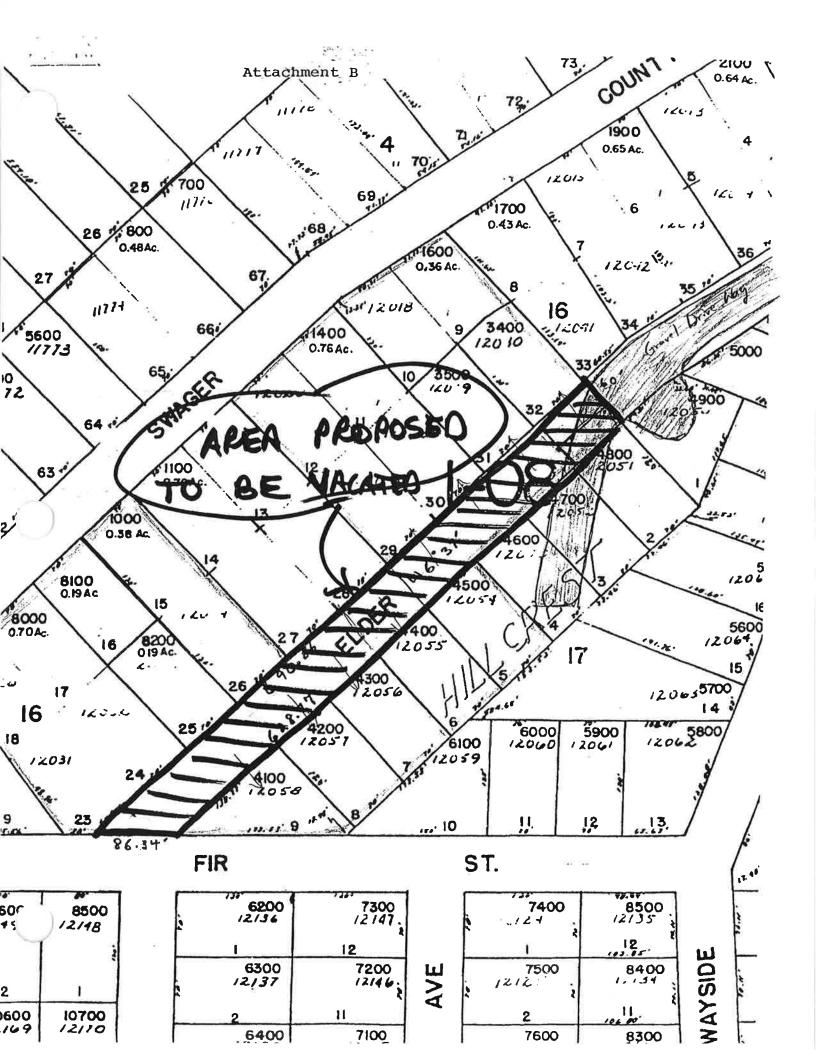
Cynthia Zemaitis, County Counsel

Matt Laird, LDS









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Columbia County	y;	41.	ando	<b>.</b>	1
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approves the vaca	tion of Elder Street as petitioned	by the adjacent p	roperty owners.		
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6. T	his covenant is solely for the pur	rpose of insuring	that no property ov	vnership	ă.
will be left withou	t frontage on a public right-of-w	ay.			
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	No	otary Public for _			
	M	y commission exp	oires	<del></del>	

Columbia Hills Development Company is the owner of Lots 9, 10, 31 and 32, Block 16, in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, Columbia County. It hereby irrevocably binds the lots together as defined herein.

- 1. Said lots are hereby bound together and, except as stated below, are hereinafter to be treated as bound together in a parcel;
- 2. No owner, its heirs, successors or assigns shall, except as stated below, sell or otherwise hypothecate title of any lot separately from the remaining lots, though lot line adjustments are permitted, but only as approved by Columbia County;
- 3. Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way or are bound together in a irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage.
- 4. This covenant runs with the land for the benefit of Columbia County. This covenant can be waived or modified only by recording a written instrument certifying approval of the Director of the Department of Land Services or the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County. Such approval or recording is not required for sales that meet the conditions of Provision 3 above nor for modifications which remove that provision.
- 5. This covenant shall not become effective unless and until Columbia County approves the vacation of Elder Street as petitioned by the adjacent property owners.
- 6. This covenant is solely for the purpose of insuring that no property ownership will be left without frontage on a public right-of-way due to the vacation of Elder Street.

Dated this May of Opil	, 2000
15000011	
J. Richard Recht, President Columbia Hills Development Company	
ACKNOWLEDGM	ENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Jan Mateo

Before me this 17 day of Opil, 2000, 7. Rullouge Rulle personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged the foregoing instrument.

M. WINATA LO
Comm. # 1179370
NOTARY PUBLIC-CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County
My Comm. Expires April 11, 2002

Notary Public for 7. Richard Relate
My commission expires April 11, 2002

William and Lesley Hunt are the owners of Lots 11, 12, 29 and 30, Block 16, in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, Columbia County. They hereby irrevocably bind the lots together as defined herein.

- 1. Said lots are hereby bound together and, except as stated below, are hereinafter to be treated as bound together in a parcel;
- 2. No owner, its heirs, successors or assigns shall, except as stated below, sell or otherwise hypothecate title of any lot separately from the remaining lots, though lot line adjustments are permitted, but only as approved by Columbia County;
- 3. Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way or are bound together in a irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage.
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- 5. This covenant shall not become effective unless and until Columbia County approves the vacation of Elder Street as petitioned by the adjacent property owners.
- 6. This covenant is solely for the purpose of insuring that no property ownership will be left without frontage on a public right-of-way due to the vacation of Elder Street.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Jan Mateo

Attorney-in-Fact

Before me this / 7 day of Opril, 2000, 7. Richard Rosst personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged the foregoing instrument.

M. WINATA LO
Comm. # 1179370
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County
My Comm. Expires April 11, 2002

Notary Public for T. Richard Rult
My commission expires Opril 11, 200 2

Attorney-in-Fact

Donald Gravestock is the owner of Lots 15, 16, 25 and 26, Block 16, in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, Columbia County. He hereby irrevocably binds the lots together as defined herein.

- 1. Said lots are hereby bound together and, except as stated below, are hereinafter to be treated as bound together in a parcel;
- 2. No owner, its heirs, successors or assigns shall, except as stated below, sell or otherwise hypothecate title of any lot separately from the remaining lots, though lot line adjustments are permitted, but only as approved by Columbia County;
- 3. Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way or are bound together in a irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage.
- 4. This covenant runs with the land for the benefit of Columbia County. This covenant can be waived or modified only by recording a written instrument certifying approval of the Director of the Department of Land Services or the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County. Such approval or recording is not required for sales that meet the conditions of Provision 3 above nor for modifications which remove that provision.
- 5. This covenant shall not become effective unless and until Columbia County approves the vacation of Elder Street as petitioned by the adjacent property owners.
- 6. This covenant is solely for the purpose of insuring that no property ownership will be left without frontage on a public right-of-way due to the vacation of Elder Street.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF CALIF	FORNIA
County of Lan	Mateo

Before me this 17 day of Oppil, 2000, 7. Rich and Russe personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged the foregoing instrument.

M. WINATA LO
Comm. # 1179370
NOTARY PUBLIC-CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County
My Comm. Expires April 11, 2002

Notary Public for 7. Richard Rush My commission expires april 11, 2002

William and Lesley Hunt are the owners of Lots 17, 18, 23 and 24, Block 16, in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, Columbia County. They hereby irrevocably bind the lots together as defined herein.

- 1. Said lots are hereby bound together and, except as stated below, are hereinafter to be treated as bound together in a parcel;
- 2. No owner, its heirs, successors or assigns shall, except as stated below, sell or otherwise hypothecate title of any lot separately from the remaining lots, though lot line adjustments are permitted, but only as approved by Columbia County;
- Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way or are bound together in a irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage.
- 4. This covenant runs with the land for the benefit of Columbia County. This covenant can be waived or modified only by recording a written instrument certifying approval of the Director of the Department of Land Services or the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County. Such approval or recording is not required for sales that meet the conditions of Provision 3 above nor for modifications which remove that provision.
- 5. This covenant shall not become effective unless and until Columbia County approves the vacation of Elder Street as petitioned by the adjacent property owners.
- 6. This covenant is solely for the purpose of insuring that no property ownership will be left without frontage on a public right-of-way due to the vacation of Elder Street.

Dated this 17 day of 12000

William Hunt
by J. Richard Recht, President
Columbia Hills Development Co.
Attorney-in-Fact

Attorney-in-Fact

Attorney-in-Fact

Zesley Hunt
by J. Richard Recht, President
Columbia Hills Development Co.
Attorney-in-Fact

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of <u>Jan Mareo</u>

Before me this 17 day of Open 2000, 7. Richard Recht personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged the foregoing instrument.

M. WINATA LO
Comm. # 1179370
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County
My Comm. Expires April 11, 2002

Notary Public for J. Richard Rucht My commission expires april 11, 2002

Monika Nelson (nee Zimmermann) is the owner of Lots 5 through 9, Block 17, in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, Columbia County. She hereby irrevocably binds the lots together as defined herein.

- 1. Said lots are hereby bound together and, except as stated below, are hereinafter to be treated as bound together in a parcel;
- 2. No owner, its heirs, successors or assigns shall, except as stated below, sell or otherwise hypothecate title of any lot separately from the remaining lots, though lot line adjustments are permitted, but only as approved by Columbia County;
- 3. Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way or are bound together in a irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage.
- 4. This covenant runs with the land for the benefit of Columbia County. This covenant can be waived or modified only by recording a written instrument certifying approval of the Director of the Department of Land Services or the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County. Such approval or recording is not required for sales that meet the conditions of Provision 3 above nor for modifications which remove that provision.
- 5. This covenant shall not become effective unless and until Columbia County approves the vacation of Elder Street as petitioned by the adjacent property owners.
- 6. This covenant is solely for the purpose of insuring that no property ownership will be left without frontage on a public right-of-way due to the vacation of Elder Street.

Dated this May of James, 2000

Monika Nelson
by J. Richard Recht, President
Columbia Hills Development Co.
Attorney-in-Fact

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of <u>Han Mateo</u>

My Comm. Expires April 11, 2002

Before me this / T day of Occil, 2000, T. Rulhard Result personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged the foregoing instrument.

M. WINATA LO
Comm. # 1179370
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
San Mateo County

Notary Public for T. Richard Result
My commission expires Opril // 2002

Donald Gravestock is the owner of Lots 2 through 4, 15 and 16, Block 17, in the Hillcrest Subdivision, Part 1, Columbia County. He hereby irrevocably binds the lots together as defined herein.

- 1. Said lots are hereby bound together and, except as stated below, are hereinafter to be treated as bound together in a parcel;
- 2. No owner, its heirs, successors or assigns shall, except as stated below, sell or otherwise hypothecate title of any lot separately from the remaining lots, though lot line adjustments are permitted, but only as approved by Columbia County;
- 3. Notwithstanding the above, one or more lots may be sold, and thus separated from the parcel, if and only if both (1) the remaining lot or lots subject to this covenant retain 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way and (2) the lot or lots being sold either have 50 feet of frontage on a public right-of-way or are bound together in a irrevocable covenant similar to this covenant with another group which has such frontage.
- 4. This covenant runs with the land for the benefit of Columbia County. This covenant can be waived or modified only by recording a written instrument certifying approval of the Director of the Department of Land Services or the Board of Commissioners of Columbia County. Such approval or recording is not required for sales that meet the conditions of Provision 3 above nor for modifications which remove that provision.
- 5. This covenant shall not become effective unless and until Columbia County approves the vacation of Elder Street as petitioned by the adjacent property owners.
- 6. This covenant is solely for the purpose of insuring that no property ownership will be left without frontage on a public right-of-way due to the vacation of Elder Street.

Dated this 17th day of 10th 2000

Donald Gravestock

by J. Richard Recht, President

Columbia Hills Development Co.

Attorney-in-Fact

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT** 

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of An Marco

Before me this / day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 2000, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Richard Recht personally known to me, appeared before me and acknowledged the foregoing instrument.

M. WINATA LO
Comm. # 1179370
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
Sen Mateo County
My Comm. Expires April 11, 2002

Notary Public for 1 - Richard Reeds
My commission expires Opril 11, 2002



## Columbia County Road Department

P.O. Box 366, 1004 Oregon Street, St. Helens, OR 97051

## **Director of Public Works**

Phone (503) 397-5090 Fax 397-7215

TO:

Columbia County Board of Commissioners

FROM:

Dave Hill

**DATE:** May 17, 00

REF:

Proposed Vacation, Elder Street, Hillcrest Subdivision

RECOMMENDATION: Deny Vacation of Elder Street.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Columbia Hills Development Company has petitioned the Board of County Commissioners to vacate a portion of Elder Street in the Hillcrest Subdivision. A copy of the petition and a map of the area is attached.

The intent of the property owners through this vacation is to be able to join enough lots together and to acquire enough property to meet the minimum acreage requirements to place a residence on the properties. The properties, with the exception of the Simons properties, is vacant, and is forested or partially cleared. The right-of-way to be vacated, is mostly on a forested side slope (ranging from 40% to 100% slope).

I agree with the petitioners that the street has never been used, and is unsuitable for access to the abutting lots, as a public road, because of steep terrain. However, as some of the tax lots are otherwise landlocked, even though a public road cannot be constructed to access them, Elder Street does provide a public right-of-way that allows owners access by foot, horse, or other means.

Land Development Services and the Road Department prefer to see up front how the vacation of a public right-of-way will not landlock parcels. Land Development Services has stated that they cannot support the road vacation unless the lots are consolidated in a manner that will insure that no parcels will lose public road frontage. The petitioners have proposed an irrevocable bound parcel agreement that combines the parcels which somewhat satisfies this concern however the bound parcels do not meet the minimum lot sizes necessary to obtain a building permit. The development company is currently trying to sell a parcel of property in the area which would violate the bound parcel agreement. I also have some other concerns as follows:

1. The power of attorney used to sign the "Irrevocably Bound Parcel Creation Covenant" expired, therefore the agreements are probably not valid. Without the Bound Parcel Agreement there is a definite possibility that individual parcels could be sold and would be

landlocked if the road vacation was approved. ORS Statutes require that we cannot landlock a parcel without the owner's consent. We apparently have the consent through the petition and the "power of attorney" since the petition was signed prior to the expiration of the power of attorney, however it is still not a good practice to allow the potential to landlock parcels of property. Therefore, it is very important to have "legal" bound parcel agreements in this situation.

- 2. As mentioned above, the proposed "Irrevocably Bound Creation Covenant", does not match with the current proposed sale of properties, which violates the bound parcel agreement by splitting parcels.
- 3. I would like to see the access location for the bound parcels to determine if the access is feasible. Just because the parcel has access to a public right-of-way, does not mean that it is feasible or practical to construct an access to the property. This is to protect current and future owners of these properties.
- 4. The proposed bound parcels do not meet the buildable lot size requirement of 2.3 acres, and therefore because it will be necessary to reconfigure the lots to make a buildable lot, it is unknown how these lots will be configured and accessed in the future.

If the road was to be vacated, the petitioners have requested the property to be vested with certain parcels. As we have discussed before, I believe it would be best for the County <u>not</u> to designate where the property would be vested but rather allow it to be split down the centerline and then the adjacent property owners can then dedicate the property on their own. (This would be only if the Board of Commissioners authorized the road vacation.)

**CONCLUSION:** Specifically because the power of attorney had expired for the "Irrevocable Bound Parcel Creation Covenants" and because of the other uncertainties associated with this road vacation request, I do not believe it is in the public interest to vacate this road and recommend denial of this petition.

David Hill Public Works Director

#### EXHIBIT D

COLUMBIA COUNTY/

June 22, 2000

JUN 26 2000

Ms. Cynthia Zemaitis
Office of County Counsel
318 Courthouse Street

St. Helens, OR 97051

**COUNTY COUNSEL** 

Dear Ms. Zemaitis:

Thank you for your letter of June 1, 2000 regarding the petitioned vacation of Elder Street and the inclusion of Dave Hill's letter recommending denial of the petition. The following are some clarifications and information that we request be considered by the Board at its hearing.

## Portion of street to be vacated

Your letter notes that Mr. Hill has "indicated his preference is not to vacate the portion of Elder between Lot 32, Block 16 and Lot 2, Block 17. While we feel that a "private driveway" maintained by a single homeowner is more appropriate on an easement than a public right-of-way, given the implication that the petition will be denied without this change, the petitioners hereby amend the petition to reduce the portion of Elder vacated by this portion. If the Board does approve our petition, we expect that approval would be contingent upon our submitting any additional document required by the County concerning this change.

#### Powers-of-Attorney

Mr. Hill notes that the powers-of-attorney of which he is aware have expired. He and the Board should be aware that new powers were signed, prior to the expiration of the old ones, and recorded with the County Clerk in March of this year. (Copies are enclosed.) Please let us know if this does not resolve Mr. Hill's points related to the legitimacy of any papers submitted by the petitioners.

#### Lots left landlocked

It seems clear to the petitioners that no lot could be left landlocked, i.e. without access from a public right-of-way. This is guaranteed by the covenants binding lots together. If the County believes a lot could be left landlocked despite these covenants, we ask that we be informed how this could happen.

In connection with these covenants, Mr. Hill twice states that the coordinator for the cooperating owners is endeavoring to sell a parcel that "violates" the bound parcel agreement. The covenants, per the County's request, bind each lot formerly on the road to be vacated with lots with frontage on a public right-of-way. There is a tentative agreement with a purchaser that would result in further aggregation of lots to achieve the minimum 2.3 acre parcel required by the County's zoning. We believe the proposed sale would not "violate" the parcel agreements and, if after consideration Mr. Hill still believes this would "violate" the agreements, we would like to know specifically what Mr. Hill means by his statement.

## Parcel area and feasible access

Finally, and most critically, Mr. Hill is concerned that the parcel aggregations submitted by petitioners are not 2.3 acres in area and it has not been determined that each aggregation has feasible access. These are the specific conditions required in conjunction with application for a building permit and its accompanying access permit. However, petitioners are not applying for an access permit or a building permit. We are not proposing, nor is the County approving, home or driveway locations. This is only a petition for vacation of an unusable right-of-way, which is necessary if homesites per current zoning are to be ten times as large as in the approved plat.

The petitioners have reasons for not irrevocably binding lots together in fixed configurations unnecessarily. One reason is that if the County chose to revise the zoning, changing the minimize size of parcel, the result of having irrevocably bound lots could be disastrous.

This is no idle concern, given the changes made by the County in the last five years. From 1984 to 1994 the County would have issued a permit for a parcel of one acre. In 1996 the County made an interpretation that 2.3 acres, including adjacent road right-of-way was the minimum parcel area. In 1998 this was changed to 2.3 acres not including adjacent road right-of-way. For example, five parcels of 2.3 acres with road area included would have been reduced to two homesites for which the County would issue a building permit after the change eliminated the inclusion of road area.

Other factors also suggest that the petitioners should not forego flexibility in how they meet the zoning regulations, whatever the minimum parcel size. Most immediately, there is a possibility that Mr. and Mrs. Birtchet, the proposed purchasers of a parcel which requires the vacation of Elder Road, given the six month delay will not proceed. More generally, the cooperating owners have always called attention to the fact that they do not own all the lots. Many homesite layouts formerly infeasible when there were more non-cooperating owners have become appropriate as additional lots were purchased. Some of the lots still owned by non-cooperating owners will eventually be purchased; the owners of others will not sell. The layouts of developable parcels will be affected by which lots become available and which do not. Future County decisions regarding acceptable access points, acceptable home locations and septic approvals will also affect parcel layouts. Irrevocably binding lots into fixed 3.2 acres parcels prematurely is not in the petitioner's interest; it is also not in the public interest.

Summarizing petitioners' perspective on this issue, zoning, knowledge of development constraints and land ownerships can and will change. An irrevocable recorded covenant cannot change and therefore should not be made until the other factors are as fully resolved as possible.

#### Is vacation in the public interest?

The Board will be judging whether the vacation is in the public interest. The petitioners believe the vacation is in the public interest because, as Mr. Hill has determined, the right-of-way cannot be used as a road and homesite areas per current zoning do not fit without the vacation. The only potential negative consequence, lack of access, is mitigated by the County's requirement that lots losing access be bound to lots with access. The other concerns mentioned by Mr. Hill, the land area of the lots bound together and the feasibility of access to them, are not caused by the vacation; they are an existing situation, the continued consequence of the original plat. In fact, binding the lots adjacent to the vacated right-of-way to others will guarantee them continued access to developed or developable roads, thus improving the situation from the perspective of the public interest.

Beginning in 1978 the County encouraged the vacation of unnecessary/infeasible rights-of-way in the Hillcrest Subdivision. Petitioners' request is consistent with this process and a necessary step towards, though not the completion of, aggregation of small lots into larger homesites. We therefore respectfully request that the County impose as a condition of vacation only requirements that mitigate the effects of the vacation action, e.g. the recorded bound parcel agreements preventing landlocked parcels.

If, after consideration of the above information, the Board concludes that the vacation is not in the public interest, we request that it be explicit in its findings as to the negative consequences that would be caused by the vacation, as these are likely to apply to most road vacations in the Hillcrest Subdivision.

Sincerely,

J. Richard Recht

for Donald Gravestock, William and Lesley Hunt,

Monika Nelson,

Columbia Hills Development Co.

and himself

Terri Simons

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# IRREVOCABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY AND PROXY

The undersigned, Hillcrest Investments, Ltd., an Oregon limited partnership, Scappoose Venture (formerly Scappoose Partners, Ltd. and Scappoose Partners), J. Richard Recht, Karen S. Recht, Donald Gravestock, Chris Nelson, William Hunt, Lesley Hunt, Monika Z. Nelson (formerly Monika Zimmermann), and Emily Nelson, all holders of interests in Real Property in Columbia County, Oregon known in the area as The Hillcrest Subdivision, Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4, (subsequently called "Hillcrest" or), (a) in consideration of our mutual agreement to act in concert to preserve and enhance the value of the Hillcrest properties and recognizing that without concerted action, such preservation may not be possible, (b) recognizing, further, that Columbia Hills Development Company, an Oregon corporation, also holds ownership interests in Hillcrest, (c) having entered into a business relationship with Columbia Hills Development Company whereby that firm has invested efforts and funds to bring about development in Hillcrest, and (d) having earlier appointed Columbia Hills Development Company to act as our attorney-in-fact and agent in an instrument filed as 94-05386 in the records of Columbia County, an appointment that will soon expire, hereby agree with each other to and do irrevocably appoint Columbia Hills Development Company to act as our attorney-in-fact and agent (subsequently called "Agent") in each of our names to manage, conduct, encumber and otherwise deal with all and any part of each of our interests now held and/or hereafter acquired in that certain Real Property in Columbia County, Oregon known as Hillcrest (subsequently called the Real Property) and to conduct any business of ours connected therewith, as our Agent may deem best as fully as we could or might do if personally present, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, all of the following:

1. To enter into any declaration establishing, amending or replacing covenants, conditions and restrictions or supplemental covenants, conditions and restrictions against the Real Property; to grant and accept easements in connection with the Real Property; to enter into or establish and participate in any property or homeowners association in connection with the Real Property and any other property my Agent deems appropriate to include therewith; to bind portions of the Real Property together by irrevocable mutual grants or covenants; to make any amendments to any declaration; to create, agree to eliminate, modify, exercise

and amend any special declarant rights; and otherwise to deal with the said Real Property as though it were its own property.

- 2. To execute, sign, seal, acknowledge and endorse such declarations, easements, agreements, assignments, conveyances and other instruments necessary or desirable to effect the placement or replacement of covenants, conditions and restrictions on the Real Property or any portion thereof and to transfer any interest we may have in any common property now or hereafter defined in any declaration to any association of property owners or the public.
- 3. To record and file any instruments necessary or desirable to effect the placement or replacement of any covenants, conditions or restrictions on the Real Property or the transfer of any common property now or hereafter designated to any association of property owners or the public.
- 4. To vote each of our interests in any association in which all or any of us become members by virtue of owning any of the Real Property. This right shall be deemed a proxy from each of us and shall be irrevocable for the duration of this Irrevocable Power of Attorney and Proxy.
- 5. To obtain or renew insurance policies or insurance contracts of any kind and to pay the premiums therefor.
- 6. To execute any petition for and agree to the creation of a road, water, sewage, lighting or other utility or improvement district, to petition for the improvement of any road or other utility, to agree to any assessments on such terms and under such conditions as our Agent may deem appropriate, to approve creation of any district or the making of any improvement, and otherwise to act as though the Real Property were owned by our Agent.
- 7. To do any act and execute in our name all instruments deemed necessary to carry out and perform all of the powers granted herein and to delegate any or all of the foregoing powers to any person or persons whom our Agent shall select.
- 8. To grant, bargain, sell, convey and exchange on such terms as to our Agent shall deem appropriate all or any portion of the Real Property now owned and/or hereafter acquired by us or any one of us.

This Irrevocable Power of Attorney and Proxy shall terminate at midnight on the 31st day of December, 2019.

The authorized signature of our Agent, Columbia Hills Development Company, for the purpose of this Power of Attorney, is set forth below:

COLUMBIA HILLS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, an Oregon corporation

chard Recht, President

We hereby give and grant unto our said attorney full power and authority to do and perform all and every act and thing whatsoever requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as we or each of us might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution and revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney or said attorney's substitute or substitutes shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of these presents.

In construing this instrument and where the context so requires, the singular includes the plural. All or any of the signature and notary pages of this document may be executed in multiple copies. Such signature and notary pages shall be recorded with the one original of the document with the same effect as if each person signed and had such signature duly acknowledged on the original.

this 22 day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, 19992000.

HILLCREST INVESTMENTS, LTD., an Oregon limited partnership

BY: COLUMBIA HILLS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

an Oregon corporation GENERAL PARTNER

J. Richard Recht

President

STATE OF California)

ss.

County of San Mateo)

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 22 day of 1999, by J. RICHARD RECHT, the President of COLUMBIA HILLS DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, an Oregon corporation, the General Partner of HILLCREST INVESTMENTS, LTD., an Oregon limited partnership.



Notary Public for California,

County of San Mateo

My Commission Expires:

Opril 11,2002

J. Richard Recht

STATE OF California)

ss.

County of San Mateo)

Personally appeared the above-named J. RICHARD RECHT and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his voluntary act and deed this 22 nd day of March 1999. 2000



Notary Public for California,

County of San Mateo

My Commission Expires:

april 11,2002

Bonald Gravestock

STATE OF California)

SS.

County of Alameda

Personally appeared the above-named DONALD GRAVESTOCK and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his voluntary act and deed this day of Doc.

1999.



Notary Public for California.

County of Alameda

My Commission Expires: 3-30.07

William Hunt

STATE (	OF (	Californ	nia)	
			)	SS
County	οf	Contra	Costa)	

Personally appeared the above-named WILLIAM HUNT and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his voluntary act and deed this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_ 1999.



Notary Public for California.

County of Contra Costa

My Commission Expires: Nov. 15, 2003

Lesley Hunt

STATE OF <u>California</u>)
) ss.
County of <u>Contra Costa</u>)

Personally appeared the above-named LESLEY HUNT and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her voluntary act and deed this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_ 1999.

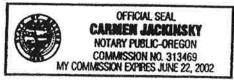
BRAD G. MAGLEBY
Comm. # 1240067
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
Contra Costa County
My Comm. Expires Nov. 15, 2003

Notary Public for California.

County of Contra Costa
My Commission Expires: Nov. 5, 2003

Chris Nelson, both individually, and dba Scappoose Venture formerly dba Scappoose Partners, Ltd. and Scappoose Partners \*Also known as Arthur C. Nelson

STATE OF Georgia)
County of Melhandels



Notary Public for Office My Commission Expires: 6/22/02

	MONIKA Z. Neison
	(formerly Monika Zimmermann)
STATE OF <u>Georgia</u> ) ) ss.	
County of)	
foregoing instrument to be	red the above-named Monika Z.  mmermann) and acknowledged the her voluntary act and deed this 1999.
	Notary Public for
	My Commission Expires:

Chris Nelson, both individually, and dba Scappoose Venture formerly dba Scappoose Partners, Ltd. and Scappoose Partners \*Also known as Arthur C. Nelson

STATE OF Georgia)	
County of) ss.	
a/k/a Arthur C. Nelson (bot Venture, formerly dba Scapp Partners) and acknowledged voluntary act and deed this	the above-named CHRIS NELSON individually and dba Scappoose poose Partners, Ltd. and Scappoose the foregoing instrument to be his day of
1999.	18 25
*	Notary Public for My Commission Expires:

Monika Z. Nelson (formerly Monika Zimmermann)

STATE OF Georgia)

SS.

County of Dekalls)

> Notary Public for Beauty My Commission Expires: 6-20-2000



STATE OF California SS. County of Santa Clara)

Personally appeared the above-named KAREN RECHT and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be her voluntary act and deed this 23 RD day of December 1999.

Motary Public for California, County of Santa Clara march 1, 2000

My Commission Expires:

C. Emily Nelc\_ Emily Nelson

STATE OF Georgia)

ss.

County of Dekalbi

Personally appeared the above-named EMILY NELSON and acknowledged the foregoing instrument to be his voluntary act and deed this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 1999.

Notary Public for
My Commission Expires:

COUNTY A HOLD CONTRACTION OF THE PROPERTY OF T

Notary Public, Gwinnett County, Georgia My Commission Expires August 6, 2001.

