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August 18, 2006

## VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Silver Creek Ranch Homeowners Association, Inc. Deb Crawford, Board President 1676 Sloping Trace Way Lithia Springs, GA 30122

Re: Silver Creek Ranch Homeowners Association, Inc.

Dear Board:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the Amendment to the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions and Easements for Silver Creek Ranch Subdivision and Submission to the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, as filed with the Georgia Secretary of State. Please retain the copy for the records of the Association.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

WEISSMAN, NOWACK, CURRY & WILCO, P.C.

Kimberly C. Gaddis, Esq.

KCG/rc

Enclosure



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Cindy Chaffin Clerk Superior Court BK 2336 PG 794-80



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Return to:

Weissman, Nowack, Curry & Wilco, P.C. One Alliance Center, 4th Floor 3500 Lenox Road Atlanta, Georgia 30326 Attn: Kimberly C. Gaddis

STATE OF GEORGIA

CROSS REFERENCE: Deed Book 853

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COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

## AMENDMENT TO THE DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS, RESTRICTIONS AND EASEMENTS FOR SILVER CREEK RANCH SUBDIVISION AND SUBMISSION TO THE GEORGIA PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION ACT ("POAA")

WHEREAS, Exxell Developers, Inc., ("Developer") recorded a Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions, and Easements for Silver Creek Ranch Subdivision on December 21, 1993, in Deed Book 853, Page 203, et. seq., Douglas County, Georgia, records (hereafter the "Declaration"); and

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 7(d) of the Declaration provides for amendment of the Declaration by an agreement signed by members holding at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the eligible votes in the Association; provided, however, that any such amendment must also be signed by the Declarant, if the Declarant is the owner of any real property subject to the Declaration and further provided, however, such amendment shall not alter, modify, change or rescind any right, title, interest or privilege granted or accorded to the holder of any deed to secure debt encumbering any Lot or the Common Area affected thereby unless such holder shall consent in writing thereto; and

WHEREAS, the amendments provided for herein do not alter, modify, change or rescind any right, title, interest or privilege granted or accorded to the holder of any deed to secure debt encumbering any Lot or Common Area; provided however, in the event a court of competent jurisdiction determines that this Amendment does alter, modify, change or rescind any right, title, interest or privilege granted or accorded to the holder of any deed to secure debt encumbering any Lot or Common Area without the consent of such mortgage holder to this Amendment, then this Amendment shall not be binding on the mortgage holder so involved, unless such mortgage holder consents to this Amendment; and if such consent is not forthcoming, then the provisions of the Declaration prior to this Amendment shall control with respect to the affected mortgage holder;

THIS AMENDMENT SUBMITS THE PROPERTY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GEORGIA PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION ACT, O.C.G.A. SECTION 44-3-220, ET SEQ.

CLOSING ATTORNEYS SHOULD CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION FOR ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATES REGARDING ASSESSMENTS DUE ON LOTS.

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WHEREAS, the Declarant does own a Lot for the purposes of sale and has consented to this Amendment; and

WHEREAS, this members of the Association holding seventy-five (75%) percent of the total eligible votes of the Association have agreed to amend the Declaration by signing individual consent forms which are incorporated herein by this reference and which are on file with the Association's records;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Declaration is amended as follows:

1.

#### Article I, Section 9 is hereby amended by adding the following language to the end thereto:

Each Lot shall for all purposes constitute real property which shall be owned in fee simple and which, subject to the provisions of this Declaration and the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, O.C.G.A., Section 44-3-220, et seq., may be conveyed, transferred and encumbered the same as any other real property.

2

### Article I, Section 12 is hereby amended by adding the following language to the end thereto:

The property subjected to this Declaration constitutes a residential property owners development which hereby submits to the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-220, et seq. (Michie, 1982), as such act may be amended from time to time.

3.

#### Article 1 is hereby amended by adding a new Section 13 thereto as follows:

Section 13. "Act" shall mean the Georgia Property Owners' Association Act, O.C.G.A. Section 44-3-220, et seq. (Michie 1982), as such act may be amended from time to time.

4.

Article V, Section 1 through 8 are hereby amended by deleting in their entirety and substituting the following new Sections 1 through 8 are substituted therefor:

# ARTICLE V COVENANT FOR MAINTENANCE AND ASSESSMENTS

<u>Section 1.</u> <u>Purpose of Assessment.</u> The Association shall have the power to levy assessments as provided herein and in the Act. The assessments for common expenses provided for herein shall be used for the general purposes of promoting the recreation, health,

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safety, welfare, common benefit, and enjoyment of the Owners and occupants of Lots, as may be authorized by the Board.

Section 2. Creation of the Lien and Personal Obligation For Assessments. Each Owner of any Lot, by acceptance of a deed therefor, whether or not it shall be so expressed in such deed, is deemed to covenant and agree to pay to the Association: (i) annual assessments or charges; (ii) special assessments, to be established and collected as hereinafter provided; and (iii) specific special assessments levied by the Board hereunder against any particular Lot, including, but not limited to, reasonable fines imposed hereunder.

All such assessments, together with charges, interest, costs, and reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, and if the Board so elects, rents, in the maximum amount permitted under the Act, shall be a charge on the Lot and shall be a continuing lien upon the Lot against which each assessment is made. Such amounts shall also be the personal obligation of the Person who was the Owner of such Lot at the time when the assessment fell due. Each Owner and his or her grantee shall be jointly and severally liable for all assessments and charges due and payable at the time of any conveyance. The Association, in the Board's discretion, may, but shall not be obligated to, record a notice of such lien in the Douglas County, Georgia records evidencing the lien created under the Act and this Declaration.

Assessments shall be paid in such manner and on such dates as may be fixed by the Board; unless otherwise provided, the annual assessments shall be paid in equal monthly installments due on the first day of each calendar month. No Owner may exempt himself or herself from liability, or otherwise withhold payment of assessments, for any reason whatsoever, including, but not limited to, nonuse of the Common Area, the Association's failure to provide services or perform its obligations required hereunder, or inconvenience or discomfort arising from the Association's performance of its duties. The lien provided for herein shall have priority as provided in the Act.

- Section 3. <u>Individual Assessments</u>. Except as provided below, or elsewhere in the Act or the Declaration or the Bylaws, the amount of all common expenses shall be assessed against all Lots equally.
- (a) Notwithstanding the above, the Board of Directors shall have the power to assess specific special assessments pursuant to this Section and to Section 44-3-225(a) of the Act as, in its discretion, it shall deem appropriate. Failure of the Board to exercise its authority under this Section shall not be grounds for any action against the Association or the Board and shall not constitute a waiver of the Board's right to exercise its authority hereunder in the future.
- (i) Except for expenses incurred for maintenance and repair of items which are the Association's maintenance responsibility hereunder, any common expenses benefiting less than all of the Lots or significantly disproportionately benefiting all Lots may be specially assessed equitably among all of the Lots which are benefited according to the benefit received.
- (ii) Any common expenses occasioned by the conduct of less than all of those entitled to occupy all of the Lots or by the licensees or invitees of any such Lot(s) may

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be specially assessed against such Lot(s), including attorney's fees incurred by the Association, in enforcing the Declaration, Bylaws or Association rules and regulations.

For purposes of this Section, nonuse shall constitute a benefit to less than all Lots or a significant disproportionate benefit among all Lots only when such nonuse results in an identifiable, calculable reduction in cost to the Association.

- <u>Section 4.</u> <u>Delinquent Assessments</u>. All assessments and related charges not paid on or before the due date shall be delinquent, and the Owner shall be in default.
- (a) If any assessments or any other charge, or any part thereof, is not paid in full within ten (10) days of the due date, or such later date as may be provided by the Board, a late charge equal to the greater of ten (\$10.00) dollars or ten (10%) percent of the amount not paid, or such higher amounts as may be authorized by the Act, may be imposed without further notice or warning to the delinquent Owner, and interest at the rate of ten (10%) percent per annum, or such higher rate as permitted by the Act, shall accrue from the due date.

If part payment of assessments and related charges is made, the amount received may be applied by the Board, in respective order, to costs and attorney's fees, late charges, interest, delinquent assessments, and current assessments.

(b) If assessments, fines or other charges, or any part thereof, due from an Owner remain delinquent and unpaid for more than fifteen (15) days from the date due, a notice of delinquency may be given to that Owner stating that if the assessment or charge remains delinquent for more than ten (10) days from the date of the notice of delinquency, the Board may accelerate and declare immediately due all of that Owner's unpaid installments of the annual assessment. If the Owner fails to pay all amounts currently due within ten (10) days of the date of the notice of delinquency, the Board may then accelerate and declare immediately due all installments of the annual assessment and of any special assessment, without any further notice being given to the delinquent Owner. Upon acceleration, that Owner shall thereby lose the privilege of paying the annual assessment in monthly installments for that fiscal year, unless reinstated in the Board's discretion.

If assessments, fines or other charges, or any part thereof, remain unpaid more than thirty (30) days after the assessment payments first become delinquent, the Association, acting through the Board, may institute suit to collect all amounts due pursuant to the provisions of the Declaration, the Bylaws, the Act and Georgia law, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred, and suspend the Owner's and Occupant's right to use the Common Area (provided, however, the Board may not deny ingress or egress to or from the Lot).

Section 5. Computation of Operating Budget and Assessment. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board shall prepare a budget covering the estimated costs of operating the Property during the coming year, and the Board shall establish the annual assessment or installments for the coming year. The maximum annual assessment may be increased by the Board at any time and from time to time during each assessment year, but no more than ten (10%) percent above the maximum annual assessment for the previous year; provided, however, the maximum annual assessment for each assessment year may at any time and

from time to time be increased more than ten (10%) percent above the maximum annual assessment for the previous assessment year if such increase is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members of the Association who are present in person or by proxy and voting at a meeting of Members duly held in accordance with the provisions of the Bylaws of the Association and this Declaration.

The Board shall cause the budget and notice of the assessment(s) to be delivered to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the due date for such assessment, or the first installment thereof. The budget and the assessment shall become effective unless disapproved at a duly called Association meeting by a vote of a majority of the total Association membership; provided, however, if a quorum is not obtained at the annual meeting, the budget shall become effective even though a vote to disapprove the budget could not be called at this meeting.

If the membership disapproves the proposed budget or the Board fails for any reason to determine the budget for the succeeding year, then, until a budget is determined as provided herein, the budget in effect for the current year shall continue for the succeeding year. However, the Board may propose a new or adjusted budget at any time during the year by causing the proposed budget and assessment to be delivered to the members at least thirty (30) days prior to the proposed effective date thereof. Unless a special meeting is requested by the members, as provided in the Bylaws for special meetings, the new or adjusted budget and assessment shall take effect without a meeting of the members.

The budget shall not operate as a limitation on expenditures by the Board, but, rather, the budget is merely an estimate of common expenses on which the Board may base the annual assessments.

Section 6. Special Assessments. In addition to other assessments authorized herein, the Board may at any time levy a special assessment against all Owners, provided that such special assessment shall have first been approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the Association who are present in person or by proxy at a duly called special or annual meeting of the members, notice of which shall specify that purpose.

Section 7. Capital Budget and Contribution. The Board may prepare an annual or multi-year capital budget which shall take into account the number and nature of replaceable assets, the expected life of each asset, and the expected repair or replacement cost. The Board shall set the required capital contribution, if any, in an amount sufficient to permit meeting the projected capital needs of the Association, as shown on the capital budget, with respect both to amount and timing by equal annual assessments over the period of the budget. The capital contribution required, if any, shall be fixed by the Board and included within the budget and assessment as provided in Section 5 above.

Section 8. Statement of Account. Any Owner, mortgagee, or a person having executed a contract for the purchase of a Lot, or a lender considering a loan to be secured by a Lot, shall be entitled, upon written request, to a statement from the Association setting forth the amount of assessments due and unpaid, including any late charges, interest, fines, or other charges against such Lot. The Association shall respond in writing within five (5) business days of receipt of the request for a statement; provided, however, the Association may require

the payment of a fee, not exceeding ten (\$10.00) dollars or such higher amount as may be authorized under the Act, as a prerequisite to the assessments due on the Lot as of the date specified therein. The Association may require an additional fee not to exceed twenty five (\$25.00) dollars if the Association provides a copy of the Declaration and Bylaws to any such Person in connection with a closing or otherwise upon request.

5

Article VIII, Section 1(a) of the Declaration is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following is substituted therefore:

#### Section 1. Enforcement.

(a) The Association shall have the power to enforce use restrictions, other Declaration and By-Laws provisions, and rules and regulations by imposing reasonable monetary fines, exercising self-help powers, suspending use and voting privileges, and suspending services paid for as a common expense, as provided herein and in Section 44-3-223 of the Act. In any such enforcement action, the Association may assess the violating Owner and Lot all costs thereof, including reasonable attorney's fees actually incurred. These powers, however, shall not limit any other legal means of enforcing such documents or provisions by either the Association or, in an appropriate case, by an aggrieved Owner. Failure by the Association or by any Owner to enforce any covenant or restriction herein contained shall in no event be deemed a waiver of the right to do so thereafter.

6.

Article IX, Section 9 is hereby amended by deleting that Section in its entirety and substituting the following therefore:

Section 1. <u>Duration</u>. The covenants and conditions of this Declaration shall run with and bind the Properties perpetually to the extent provided in the Act.

7.

Article IX, Section 7 is hereby deleted in its entirety and the following new Section 7 is substituted therefor:

Section 7. <u>Amendments.</u> Except where a higher vote is required for action under any other provisions of this Declaration, in which case such higher vote shall be necessary to amend such provision, this Declaration may be amended by the affirmative vote, written consent, or any combination of affirmative vote and written consent of the members of the Association holding sixty-six and two-thirds (66-2/3%) percent of the total eligible vote thereof, provided however, such amendment by the Owners shall not be effective unless also consented to by the Declarant, if Declarant is the owner of any real property then subject to this Declaration. No amendment to the provisions of this Declaration shall alter, modify, change or rescind any right, title, interest or privilege herein granted

or accorded to the holder of any deed to secure debt encumbering any Lot or Common Area affected thereby unless such holder shall consent in writing thereto. Notice of a meeting, if any, at which a proposed amendment will be considered shall state the fact of consideration and the subject matter of the proposed amendment. No amendment shall be effective until certified by the President and Secretary of the Association and filed in the Douglas County, Georgia, land records.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board of Directors, without the necessity of a vote from the owners, may amend this Declaration to comply with the Act, any applicable state, city or federal law, including but not limited to, compliance with applicable guidelines of the Federal National Mortgage Association ("Fannie Mae"), the Department of Housing and Urban Development ("HUD") and the Veterans Administration ("VA").

If legal action is not instituted to challenge the validity of this Declaration or any amendment hereto within one (1) year of the recording thereof in the Douglas County, Georgia land records, then such amendment or document shall be presumed to be validly adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned officers of the Silver Creek Ranch Homeowners Association, Inc., hereby certify that the above Amendment to the Declaration was duly adopted by the required percentage of the Association and its membership, with all required notices duly given.

This 27 day of March

BRS ASSOCIATION, INC.

By:

Attest:

[SEAL]

Secretary

[CORPORATE SEAL]

Sworn to aMARIBERITT

before me the TARY day

State of Georgia

My Comm, Expires July 5, 2009

Witness

Public

THIS AMENDMENT SUBMITS THE PROPERTY TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE GEORGIA PROPERTY OWNERS' ASSOCIATION ACT, O.C.G.A. SECTION 44-3-220, ET SEQ.

CLOSING ATTORNEYS SHOULD CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION FOR ESTOPPEL CERTIFICATES REGARDING ASSESSMENTS DUE ON LOTS.