

Benjamin S. Wechsler ♦ 443-949-3041 ♦ bwechsler@yvslaw.com

January 27, 2025

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Jenny B. Dempsey Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning 2664 Riva Road, 3rd Floor Annapolis, MD 21401

> Re: Special Exception Application for a Proposed Self-Service Storage Facility; 4338 Mountain Road, Pasadena, MD 21122; Tax Map 17, Parcel 149 (the "Property")/ Letter of Explanation

Dear Ms. Dempsey:

We represent SAFStor, Inc. (the "Applicant" or "SAFStor") regarding the enclosed special exception application proposing to establish a self-service storage facility ("Storage Facility") on the Property. SAFStor is one of the most active privately-held developers of high-quality, professionally-managed self-storage facilities in the United States.

Description of the Property:

The Applicant is the contract purchaser of the Property, which comprises approximately 5.11 acres fronting on the north side of Mountain Road in Pasadena, MD near the intersection with Route 100.

As shown on the Site Plan (the "Plan"), attached as <u>Exhibit A</u>, the Property is a pentagon-shaped parcel of land. Per the excerpt of the Zoning Map attached as <u>Exhibit B</u>, the Property is zoned C2 - Commercial Office District. The parcels to the west are also zoned C2, parcels to the north and east are zoned RLD – Residential Low Density, and parcels to the south are zoned C3 General Commercial. The Property is not located within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or a bog protection area. The southern portion of the property is located within a Priority Funding Area as shown on <u>Exhibit C</u>. The southern portion of the property is also located within the Chesapeake Crossroads Heritage Area. The northern portion of the Property (outside of the proposed LOD) is encumbered by a forest conservation easement which will remain.

Development Proposal: SAFStor is proposing to develop a self-service storage facility on the Property. The proposed Storage Facility will include an approximately 105,000 square foot, three-story building, as shown on the **Exhibit A**. There will be approximately 810 storage units and they will range in size from 5'x5' to 10'x30' with an anticipated average unit size of

approximately 100 ft². The controlled access, self-service storage building will be surrounded by adequate parking and drive aisles. Proposed landscape setbacks will sufficiently meet the County Landscape Manual requirements. Ingress and egress is provided from Mountain Road. There are four specimen trees on the Property, all of which will be retained.

In order to develop the Property with the Storage Facility, the Applicant is requesting special exception approval for a "self-service storage facility." The Property will comply with the general criteria for special exception approval set forth in Code, § 18-16-304 and with the specific use special exception criteria under Code, § 18-11-155 that apply to self-service storage facilities. The Property will comply with all other relevant bulk regulations for the C2-Commercial Office District.

Compliance with Special Exception Criteria:

Section 18-16-304 of the Code sets forth the general requirements for special exceptions. To begin, the proposed Storage Facility is not detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare, Code § 18-16-304(1). The Property is located in a Commercial District in a Priority Funding Area and surrounded on three sides by similarly zoned C2 and C3 District properties. The location of the Project is easily accessed from Mountain Road, and convenient to residential communities and businesses in the Pasadena area. The Storage Facility will be secured by gates on site equipped with "Knox Box" fire department access system and will not "be detrimental to the public health safety and welfare."

The location, height, and nature of the self-service storage facility will also be consistent with the "appropriate and orderly development:" of the C2 District. Code § 18-16-304(2). As described below, the Storage Facility complies with all C2 zoning district bulk requirements, including height, and all of the specific use standards for a self-service storage facility. The facility will be attractively designed similar to other self-storage facilities developed by the Applicant. Samples of the proposed architectural style and elevations based on other facilities are submitted as **Exhibit D.**¹

Operation of the Storage Facility will not create more objectionable "noise, fumes, vibration, or light to nearby properties than operations in other uses allowed under [the Zoning] article". Code § 18-16-304(3). The Storage Facility is located adjacent to a Mountain Road (Maryland Route 177) and surrounded by other similarly zoned properties. Self-service storage facilities are not significant traffic generators. The proposed Storage Facility will generate little traffic and cause minimal noise, no fumes or vibration, and only necessary security and convenience lighting. Uses on nearby properties will be commercial. The residential areas on the north and east sides of the facility will be buffered and screened by landscape as shown on the site plan. Given the commercial zoning of the surrounding properties, including a nearby shopping center, the proposed facility will have little to no adverse impacts or cause objectionable noise, fumes, vibration or light. Rather, the Project will serve the needs of this community. The operation of

¹ An end user for this facility has not been selected, and therefore the applicant cannot provide definitive renderings of the building at this point in time.

other C2 District permitted uses such as business complexes, hotels, childcare centers, and schools would generate much more traffic, noise, light and vibration than the proposed self-service storage facility contemplated in this application.

Given the Project location on Mountain Road across from C3-zoned commercial properties, the Project will not have any adverse effects above and beyond those inherently associated with self-service storage uses irrespective of their location within C2 zoning district. Code § 18-16-304(4).

The Storage Facility will not conflict with an existing or programmed public facility, public service, school, or road. Code § 18-16-304(5). This commercial facility has no impacts on schools. The parcel will be tested for adequacy of public facility requirements during the development process.

The Applicant anticipates that this application will receive a favorable written recommendation from both the Health Department and the Office of Planning and Zoning, given the character of the area and the public need for self-storage, the use that will benefit the community. Code§ 18-16 304(6). All required public utilities including public water and sewer to serve the Storage Facility are available.

The proposed use is consistent with Plan2040, the new County General Development Plan, adopted by the County Council as Bill No. 11-21. The Land Use Plan adopted with Bill 11-21 classifies the portion of the Property to be developed as Commercial. The building will be located on the southern portion, consistent with its C2 District zoning and the Commercial land use designation. (Exhibit A). The Property is also within Growth Tier 2A under the State's Sustainable Growth Act.

As will be shown by evidence at the hearing, there is a public need for the facility. Code § 18-16-304(8). The Storage Facility will be "expedient, reasonably convenient and useful to the public". *Lucky Stores, Inc. v. Board of Appeals of Montgomery County*, 270 Md. 513 (1973).

The use will meet the criteria for self-storage facilities as set forth in the Code as discussed more fully below and shown on the Plan. Code § 18-16-304(9)

The requirement that the application conform to the critical area criteria is inapplicable because the Property is not located in the Critical Area or a Bog Protection Area. Code § 18-16-304(10).

The Applicant's ability to comply with the requirements of the landscape manual will be demonstrated at the hearing and is shown on the Plan. Code § 18-16-304(11).

Specific Special Exception Use Criteria for Self-Service Storage Facilities

Section 18-11-155 of the Code sets forth the specific requirements for self-service storage facilities. The Property is over twice the minimum two-acre lot size. Code § 18-11-155(1). Self-service storage will be the only activity conducted at the Property. Code § 18-11-155(2). As shown on the Plan, all interior access drives are designed for two-way traffic with a minimum width of 24 feet. There is an additional 20-foot-wide fire access lane to the north of the proposed building. Code § 18-11-155(3). No outside storage is proposed. Code § 18-11-155(4). Per the C2 District requirement, the facility shall be a fully enclosed central structure without external access to storage units. Code § 18-11-155(5).

C2 Zoning District Bulk Regulations

The proposed Storage Facility will also meet the bulk regulations for development in the C2 District. Code § 18-5-301. The Property is much larger than the minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet. The maximum coverage by structures and parking will be 27.98%, significantly less than 80%. The minimum setback from the rear lot line will be greater than 25 feet and the minimum setbacks for the side and rear lot lines will be greater than 60 feet from right-of-way line of a divided principal arterial road. The minimum lot depth will be greater than 100 feet. The proposed floor area ratio ("FAR") will be 0.47, which is less than half the permissible FAR of 1.0. The Storage Facility will be three stories tall and will not exceed 60 feet in height.

Request for Extension of Time to Obtain a Building Permit:

In accordance with Code § 18-1 6-405(b), we are requesting that the Administrative Hearing Officer extend the standard 18-month period provided in Code § 18-16-405(a) for the Applicant to obtain a building permit. Designing and constructing a large self-service storage facility on a site that must proceed through the preliminary and site development plan review process with adequate public facility testing and is located on a State Highway requires additional agency coordination on development issues and processing time to obtain permits. Therefore, due to the character of the proposed project, we request an additional 18-month period to obtain a building permit.

The Applicant also requests as a condition of the special exception approval that it be permitted to make modifications to the administrative site plan to address comments by County and State agencies during the plan and permit review process.

Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, and for good cause shown, the Applicant respectfully requests special exception approval to allow for the use of a self-service storage facility on the Property.

Should you have any questions regarding the enclosed special exception application, please telephone me in our Annapolis office. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Very truly yours,

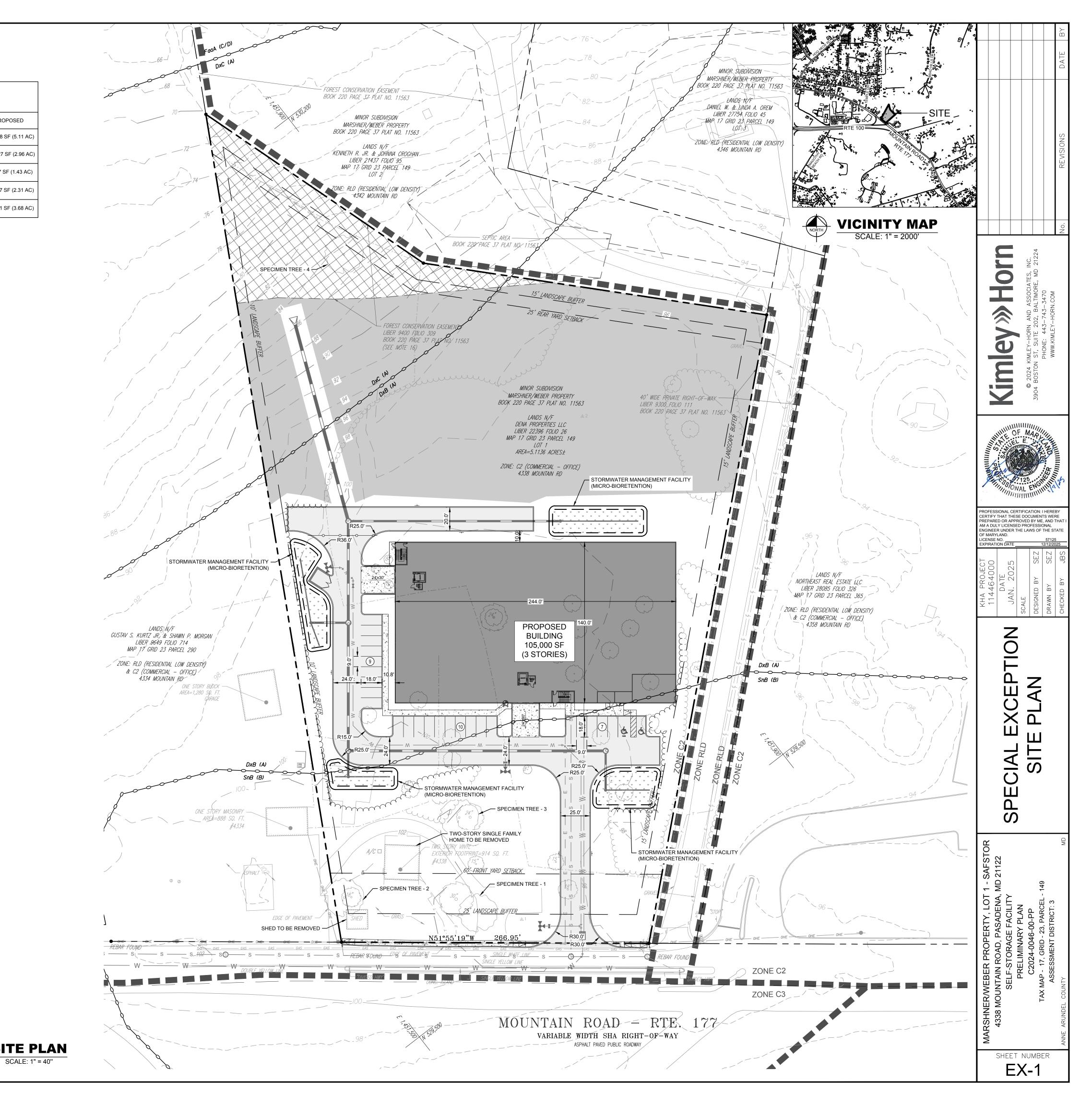
YVS LAW, LLC

Brie B. Alak

Benjamin S. Wechsler

Attachments

	PROPOSED EASEMENT		SITE AREA TABLE			
	PROPOSED CURB AND GUTTER PROPOSED BUILDING					
	PROPOSED CONTOUR PR. CONCRETE	PROPERTY	222,748 SF (5.11 AC)	PROPOS 222,748 SF (5		
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	AREA TO BE PROTECTED FROM DISTURBANCE		6,991 SF (0.16 AC)	62,177 SF (1.		
(#)	PR. PARKING SPACES	woods	100,397 SF (2.31 AC)	100,397 SF (2		
— – –	PR. SIGNAGE	OPEN (GRASS)	215,757 SF (4.95 AC)	160,571 SF (3		
x x	PR. LIGHTS PR. FENCE					
ITE INFORMATION						
ADDRESSES.	4338 MOUNTAIN ROAD LOT 1 PASADENA, MD 21122					
TAX ACCOUNT NUMBER: DEED REFERENCES: TAX MAP / GRID / PARCEL: ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:	<u>03-000-90109409</u> BOOK: 22396, PAGE: 00026 0017 / 0023 / 0149 03					
. EXISTING ZONING: EXISTING USE:	<u>C2 - COMMERCIAL OFFICE 222,748 SF (5.11 AC)</u> COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL					
PROPOSED ZONING: PROPOSED USE:	<u>C2 - COMMERCIAL OFFICE 222,748 SF (5.11 AC)</u> <u>COMMERCIAL - SELF SERVICE STORAGE</u>					
. PARCEL AREAS: TOTAL PROJECT AREA: LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE (LOD):	222,748 SF (5.11 AC) 222,748 SF (5.11 AC) 129,127 SF (2.96 AC)					
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WATER RESOURCES: - CHESAPEAKE BAY CRITICAL AI - WATERSHEDS:	REA/BUFFER: <u>N/A</u>					
WEST CHESAPEAKE BAY (- 100-YR FLOODPLAIN: <u>N/A</u> - STREAMS/BUFFER: MAIN CREE	AREST TO MAIN CREEK BOG CDA)					
- HIGHLY ERODIBLE SOIL: <u>N/A</u> - STEEP SLOPES AND BUFFER: <u>I</u> - THE PREDOMINATE SOIL TYPE - <u>DxB: DOWNER-PHALANX</u> - <u>DxC: DOWNER-PHALANX</u>						
FORESTS: - FOREST CONSERVATION AREA - SENSITIVE AREAS: <u>N/A</u> - RARE, THREATENED OR ENDA	AS: <u>EXISTING & PROPOSED ON-SITE</u> NGERED SPECIES HABITAT: <u>NONE ON-SITE</u> N-SITE - 0 TO BE REMOVED, 4 TO REMAIN					
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4338 MOUNTAIN ROAD PASADENA, MD

INTERPLAN

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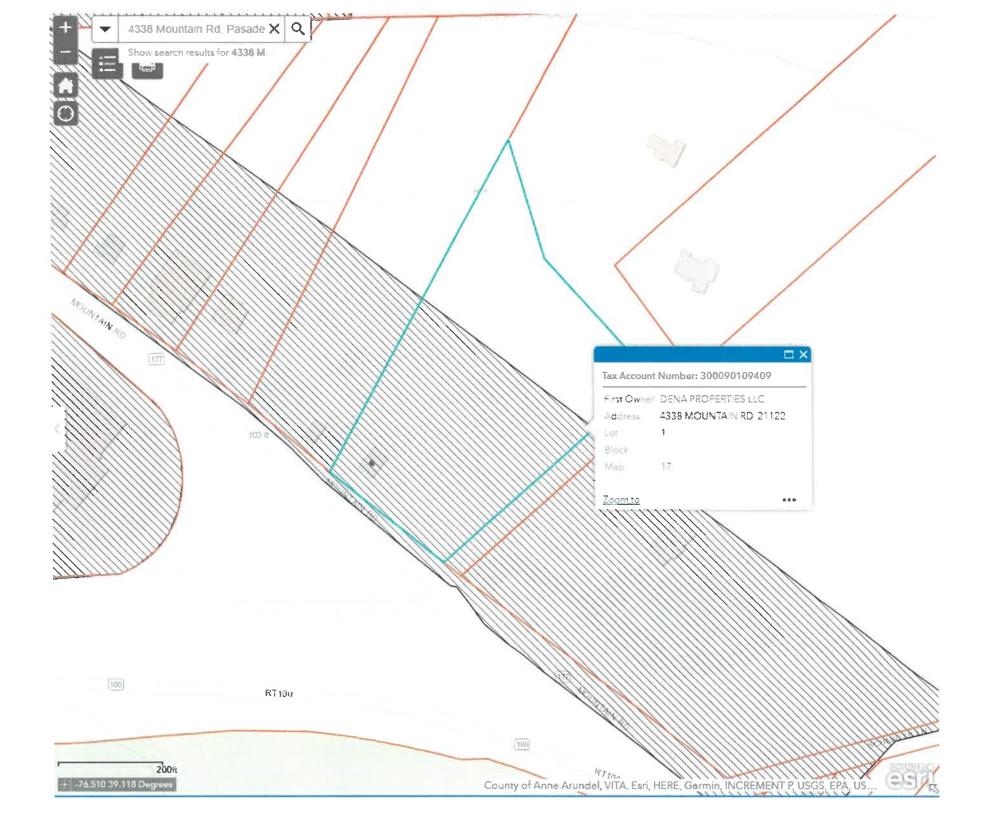




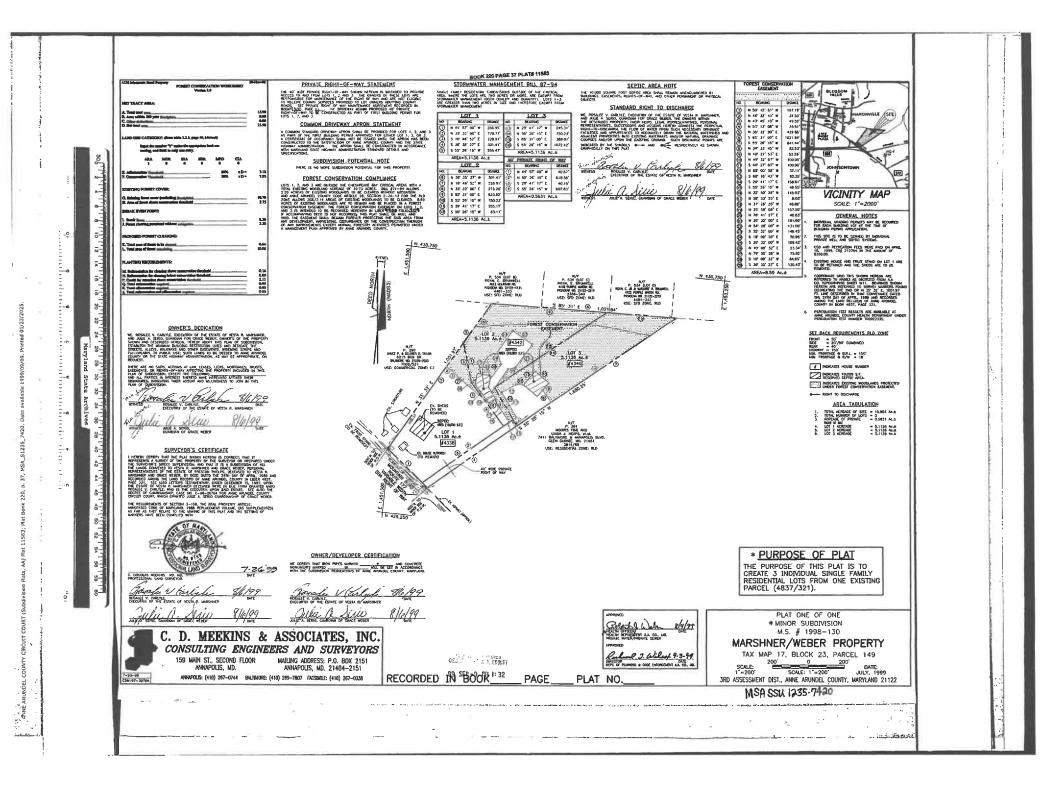
4338 MOUNTAIN ROAD PASADENA, MD

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STEUART PITTMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE JESSICA LEYS, DIRECTOR RECREATION AND PARKS 1 HARRY S. TRUMAN PKWY ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 AACOUNTY.ORG/RECPARKS



MEMORANDUM

TO:	Sadé Medina, Zoning Division Office of Planning and Zoning
FROM:	Pat Slayton Capital Projects Division
SUBJECT:	Special Exception Case 2025-0014-S
DATE:	January 31, 2025

The Department of Recreation and Parks has reviewed the above plans to determine if there may be impacts to the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, parks, and trails. Please note our recommendations according to those findings below.

• A portion of this site lies within the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Network, a proposed preservation area considered in the Anne Arundel County Green Infrastructure Master Plan. The proposed development is consistent with the spirit of the Green Infrastructure Master Plan.

The Department of Recreation and Parks has no further comments.

cc: File



OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ZONING CONFIRMATION OF PRE-FILE

PRE-FILE #: 2024-0111-P DATE: 12/19/2024 OPZ STAFF: Jennifer Lechner Jessica Levy Massimiliano Foppiano I&P STAFF: Edwin Udenkwo

APPLICANT/REPRESENTATIVE: Dena Properties LLC / Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.

EMAIL: jeff.smith@kimley-horn.com

SITE LOCATION: 4338 Mountain Road, Pasadena				LOT SIZE: 5.11 acres
ZONING: C2	CA DESIGNATION: n/a	BMA: n/a	BUFFER: n/a	APPLICATION TYPE: Special Exception

The property is the subject of Site Development Preliminary Plan C2024-0046-00-PP for "SAFStor" - SAFStor Mountain Self Storage.

The Administrative Site Plan shows a proposed 140' x 244' three-story building (105,000sqft) with parking and other associated facilities.

COMMENTS:

OPZ Zoning Administration:

The Letter of Explanation must outline the specifics of the proposed Special Exception request. This letter must contain the justification for the request. The general criteria (Article 18-16-304) and the specific special exception criteria (from Article 18, Title 11 - § 18-11-155 - Self-service storage facilities) for the proposed use must also be addressed in this letter. It is important to note that the applicant must address and prove that there is sufficient public need for the proposed special exception use. If the application is for an existing use that is in operation, include this information in the letter of explanation.

The applicants are reminded that, in order for the Administrative Hearing Officer to grant approval of the special exception, the proposal must address and meet all of the applicable standards provided under Sections 18-11-155 and 18-16-304. The Letter of Explanation should address each of those standards and provide adequate justification.

OPZ Long Range Planning:

<u>Plan2040 General Development Plan</u>: Plan2040 does not have recommendations that are specific to this site and the proposal is generally consistent with the goals, policies and strategies of Plan2040 including:

• Policy BE3.2: Ensure infill development and redevelopment in existing residential neighborhoods are compatible in scale, use, form and intensity with the surrounding neighborhood character.

This proposal is within Region Planning Area 4 and is generally consistent with the Region Plan goals and strategies.

2022 Water and Sewer Master Plan: The site is split between the Planned Service category in the Cox Creek Sewer Service Area and the No Public Service category. The site is also split between the Planned Service category in the Glen Burnie Low Water Pressure Zone and the No Public Service category in the Rural Water Pressure Zone. Consistency with the County's Water and Sewer Master Plan will be determined at the time of the development plan submittal.

2024-0111-P

OPZ Regional Team:

This Office defers to the Zoning Division whether the applicant meets the above application standard requirements, per Special Exception requirements of Article 18-16-304.

I&P Engineering:

Defer to the Zoning Office per Special Exception requirements of Article 18-16-304.

INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANT

Section 18-16-301 (c) Burden of Proof. The applicant has the burden of proof, including the burden of going forward with the production of evidence and the burden of persuasion, on all questions of fact. The burden of persuasion is by a preponderance of the evidence.

A special exception may only be granted if the Administrative Hearing Officer makes affirmative findings that the applicant has addressed all the requirements outlined in Articles 18-11-155 and 18-16-304. Comments made on this form are intended to provide guidance and are not intended to represent support or approval of the special exception request.

A preliminary plan checklist is required for development impacting environmentally sensitive areas and for all new single-family dwellings. A stormwater management plan that satisfies the requirements of the County Procedures Manual is required for development impacting environmentally sensitive areas OR disturbing 5,000 square feet or more. State mandates require a developer of land provide SWM to control new development runoff from the start of the development process.