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# STEELE CREEK

## MASTER COVENANT [RESIDENTIAL]

*Guadalupe County, Texas*

**NOTE:** NO PORTION OF THE PROPERTY DESCRIBED ON EXHIBIT "A" IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THIS COVENANT UNLESS A NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY DESCRIBING SUCH PORTION OF THE PROPERTY IS RECORDED IN THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS OF GUADALUPE COUNTY, TEXAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 9.5 BELOW.

**Declarant:** CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P., a Texas limited partnership

# STEELE CREEK

## MASTER COVENANT

[RESIDENTIAL]

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**STEELE CREEK****MASTER COVENANT  
[RESIDENTIAL]**

This Steele Creek Master Covenant [Residential] (the “**Covenant**”) is made by **CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P.**, a Texas limited partnership (the “**Declarant**”), and is as follows:

**R E C I T A L S:**

A. This Covenant is recorded with respect to that certain real property located in Guadalupe County, Texas, as more particularly described on Exhibit “A”, attached hereto (the “**Property**”).

B. Declarant is the present owner of a portion of the Property.

C. 258 Steele Creek Investments, LLC, a Texas limited liability company (“**258 Steele Creek Investments**”), is the present owner of a portion of the Property. 258 Steele Creek Investments executes this Covenant to evidence its consent to subject the portion of the Property it owns to the terms and provisions of this Covenant.

D. Declarant desires to create a uniform plan for the development, improvement, and sale of the Property and to act as the “Declarant” for all purposes under this Covenant.

E. Portions of the Property may be made subject to this Covenant upon the Recording of one or more Notices of Applicability pursuant to *Section 9.5* below, and once such Notices of Applicability have been Recorded, the portions of the Property described therein shall constitute the Development (defined below) and shall be governed by and fully subject to this Covenant, and the Development in turn shall be comprised of separate Development Areas (defined below) which shall be governed by and subject to separate Development Area Declarations (defined below) in addition to this Covenant.

No portion of the Property is subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant until a Notice of Applicability is Recorded. A Notice of Applicability may only be Recorded by the Declarant.

PROPERTY VERSUS DEVELOPMENT VERSUS DEVELOPMENT AREA “Property”	Described on <u>Exhibit “A”</u> . This is the land that <u>may be made</u> subject to this Covenant, from time to time, by the Recording of one or more Notices of Applicability. Declarant has no obligation to add all or any portion of the Property to this Covenant.
“Development”	This is the portion of the land described on <u>Exhibit “A”</u> that <u>has been made</u> subject to this Covenant through the Recording of a Notice of

"Development Area"

**Applicability.**

This is a portion of the Development. Each Development Area may be made subject to a Development Area Declaration.

F. This Covenant serves notice that upon the further Recording of one or more Notices of Applicability, portions of the Property identified in such notice or notices shall be subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby declared that: (i) those portions of the Property as and when made subject to this Covenant by the Recording of a Notice of Applicability shall be held, sold, conveyed, and occupied subject to the following covenants, conditions and restrictions which shall run with such portions of the Property and shall be binding upon all parties having right, title, or interest in or to such portions of the Property or any part thereof, their heirs, successors, and assigns and shall inure to the benefit of each Owner thereof; and (ii) each contract or deed conveying those portions of the Property that have been made subject to this Covenant shall conclusively be held to have been executed, delivered, and accepted subject to the following covenants, conditions and restrictions, regardless of whether or not the same are set out in full or by reference in said contract or deed.

This Covenant uses notes (text set apart in boxes) to illustrate concepts and assist the reader. If there is a conflict between any note and the text of the Covenant, the text shall control.

## ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS

Unless the context otherwise specifies or requires, terms used in this Covenant shall have the meanings set forth below:

**"ACC"** means the architectural control committee, as defined in *Section 6.2*. As more particularly described in *Article 6*, during the Development Period, the Declarant acts as the Steele Creek Reviewer and exercises all rights to approve Improvements within the Development. The ACC will not be formed and has no rights to review and approve Improvements until such rights have been assigned to the Association by a written Recorded instrument executed by the Declarant, or the Development Period has expired or is terminated by a written Recorded instrument executed by the Declarant.

**"Applicable Law"** means all statutes, public laws, ordinances, policies, rules, regulations and orders of all federal, state, county and municipal governments or their agencies having jurisdiction and control over the Development, and any other applicable building codes, zoning restrictions, permits and ordinances adopted by a Governmental Entity (defined below), which are in effect at the time a provision of the Documents is applied, and pertaining to the subject matter of the Document provision. Statutes, ordinances and regulations specifically

referenced in the Documents are “Applicable Law” on the effective date of the Document, and are not intended to apply to the Development if they cease to be applicable by operation of law, or if they are replaced or superseded by one or more other statutes or ordinances.

**“Assessment”** or **“Assessments”** means assessments the Association may impose under this Covenant.

**“Assessment Unit”** has the meaning set forth in *Section 5.9.2*.

**“Association”** means STEELE CREEK RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, INC., a Texas nonprofit corporation, which will be created by the Declarant to exercise the authority and assume the powers specified in *Article 3* and elsewhere in this Covenant. The failure of the Association to maintain its corporate charter from time to time does not affect the existence or legitimacy of the Association, which derives its authority from this Covenant, the Certificate, the Bylaws, and Applicable Law.

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Association.

**“Bulk Rate Contract”** or **“Bulk Rate Contracts”** means one or more contracts which are entered into by the Association for the provision of utility services or other services of any kind or nature to the Lots and/or Condominium Units. The services provided under Bulk Rate Contracts may include, without limitation, security services, trash pick-up services, propane service, natural gas service, landscape maintenance services, cable television services, telecommunications services, internet access services, “broadband services”, wastewater services, and any other services of any kind or nature which are considered by the Board to be beneficial. During the Development Period, Declarant must approve each Bulk Rate Contract.

**“Bylaws”** means the bylaws of the Association, which may be initially adopted and Recorded by Declarant or the Board of the Association and Recorded as part of the initial project documentation for the benefit of the Association. The Bylaws may be amended, from time to time, by the Declarant until expiration or termination of the Development Period. During the Development Period, Declarant must approve any amendment to the Bylaws. After the Development Period, a Majority of the Board may amend the Bylaws.

**“Certificate”** means the Certificate of Formation of the Association, filed in the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas, as the same may be amended from time to time.

**“Commercial Lot”** means a Lot within the Development, other than Common Area or Special Common Area, that is intended and designated for business or commercial use. Business or commercial use shall include, but not be limited to, all office, retail, wholesale, manufacturing, and service activities, and shall also be deemed to include multi-family, duplex and apartment housing of various densities. A Commercial Lot, for the purpose of this

Covenant, may also include a Lot: (i) which will be further subdivided into Residential Lots and Common Areas; or (ii) on which a residential condominium will be impressed.

**“Common Area”** means any property and facilities that the Association owns or in which it otherwise holds rights or obligations, including any property or facilities (i) held by the Declarant for the benefit of the Association or its Members or (ii) designated by the Declarant as Common Area in accordance with *Section 3.9*. Upon the Recording of such designation, the portion of the Property identified therein shall be considered Common Area for the purpose of this Covenant. Common Area also includes any property that the Association holds under a lease, license, or any easement in favor of the Association. Some Common Area shall be solely for the common use and enjoyment of the Owners, while other portions of the Common Area may be designated by the Declarant or the Board for the use and enjoyment of the Owners and members of the public.

**“Community Enhancement Covenant”** means the community enhancement covenant that may be Recorded by the Declarant as part of the initial project documentation for the benefit of the Association. The Community Enhancement Covenant may be amended, from time to time, by the Declarant during the Development Period. Upon expiration or termination of the Development Period, the Community Enhancement Covenant may be amended by a Majority of the Board.

**“Community Manual”** means the community manual, which the Declarant may initially adopt and Record as part of the initial project documentation for the Development. The Community Manual may include the Bylaws, Rules and other policies governing the Association. The Community Manual may be amended or supplemented, from time to time, by the Declarant during the Development Period. Upon expiration or termination of the Development Period, the Community Manual may be amended by a Majority of the Board.

**“Condominium Unit”** means an individual unit, including any common element assigned thereto, within a condominium regime, if any, established within the Development. A Condominium Unit may be designated by the Declarant in a Recorded instrument for residential, commercial or live/work purposes.

**“Covenant”** means this Steele Creek Master Covenant [*Residential*], as defined in the preamble.

**“Declarant”** means **CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P.**, a Texas limited partnership, its successors and permitted assigns. Notwithstanding any provision in this Covenant to the contrary, Declarant may, by Recorded instrument, assign, in whole or in part, exclusively or non-exclusively, any of its privileges, exemptions, rights, reservations and duties under this Covenant to any person. Declarant may also, by Recorded instrument, permit any other person to participate in whole, in part, exclusively or non-exclusively, in any of Declarant’s privileges, exemptions, rights and duties under this Covenant.



Declarant enjoys certain rights and privileges to facilitate the development, construction, and marketing of the Property and the Development, and to direct the size, shape and composition of the Property and the Development. These rights are described in this Covenant. Declarant may also assign, in whole or in part, all or any of the Declarant's rights established under the terms and provisions of this Covenant to one or more third-parties.

**"Design Guidelines"** means the standards for design and construction of Improvements, landscaping and exterior items proposed to be placed on any Lot or Condominium Unit, which may be adopted pursuant to *Section 6.4.2* as the same may be amended from time to time. The Design Guidelines may consist of multiple written design guidelines applying to specific portions of the Development. The Design Guidelines may be Recorded as a separate written instrument or may be incorporated into a Development Area Declaration by exhibit or otherwise. Notwithstanding anything in this Covenant to the contrary, Declarant shall have no obligation to establish Design Guidelines for the Property, the Development, or any portion thereof.

**"Development"** refers to all or any portion of the Property made subject to this Covenant by the Recording of a Notice of Applicability.

**"Development Area"** means any part of the Development (less than the whole), which Development Area may be subject to a Development Area Declaration in addition to being subject to this Covenant.

**"Development Area Declaration"** means, with respect to any Development Area, the separate instruments containing covenants, restrictions, conditions, limitations and/or easements, to which the property within such Development Area is subjected.

**"Development Period"** means the period of time beginning on the date when this Covenant has been Recorded, and ending fifty (50) years thereafter, unless earlier terminated by a Recorded instrument executed by the Declarant. The Development Period is the period of time in which Declarant reserves the right to facilitate the development, construction, and marketing of the Property and the Development, and the right to direct the size, shape and composition of the Property and the Development. The Development Period is for a term of years and does not require that Declarant own any portion of the Property or the Development.

**"Documents"** means, singularly or collectively, as the case may be, this Covenant, the Certificate, the Bylaws, the Community Manual, the Community Enhancement Covenant, the Design Guidelines (if adopted), any applicable Development Area Declaration, any applicable Notice of Applicability, as each may be amended from time to time, and any Rules, or policies or procedures the Association promulgates pursuant to this Covenant, and any Development Area Declaration, as adopted and amended from time to time. An appendix, exhibit, schedule,

or certification accompanying a Document is part of such Document. See Table 1 for a summary of the Documents.

**“Governmental Entity”** means (a) a public improvement district created pursuant to Chapter 372, Subchapter B of the Texas Local Government Code; (b) a municipal utility district created pursuant to Article XVI, Section 59 of the Constitution of Texas and/or Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code; (c) any other similarly constituted quasi-governmental entity created for the purpose of providing benefits or services to the Development; or (d) any other regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the Development.

**“Homebuilder”** refers to any Owner (other than Declarant) who is in the business of constructing single-family residences (whether attached or detached) for resale to third parties and acquires all or a portion of the Development to construct single-family residences for resale to third parties.

**“Improvement”** means any and all physical enhancements and alterations to the Development, including, but not limited to, grading, clearing, removal of trees, site work, utilities, landscaping, irrigation, trails, hardscape, exterior lighting, alteration of drainage flow, drainage facilities, detention/retention ponds, water features, fences, walls, signage, and every structure, fixture, and all appurtenances of every type and kind, whether temporary or permanent in nature, including, but not limited to, buildings, outbuildings, storage sheds, patios, tennis courts, sport courts, recreational facilities, swimming pools, putting greens, garages, driveways, parking areas and/or facilities, storage buildings, sidewalks, fences, gates, screening walls, retaining walls, stairs, patios, decks, walkways, landscaping, mailboxes, awnings and exterior air conditioning equipment or fixtures.

**“Lot”** means any portion of the Development the Declarant designates as such in a Recorded instrument or shown as a subdivided lot on a Plat other than Common Area, Special Common Area, or a Lot on which a condominium regime has been established.

**“Majority”** means more than half.

**“Manager”** has the meaning set forth in *Section 3.8.8*.

**“Maximum Number of Lots”** means the maximum number of Lots that may be created and made subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant. The Maximum Number of Lots for the purpose of this Covenant is one thousand and one-hundred (1,100). Until expiration or termination of the Development Period, Declarant may unilaterally increase or decrease the Maximum Number of Lots by Recorded written instrument.

**“Members”** means every person or entity that holds membership privileges in the Association.

**"Mortgage"** or **"Mortgages"** means any mortgage(s) or deed(s) of trust securing indebtedness and covering any Lot or Condominium Unit.

**"Mortgagee"** or **"Mortgagees"** means the holder(s) of any Mortgage(s).

**"Neighborhood"** has the meaning set forth in *Section 3.2*.

**"Neighborhood Delegate"** means the representative elected by the Owners of Lots and Condominium Units in each Neighborhood pursuant to the Representative System of Voting (as further defined herein) which may be established by the Declarant to cast the votes of all Lots and Condominium Units in the Neighborhood on all matters requiring a vote of the membership of the Association, except for the following situations in which this Covenant specifically requires Members or Owners to cast their vote individually: (i) changes to the term of the Covenant as described in *Section 10.1*; (ii) amendments to the Covenant as described in *Section 10.3*; and (iii) initiation of any judicial or administrative proceeding as described in *Section 10.4*. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Documents may set forth additional circumstances in which the Members or Owners are required to cast their vote individually, and voting by Neighborhood Delegates is prohibited.

**"Notice of Applicability"** means the Recorded notice the Declarant executes for the purpose of adding all or any portion of the Property to the terms and provisions of this Covenant. In accordance with *Section 9.5*, a Notice of Applicability may also subject a portion of the Property to a previously Recorded Development Area Declaration.

**"Occupant"** means a resident, occupant or tenant of a Lot or Condominium Unit, other than an Owner.

**"Owner"** means the person(s), entity or entities, including Declarant, holding all or a portion of the fee simple interest in any Lot or Condominium Unit and in no event shall mean any Occupant. Mortgagees who acquire title to a Lot or Condominium Unit through a deed in lieu of foreclosure or through foreclosure are Owners. Persons or entities having ownership interests merely as security for the performance of an obligation are not Owners. Every Owner is a Member of the Association.

**"Permittee"** means any Occupant and any officer, agent, employee, licensee, lessee, customer, vendor, supplier, guest, invitee or contractor of an Owner or Declarant (as applicable).

**"Plat"** means a Recorded subdivision plat of any portion of the Development, and any amendments thereto.

**"Property"** means all of that certain real property described on Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, subject to any additions thereto or withdrawals therefrom as may be made pursuant to *Section 9.3* and *Section 9.4*, respectively, of this Covenant.

**“Record, Recording, Recordation and Recorded”** means recorded in the Official Public Records of Guadalupe County, Texas.

**“Representative System of Voting”** means the method of voting which the Declarant may establish pursuant to *Section 3.6* below. Declarant shall have no obligation to implement the Representative System of Voting.

**“Residential Developer”** refers to any Owner, other than Declarant, who acquires undeveloped land, one or more Lots, or any other portion of the Property for the purposes of development for and/or resale to a Homebuilder.

**“Residential Lot”** means a portion of the Development, designated by Declarant in a Recorded written instrument or shown as a subdivided lot on a Plat, other than Common Area and Special Common Area, which is intended solely for single-family residential use.

**“Rules”** means any instrument, however denominated, which the Declarant may adopt as part of the Community Manual, or the Board may subsequently adopt for the regulation and management of the Development, including any amendments thereto. Until expiration or termination of the Development Period, the Declarant must approve any amendment to the Rules.

**“Service Area”** means a group of Lots and/or Condominium Units designated as a separate Service Area pursuant to this Covenant for purpose of receiving benefits or services from the Association which are not provided to all Lots and Condominium Units. A Service Area may be comprised of more than one type of use or structure and may include noncontiguous Lots. A Lot or Condominium Unit may be assigned to more than one Service Area. Service Area boundaries may be established and modified as provided in *Section 2.5*.

**“Service Area Assessments”** means assessments levied against the Lots and/or Condominium Units in a particular Service Area to fund Service Area Expenses, as described in *Section 5.6*.

**“Service Area Expenses”** means the estimated and actual expenses which the Association incurs or expects to incur for the benefit of Owners within a particular Service Area, which may include a reasonable reserve for capital repairs and replacements.

**“Special Common Area”** means any interest in real property or improvements which the Declarant designates in a Recorded Notice of Applicability pursuant to *Section 9.5*, in a Development Area Declaration or in any written instrument Recorded by Declarant (which designation shall be made in the sole and absolute discretion of Declarant) as Special Common Area which is assigned for the purpose of exclusive use and/or the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments attributable thereto, to one or more, but less than all of the Lots, Condominium Units, Owners or Development Areas, and is or shall be conveyed to the

Association or as to which the Association shall be granted rights or obligations, or otherwise held by the Declarant for the benefit of the Association. The Notice of Applicability, Development Area Declaration, or other written notice shall identify the Lots, Condominium Units, Owners or Development Areas assigned to such Special Common Area and further indicate whether the Special Common Area is assigned to such parties for the purpose of exclusive use and the payment of Special Common Area Assessments, or only for the purpose of paying Special Common Area Assessments attributable thereto. By way of illustration and not limitation, Special Common Area might include such things as private drives and roads, entrance facilities and features, monumentation or signage, walkways or landscaping.

**"Special Common Area Assessments"** means assessments levied against the Lots and/or Condominium Units as described in *Section 5.5*.

**"Special Common Area Expenses"** means the estimated and actual expenses which the Association incurs or expects to incur to operate, maintain, repair and replace Special Common Area, which may include a reasonable reserve for capital repairs and replacements.

**"Steele Creek Reviewer"** means the party holding the rights to approve Improvements within the Development and shall be Declarant or its designee until expiration or termination of the Development Period. Upon expiration or termination of the Development Period, the rights of the Steele Creek Reviewer shall automatically be transferred to the ACC appointed by the Board, as set forth in *Section 6.2*.

**"Voting Group"** has the meaning set forth in *Section 3.7* below.

TABLE 1: DOCUMENTS	
<b>Covenant</b> (Recorded)	Creates obligations that are binding upon the Association and all present and future owners of Property made subject to the Covenant by the Recording of a Notice of Applicability.
<b>Community Enhancement Covenant</b> (Recorded)	Establishes a fee payable to the Association upon the transfer of a Lot from one party to another.
<b>Notice of Applicability</b> (Recorded)	Describes the portion of the Property being made subject to the terms and provisions of the Covenant and any applicable Development Area Declaration.
<b>Development Area Declaration</b> (Recorded)	Includes additional covenants, conditions and restrictions governing portions of the Development.
<b>Certificate of Formation</b> (Filed with the Secretary of State and Recorded)	Establishes the Association as a non-profit corporation under Texas law.

Community Manual (Recorded)	Includes the Bylaws, Rules and policies governing the Association.
Design Guidelines (if adopted)	If adopted, govern the design and architectural standards for the construction of Improvements and modifications thereto. Neither the Declarant nor the Steele Creek Reviewer shall have any obligation to adopt Design Guidelines.

## ARTICLE 2 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

### 2.1 General.

2.1.1 Conditions and Restrictions. All Lots and Condominium Units within the Development to which a Notice of Applicability has been Recorded in accordance with *Section 9.5*, shall be owned, held, encumbered, leased, used, occupied and enjoyed subject to the Documents and Applicable Law. **NO PORTION OF THE PROPERTY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THIS COVENANT UNTIL A NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY HAS BEEN RECORDED.**

2.1.2 Compliance with the Documents and Applicable Law. Compliance with the Documents is mandatory. However, compliance with the Documents is not a substitute for compliance with Applicable Law. Please be advised that the Documents do not purport to list or describe each requirement, rule, or restriction which may be applicable to a Lot or a Condominium Unit located within the Development. Each Owner is advised to review all encumbrances affecting the use and improvement of their Lot or Condominium Unit. Furthermore, Owners should not construe an approval by the Steele Creek Reviewer as confirmation that any Improvement complies with the terms and provisions of all encumbrances which may affect the Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit. The Association, each Owner, Occupant or other user of any portion of the Development must comply with the Documents and Applicable Law, as supplemented, modified or amended from time to time.

The Association, each Owner, Residential Developer, Homebuilder, Occupant or other user of any portion of the Development must comply with the Documents and Applicable Law.

2.1.3 Development Amenities. A Development Area may include common area, open space, water quality facilities, parkland, trails, landscape areas, roadways, driveways or easements which benefit the Development in addition to the Development Area, as reasonably determined by the Declarant during the Development Period, and a Majority of the Board after termination or expiration of the Development Period (the "**Development Amenities**"). Declarant, during the Development Period, and a Majority of the Board after termination or expiration of the Development Period, may require all or a portion of such Development Amenities be conveyed, transferred, or dedicated (by deed easement, or license)

to: (i) the Association; or (ii) another entity designated by the Declarant or a Majority of the Board, as applicable. Alternatively, the Declarant, during the Development Period, and a Majority of the Board after termination or expiration of the Development Period, may require that all or a portion of such Development Amenities be owned and maintained by the Owner of all or a portion of a particular Development Area, subject to an easement in favor of other Owner(s) and Occupants, as designated by the Declarant or a Majority of the Board, as applicable (e.g., ingress and egress over and across the driveways constructed within the Development Area). The Development Amenities may not be conveyed or otherwise transferred unless the conveyance and transfer is approved in advance and in writing by the Declarant during the Development Period, and a Majority of the Board after expiration or termination of the Development Period.

**2.2 Incorporation of Development Area Declarations.** Upon Recordation of a Development Area Declaration such Development Area Declaration shall, automatically and without the necessity of further act, be incorporated into, and be deemed to constitute a part of this Covenant, to the extent not in conflict with this Covenant, but shall apply only to portions of the Property made subject to the Development Area Declaration upon the Recordation of one or more Notices of Applicability. To the extent of any conflict between the terms and provisions of a Development Area Declaration and this Covenant, the terms and provisions of this Covenant shall apply.

**2.3 Conceptual Plans.** All master plans, site plans, brochures, illustrations, information and marketing materials related to the Property or the Development (collectively, the "**Conceptual Plans**") are conceptual in nature and are intended to be used for illustrative purposes only. **The land uses and Improvements reflected on the Conceptual Plans are subject to change at any time and from time to time, and it is expressly agreed and understood that land uses within the Property or the Development may include uses which are not shown on the Conceptual Plans.** Neither Declarant, a Residential Developer, nor any Homebuilder or other developer of any portion of the Property or the Development makes any representation or warranty concerning such land uses and Improvements shown on the Conceptual Plans or otherwise planned for the Property or the Development and it is expressly agreed and understood that no Owner will be entitled to rely upon the Conceptual Plans or any statement made by the Declarant or any of Declarant's representatives regarding proposed land uses, or proposed or planned Improvements, in making the decision to purchase any land or Improvements within the Property or the Development. Each Owner who acquires a Lot or Condominium Unit within the Development acknowledges development will extend over many years, and agrees that the Association shall not engage in, or use Association funds to support, protest, challenge, or make any other form of objection to development of the Property or changes in the Conceptual Plans as they may be amended or modified from time to time.

**2.4 Cell Tower and Telecommunications Equipment.** Telecommunications, cellular, video and digital equipment, including without limitation, broadcast antennae and related equipment, cell towers, cell tower equipment, or other wireless communication

antennae and related equipment, cable or satellite television equipment and equipment for high-speed internet access (collectively, the "CTT Equipment") may be located on or near the Property and/or the Development or may be constructed on or near the Property and/or the Development. As more particularly described in *Section 8.9* of this Covenant, Declarant has reserved the right, for the benefit of itself and its assigns, to construct, install, use, maintain, repair, replace, improve, remove, and operate CTT Equipment upon all or any portion of the Common Area and/or the Special Common Area. Parties other than the Declarant or its assigns may also have easements for the construction, installation, use, maintenance, repair, replacement, improvement, removal and operation of CTT Equipment.

## **2.5 Provision of Benefits and Services to Service Area.**

2.5.1 Declarant, in a Notice of Applicability Recorded pursuant to *Section 9.5* or in any Recorded notice, may assign Lots and/or Condominium Units to one or more Service Areas (by name or other identifying designation) as it deems appropriate, which Service Areas may be then existing or newly created, and may require that the Association provide benefits or services to such Lots and/or Condominium Units in addition to those which the Association generally provides to the Development. During the Development Period, Declarant may unilaterally amend any Notice of Applicability or any Recorded notice, to re-designate Service Area boundaries. All costs associated with the provision of services or benefits to a Service Area shall be assessed against the Lots and/or Condominium Units within the Service Area as a Service Area Assessment.

2.5.2 In addition to Service Areas which Declarant may designate, during the Development Period, any group of Owners may petition the Board to designate their Lots and/or Condominium Units as a Service Area for the purpose of receiving from the Association: (i) special benefits or services which are not provided to all Lots and/or Condominium Units; or (ii) a higher level of service than the Association otherwise provides. Upon receipt of a petition signed by Owners of a Majority of the Lots and/or Condominium Units within the proposed Service Area, the Board shall investigate the terms upon which the requested benefits or services might be provided and notify the Owners in the proposed Service Area of such terms and associated expenses, which may include a reasonable administrative charge in such amount as the Board deems appropriate (provided, any such administrative charge shall apply at a uniform rate per Lot and/or Condominium Units among all Service Areas receiving the same service). If approved by the Board, the Declarant during the Development Period, and the Owners of at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total number of votes held by all Lots and/or Condominium Units within the proposed Service Area, the Association shall provide the requested benefits or services on the terms set forth in the proposal or in a manner otherwise determined by the Board. The cost and administrative charges associated with such benefits or services shall be assessed against the Lots and/or Condominium Units within such Service Area as a Service Area Assessment. After expiration or termination of the Development Period, the Board may discontinue or modify benefits or services provided to a Service Area.



**2.6 Designation of Special Common Areas.** Until the expiration or termination of the Development Period, Declarant may designate, in a Notice of Applicability, a Development Area Declaration or in any written instrument Recorded by Declarant (which designation will be made in the sole and absolute discretion of Declarant), any interest in real property or improvements which benefits certain Lot(s), Condominium Unit(s) or one or more portion(s) of but less than all of the Development as Special Common Area, for the exclusive use of and/or the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments by the Owners of such Lot(s), Condominium Unit(s) or portion(s) of the Development attributable thereto, and is or will be conveyed to the Association or as to which the Association will be granted rights or obligations, or otherwise held by the Declarant for the benefit of the Association. The Notice of Applicability, Development Area Declaration, or other Recorded written notice designating such Special Common Area will identify the Lot(s), Condominium Unit(s) or portion(s) of the Development assigned to such Special Common Area and further indicate whether the Special Common Area designated therein is for the purpose of the exclusive use and the payment of Special Common Area Assessments by the Owner(s) thereof, or only for the purpose of paying Special Common Area Assessments attributable thereto, but not also for exclusive use. By way of illustration and not limitation, Special Common Area might include such things as private drives and roads, entrance facilities and features, monumentation or signage, walkways or landscaping, which may or may not be exclusively used by the Owners paying the attributable Special Common Area Assessments therefor. All costs associated with maintenance, repair, replacement, and insurance of such Special Common Area will be assessed as a Special Common Area Assessment against the Owners of the Lots and/or Condominium Units to which the Special Common Area is assigned. During the Development Period, Declarant may Record a written instrument converting any previously designated Special Common Area, or any portion thereof, to Common Area.

**2.7 Notice Regarding Impervious Cover.** There are limits on the amount of Impervious Cover that may be incorporated into the Property. "Impervious Cover" and the calculation thereof will mean and be determined in accordance with the City of Cibola requirements. Pursuant to *Article 6*, no Improvement within the Property may be constructed, altered, or modified without the advance written approval of the Steele Creek Reviewer. In the event an Improvement to the Property is added without the advance written approval of the Steele Creek Reviewer, the Owner responsible for such Improvement may be required to remove the Improvement and Impervious Cover, if any, associated therewith at the Owner's sole cost and expense. Constructing an Improvement without the advance written approval of the Steele Creek Reviewer will constitute a violation of the terms and provisions of this Covenant.

### ARTICLE 3

#### STEELE CREEK RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY, INC.

**3.1 Organization.** The Association shall be a non-profit corporation created for the purposes, charged with the duties, and vested with the powers of a Texas non-profit corporation. Neither the Certificate nor the Bylaws shall, for any reason, be amended or otherwise changed or interpreted so as to be inconsistent with this Covenant. Unless expressly provided in the Documents, the Association acts through a Majority of the Board. Certain acts and activities of the Association and the Board must be approved by the Declarant during the Development Period. If Declarant approval is required, Declarant's approval must be evidenced in writing.

**3.2 Neighborhoods.** Declarant reserves the right, but has no obligation, to record a Designation of Neighborhood pursuant to *Section 9.6* to assign portions of the Development to a "Neighborhood." A Neighborhood may be comprised of any number of Lots and/or Condominium Units and may include Lots or Condominium Units of more than one type, as well as Lots or Condominium Units that are not contiguous to one another. Each Designation of Neighborhood shall initially assign the portion of the Development described therein to a specific Neighborhood which may then exist (being identified and described in a previously Recorded Notice of Applicability) or may be newly created. After a Designation of Neighborhood is Recorded, any and all portions of the Development which are not assigned to a specific Neighborhood shall constitute a single Neighborhood. During the Development Period, Declarant may Record an amendment to any previously Recorded Designation of Neighborhood to designate or change Neighborhood boundaries.

#### **3.3 Membership.**

**3.3.1 Mandatory Membership.** Any person or entity, upon becoming an Owner, shall automatically become a Member of the Association. Membership shall be appurtenant to and shall run with the ownership of the Lot or Condominium Unit that qualifies the Owner thereof for membership, and membership may not be severed from the ownership of the Lot or Condominium Unit, or in any way transferred, pledged, mortgaged or alienated, except together with the title to such Lot or Condominium Unit. Within thirty (30) days after acquiring legal title to a Lot or Condominium Unit, if requested by the Board, an Owner must provide the Association with: (i) a copy of the recorded deed by which the Owner has acquired title to the Lot or Condominium Unit; (ii) the Owner's address, email address, phone number, and driver's license number, if any; (iii) any Mortgagee's name and address; and (iv) the name, phone number, and email address of any Occupant other than the Owner.

**3.3.2 Easement of Enjoyment – Common Area.** Every Member shall have a right and easement of enjoyment in and to all of the Common Area and an access easement, if applicable, by and through any Common Area, which easements shall be appurtenant to and

shall pass with the title to such Member's Lot or Condominium Unit, subject to the following restrictions and reservations:

(i) The right of the Declarant, or the Declarant's designee, during the Development Period, and the Board, with the Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, the right of the Board, to cause such Improvements and features to be constructed upon the Common Area;

(ii) The right of the Association to suspend the Member's rights to use the Common Area for any period during which any Assessment against such Member's Lot or Condominium Unit remains past due and for any period during which such Member is in violation of any provision of this Covenant;

(iii) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to dedicate or transfer all or any part of the Common Area to any Governmental Entity;

(iv) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to grant easements or licenses over and across the Common Area and the right to enter into agreements for the maintenance, use and/or sharing of Common Area with other persons and/or entities and the charging of usage fees associated therewith;

(v) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to promulgate Rules regarding the use of the Common Area and any Improvements thereon;

(vi) With the advance written approval of the Declarant during the Development Period, the right of the Board to borrow money for the purpose of improving the Common Area and, in furtherance thereof, mortgage the Common Area; and

(vii) The right of the Association to contract for services and benefits with any third parties on such terms as the Board may determine, except that during the Development Period, all such contracts must be approved in advance and in writing by the Declarant.

3.3.3 Easement of Enjoyment – Special Common Area. Each Owner of a Lot or Condominium Unit which has been assigned use of Special Common Area in a Notice of Applicability, Development Area Declaration, or other Recorded instrument, shall have a right

and easement of enjoyment in and to all of such Special Common Area for its intended purposes, and an access easement, if applicable, by and through such Special Common Area, which easement shall be appurtenant to and shall pass with title to such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit, subject to *Section 3.3.2* and subject to the following restrictions and reservations:

(i) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with the Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to cause such Improvements and features to be constructed upon the Special Common Area;

(ii) The right of the Association to suspend the Member's rights to use the Special Common Area for any period during which any Assessment against such Member's Lot or Condominium Unit remains past due and for any period during which such Member is in violation of any provision of this Covenant;

(iii) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with the Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to dedicate or transfer all or any part of the Special Common Area to any Governmental Entity;

(iv) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with the Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to grant easements or licenses over and across the Special Common Area and the right to enter into agreements for the maintenance, use and/or sharing of Special Common Area with other person's and/or entities and the charging of usage fees associated therewith;

(v) The right of the Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board, with the Declarant's advance written consent during the Development Period, to promulgate Rules regarding the use of the Special Common Area and any Improvements thereon;

(vi) With the advance written approval of the Declarant during the Development Period, the right of the Board to borrow money for the purpose of improving the Special Common Area and, in furtherance thereof, mortgage the Special Common Area;

(vii) The right of the Association to contract for services with any third parties on such terms as the Board may determine, except that during the Development Period, all such contracts must be approved in advance and in writing by the Declarant; and

(viii) The right of Declarant during the Development Period to grant additional Lots or Condominium Units use rights in and to Special Common Area in a subsequently Recorded Notice of Applicability, Development Area Declaration, or Recorded instrument.

**3.4 Governance.** The Board will consist of at least three (3) persons elected at the annual meeting of the Association, or at a special meeting called for such purpose. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision or any provision in the Documents to the contrary, until one hundred and twenty (120) days after seventy-five percent (75%) of the Maximum Number of Lots have been made subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant and have been conveyed to Owners other than the Declarant or a Homebuilder, Declarant will appoint and remove all members of the Board and officers of the Association. Within one hundred and twenty (120) days after seventy-five percent (75%) of the Maximum Number of Lots have been made subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant and have been conveyed to Owners other than the Declarant or a Homebuilder, the Board will call a meeting of Members of the Association for the purpose of electing one-third of the Board (the “**Initial Member Election Meeting**”), which Board member(s) must be elected by Owners other than the Declarant. Declarant may appoint and remove two-thirds of the Board from and after the Initial Member Election Meeting until expiration or termination of the Development Period. The individuals elected to the Board at the Initial Member Election Meeting shall be elected for a one (1) year term and shall serve until his or her successor is elected or he or she is replaced in accordance with the Bylaws.

**3.5 Voting Allocation.** The number of votes which may be cast to elect members to the Board (except as provided by *Section 3.4*), and on all other matters the Members may vote on shall be calculated as set forth below.

**3.5.1 Residential Lot.** Each Owner of a Residential Lot will be allocated one (1) vote for each Residential Lot so owned. In the event of the re-subdivision of any Residential Lot into two or more Residential Lots: (i) the number of votes to which such Residential Lot is entitled will be increased as necessary to retain the ratio of one (1) vote for each Residential Lot resulting from such re-subdivision, *e.g.*, each Residential Lot resulting from the re-subdivision will be entitled to one (1) vote; and (ii) each Residential Lot resulting from the re-subdivision will be allocated one (1) Assessment Unit. In the event of the consolidation of two (2) or more Residential Lots for purposes of construction of a single residence thereon, the voting rights and Assessments will continue to be determined according to the number of original Residential Lots contained in such consolidated Residential Lot. Nothing in this Covenant will be construed as authorization for any re-subdivision or consolidation of Residential Lots, such actions being subject to the conditions and restrictions of the Steele Creek Reviewer.

**3.5.2 Commercial Lot or Condominium Unit.** Each Commercial Lot or Condominium Unit will be allocated that number of votes set forth in the Notice of Applicability attributable to such Commercial Lot or Condominium Unit. Declarant will

determine the number of votes in its sole and absolute discretion, which determination, unless otherwise provided in this *Section 3.5.2*, will be final, binding and conclusive. If the Notice of Applicability includes the number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units to be established within the Development Area, and the number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units actually created differ from the number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units set forth in the Notice of Applicability, the Declarant, during the Development Period, or the Board after the expiration or termination of the Development Period, may modify and amend the Notice of Applicability to reflect the actual number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units.

3.5.3 Declarant. In addition to the votes to which Declarant is entitled by reason of *Section 3.5.1* and *Section 3.5.2*, for every one (1) vote outstanding in favor of any other person or entity, Declarant shall have four (4) additional votes until the expiration or termination of the Development Period. Declarant may cast votes allocated to the Declarant pursuant to this *Section 3.5.3* and shall be considered a Member for the purpose of casting such votes, and need not own any portion of the Development as a pre-condition to exercising such votes.

3.5.4 Co-Owners. If there is more than one Owner of a Lot or Condominium Unit, the vote for such Lot or Condominium Unit shall be exercised as the co-Owners holding a Majority of the ownership interest in the Lot or Condominium Unit determine among themselves and advise the Secretary of the Association in writing prior to the close of balloting. Any co-Owner may cast the vote for the Lot or Condominium Unit, and majority agreement shall be conclusively presumed unless another co-Owner of the Lot or Condominium Unit protests promptly to the President or other person presiding over the meeting or the balloting, in the case of a vote taken outside of a meeting. In the absence of a majority agreement, the Lot's or Condominium Unit's vote shall be suspended if two or more co-Owners seek to exercise it independently. In no event shall the vote for such Lot or Condominium Unit exceed the total votes to which such Lot or Condominium Unit is otherwise entitled pursuant to this *Section 3.5.4*.

3.6 Optional Representative System of Voting. The Representative System of Voting shall only be established if the Declarant first calls for election of a Neighborhood Delegate for a particular Neighborhood. The Declarant shall have no obligation to establish the Representative System of Voting. In addition, Declarant may terminate the Representative System of Voting at any time prior to expiration of the Development Period by Recorded written instrument.

3.6.1 Election of Initial Neighborhood Delegate. In the event that the Declarant chooses to establish a Representative System of Voting, the Owners of Lots and Condominium Units within each Neighborhood shall elect a Neighborhood Delegate and an alternate Neighborhood Delegate, in the manner provided below, to cast the votes of all Lots and Condominium Units in the Neighborhood on matters requiring a vote of the membership, except where this Covenant specifically requires the Owners or Members to cast their votes

individually as more particularly described in the definition of "Neighborhood Delegate" in *Article 1* of this Covenant. In the event that a quorum is not met to elect a Neighborhood Delegate and an alternate Neighborhood Delegate by the Owners of Lots and Condominium Units within each Neighborhood, during the Development Period, Declarant shall have the right to appoint a Neighborhood Delegate until the next election is held as provided in *Section 3.6.3*. Notwithstanding the foregoing or any provision to the contrary in this Covenant, as provided in *Section 3.4* above, until one hundred and twenty (120) days after seventy-five percent (75%) of the Maximum Number of Lots have been made subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant and have been conveyed to Owners other than the Declarant or a Homebuilder, Declarant will have the sole right to appoint and remove all members of the Board.

**3.6.2 Term.** The Neighborhood Delegate and the alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall be elected on a yearly basis (once every year), by electronic and absentee ballot without a meeting of Owners, or at a meeting of the Owners within each Neighborhood where written, electronic, proxy, and/or absentee ballots may also be utilized, as the Board determines. If the Board determines to hold a meeting for the election of the Neighborhood Delegate and the alternate Neighborhood Delegate, the presence, in person or by proxy, absentee or electronic ballot, of Owners representing at least ten percent (10%) of the total votes in a Neighborhood shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. In the event that a quorum is not met to elect a Neighborhood Delegate and an alternate Neighborhood Delegate by the Owners of Lots and Condominium Units within each Neighborhood, Declarant, during the Development Period, and the Board thereafter, shall have the right to appoint a Neighborhood Delegate and an alternate Neighborhood Delegate until the next election is held. Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, the Declarant during the Development Period, and the Board thereafter, may elect to extend the term of a Neighborhood Delegate and alternate Neighborhood Delegate to the extent Declarant or the Board, as applicable, determines that such extension will result in administrative efficiencies by allowing elections within different Neighborhoods to occur in close proximity to one another; provided, however, that the term of an existing Neighborhood Delegate and alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall not be extended for more than twelve (12) months. If the Neighborhood Delegate is removed in accordance with *Section 3.6.6* below, either the Declarant during the Development Period, or the Board thereafter, shall appoint a new alternate Neighborhood Delegate and the previously elected alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall automatically assume the obligations and duties of the Neighborhood Delegate and serve the remainder of the Neighborhood Delegate's term.

**3.6.3 Election Results.** At any Neighborhood election, the candidate for each position who receives the greatest number of votes shall be elected to serve as the Neighborhood Delegate and the candidate with the second greatest number of votes shall be elected to serve as the alternate Neighborhood Delegate. The Neighborhood Delegate and alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall serve until his or her successor is elected or appointed.

3.6.4 Voting by the Neighborhood Delegate. The Neighborhood Delegate or, in his or her absence, the alternate Neighborhood Delegate, attends Association meetings and casts all votes allocated to Lots and Condominium Units in the Neighborhood that he or she represents on any matter as to which such Neighborhood Delegate is entitled to vote under this Covenant, including the election of Board members upon the expiration or termination of the Development Period. A Neighborhood Delegate may cast all votes allocated to Lots and Condominium Units in the Neighborhood in such delegate's discretion and may, but need not, poll the Owners of Lots and Condominium Units in the Neighborhood which he or she represents prior to voting.

3.6.5 Qualification. Candidates for election as the Neighborhood Delegate and alternate Neighborhood Delegate from a Neighborhood shall be Owners of Lots or Condominium Units in the Neighborhood, spouses of such Owners, Occupants of the Neighborhood, or an entity representative where an Owner is an entity.

3.6.6 Removal. Any Neighborhood Delegate or alternate Neighborhood Delegate may be removed, with or without cause, upon the vote or written petition of Owners holding a Majority of the votes allocated to the Lots and Condominium Units in the Neighborhood that the Neighborhood Delegate represents or by the Declarant, until the expiration or termination of the Development Period. If a Neighborhood Delegate is removed in accordance with the foregoing sentence, the alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall serve as the Neighborhood Delegate unless also removed.

3.6.7 Subordination to the Board. Neighborhood Delegates are subordinate to the Board and their responsibility and authority does not extend to policy making, supervising, or otherwise being involved in Association governance.

3.6.8 Running for the Board. An Owner may not simultaneously hold the position of Neighborhood Delegate and be a member of the Board of Directors. In addition, if Neighborhood Delegates are established, a Neighborhood Delegate running for the Board shall resign their position prior to casting any vote for a member of the Board. In such event, the alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall serve out the rest of the term as the former Neighborhood Delegate, and another alternate Neighborhood Delegate shall be elected by the Owners or Members in the Neighborhood to serve out the term as the successor alternate Neighborhood Delegate.

3.7 Voting Groups. Declarant may designate voting groups consisting of one or more Neighborhoods for the purpose of electing members of the Board (the "Voting Groups"). The purpose of Voting Groups is to provide groups with dissimilar interests the opportunity to be represented on the Board and to avoid a situation in which less than all the Neighborhoods are able to elect the entire Board. Voting Groups may be established by the Declarant during the Development Period without regard to whether the Representative System of Voting has been implemented in accordance with *Section 3.6* by the Declarant. If Voting Groups are



established and the Representative System of Voting has been implemented, then a Neighborhood Delegate shall only vote on the slate of candidates assigned to the Neighborhood Delegate. If Voting Groups are established and the Representative System of Voting has not been implemented, then each Owner of a Lot or Condominium Unit shall only vote on the slate of candidates assigned to such Owner's Neighborhood.

3.7.1 Voting Group Designation. Declarant shall establish Voting Groups, if at all, by Recording a written instrument identifying the Neighborhoods within each Voting Group (the "**Voting Group Designation**"). The Voting Group Designation will assign the number of members of the Board which the Voting Group is entitled to exclusively elect.

3.7.2 Amendment of Voting Group Designation. The Voting Group Designation may be amended unilaterally by the Declarant at any time during the Development Period. After expiration or termination of the Development Period, the Board shall have the right to Record or amend such Voting Group Designation upon the vote of a Majority of the Board and approval of Neighborhood Delegates representing a Majority of the Neighborhoods. Neither Recordation nor amendment of such Voting Group Designation shall constitute an amendment to this Covenant, and no consent or approval to modify the Voting Group Designation shall be required except as stated in this paragraph.

3.7.3 Single Voting Group. Until such time as Voting Groups are established, all of the Development shall constitute a single Voting Group. After a Voting Group Designation is Recorded, any and all portions of the Development which are not assigned to a specific Voting Group shall constitute a single Voting Group.

3.8 Powers. The Association shall have the powers of a Texas nonprofit corporation. It shall further have the power to do and perform any and all acts that may be necessary or proper, for or incidental to, the exercise of any of the express powers granted to it under Applicable Law or this Covenant. Without in any way limiting the generality of the two preceding sentences, the Board, acting on behalf of the Association, shall have the following powers at all times:

3.8.1 Rules. To make, establish and promulgate, and in its discretion to amend from time to time, or repeal and re-enact, Rules, policies, the Bylaws and the Community Manual, as applicable, which are not in conflict with this Covenant, as the Board deems proper, covering any and all aspects of the Development (including the operation, maintenance and preservation thereof) or the Association. During the Development Period, the Declarant must approve Rules or policies the Board proposes, as well as the Bylaws and the Community Manual, and any modifications thereto.

3.8.2 Insurance. To obtain and maintain in effect, policies of insurance that, in the opinion of the Board, are reasonably necessary or appropriate to carry out the Association's functions.

3.8.3 Records. To keep books and records of the Association's affairs, and to make such books and records, together with current copies of the Documents available for inspection by the Owners, Mortgagees, and insurers or guarantors of any Mortgage upon request during normal business hours in accordance with Applicable Law.

3.8.4 Assessments. To levy and collect Assessments and to determine Assessment Units, as provided in *Article 5* below.

3.8.5 Right of Entry and Enforcement. To enter at any time without notice in an emergency (or in the case of a non-emergency, after twenty-four (24) hours written notice), without being liable to any Owner, upon any Lot and into any Improvement thereon or into any Condominium Unit for the purpose of enforcing the Documents or for the purpose of maintaining or repairing any area, Improvement or other facility or removing any item to conform to the Documents. The expense the Association incurs in connection with the entry upon any Lot or into any Condominium Unit and the removal or maintenance and repair work conducted therefrom, thereon or therein shall be a personal obligation of the Owner of the Lot or the Condominium Unit so entered, shall be deemed an Individual Assessment against such Lot or Condominium Unit, shall be secured by a lien upon such Lot or Condominium Unit, and shall be enforced in the same manner and to the same extent as provided in *Article 5* hereof for Assessments. The Association shall have the power and authority from time to time, in its own name and on its own behalf, or in the name of and on behalf of any Owner who consents thereto, to commence and maintain actions and suits to enforce, by mandatory injunction or otherwise, or to restrain and enjoin, any breach or threatened breach of the Documents. The Association is also authorized to settle claims, enforce liens, and take all such action as it may deem necessary or expedient to enforce the Documents; provided, however, that the Board shall never be authorized to expend any Association funds for the purpose of bringing suit against Declarant, or its successors or assigns. The Association may not enter into, alter or demolish any Improvements on any Lot, or any Condominium Unit, other than Common Area or Special Common Area, in enforcing this Covenant before the Association obtains either (i) a judicial order authorizing such action, or (ii) the written consent of the Owner(s) of the affected Lot(s) or Condominium Unit(s). **EACH OWNER AND OCCUPANT HEREBY RELEASES AND HOLDS HARMLESS THE ASSOCIATION, ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION INCURRED OR THAT MAY ARISE BY REASON OF THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTS OR ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS SECTION (INCLUDING ANY COST, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S NEGLIGENCE IN CONNECTION THEREWITH), EXCEPT TO THE EXTENT SUCH COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION ARISING BY REASON OF THE ASSOCIATION'S GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT. "GROSS NEGLIGENCE" DOES NOT INCLUDE SIMPLE NEGLIGENCE, CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE OR SIMILAR NEGLIGENCE SHORT OF ACTUAL GROSS NEGLIGENCE.**

3.8.6 Legal and Accounting Services. To retain and pay for legal and accounting services necessary or proper in the operation of the Association.

3.8.7 Conveyances. To grant and convey to any person or entity the real property and/or other interest, including fee title, leasehold estates, easements, rights-of-way or mortgages, out of, in, on, over, or under any Common Area or Special Common Area for the purpose of constructing, erecting, operating or maintaining the following:

- (i) Parks, parkways or other recreational facilities or structures;
- (ii) Roads, streets, sidewalks, signs, street lights, walks, driveways, trails and paths;
- (iii) Lines, cables, wires, conduits, pipelines or other devices for utility purposes;
- (iv) Sewers, water systems, storm water drainage systems, sprinkler systems and pipelines; and/or
- (v) Any similar improvements or facilities.

During the Development Period, the Declarant must approve any grant or conveyance under this *Section 3.8.7*. In addition, the Association (with the advance written approval of the Declarant during the Development Period) and the Declarant are each expressly authorized and permitted to convey easements over and across Common Area or Special Common Area for the benefit of property not otherwise subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant.

3.8.8 Manager. To retain and pay for the services of a person or firm (the “**Manager**”), which may include Declarant or any affiliate of Declarant, to manage and operate the Association, including Common Area, Special Common Area, and/or any Service Area, to the extent deemed advisable by the Board. Additional personnel may be employed directly by the Association or may be furnished by the Manager. To the extent permitted by Applicable Law, the Board may delegate any other duties, powers and functions to the Manager. In addition, the Board may adopt transfer fees, resale certificate fees or any other fees associated with the provision of management services to the Association or its Members. **THE MEMBERS HEREBY RELEASE THE ASSOCIATION AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FROM LIABILITY FOR ANY OMISSION OR IMPROPER EXERCISE BY THE MANAGER OF ANY SUCH DUTY, POWER OR FUNCTION SO DELEGATED.**

3.8.9 Property Services. To pay for water, sewer, garbage removal, street lights, landscaping, and all other utilities, services, repair and maintenance, including but not limited to private or public recreational facilities, easements, roads, roadways, rights-of-ways, signs, parks, parkways, median strips, sidewalks, paths, trails, ponds, canals, streams, and lakes.

3.8.10 Other Services and Properties. To obtain and pay for any other property and services, and to pay any other taxes or assessments that the Association or the Board is required or permitted to secure or to pay for pursuant to Applicable Law or under the terms of the Documents or as determined by the Board.

3.8.11 Construction on Common Area and Special Common Area. To construct new Improvements or additions to Common Area and Special Common Area, subject to the approval of the Declarant during the Development Period.

3.8.12 Contracts. To enter into Bulk Rate Contracts or other contracts or licenses with Declarant or any third party on such terms and provisions as the Board shall determine, to operate and maintain the Development, any Common Area, Special Common Area, Improvement, or other property, or to provide any service, including but not limited to cable, utility, or telecommunication services, or perform any function on behalf of Declarant, the Board, the Association, or the Members. During the Development Period, the Declarant must approve all Bulk Rate Contracts.

3.8.13 Property Ownership. To acquire, own and dispose of all manner of real and personal property, whether by grant, lease, easement, gift or otherwise. During the Development Period, the Declarant must approve all acquisitions and dispositions of the Association hereunder.

3.8.14 Authority with Respect to the Documents. To do any act, thing or deed that is necessary or desirable, in the judgment of the Board, to implement, administer or enforce any of the Documents. Any decision by the Board to delay or defer the exercise of the power and authority granted under this *Section 3.8.14* shall not subsequently in any way limit, impair or affect ability of the Board to exercise such power and authority.

3.8.15 Membership Privileges. To establish Rules governing and limiting the use of the Common Area, Special Common Area, and any Improvements thereon as well as the use, maintenance, and enjoyment of the Lots and Condominium Units. During the Development Period, the Declarant must approve all Rules governing and limiting the use of the Common Area, Special Common Area, Service Area and any Improvements thereon.

3.8.16 Relationships with Governmental Entities and Tax Exempt Organizations. To create, enter into agreements or contracts with, or grant exclusive and/or non-exclusive easements over the Common Area, Special Common Area, or Service Area to Governmental Entities or non-profit, tax-exempt organizations. The Association may contribute money, real or personal property, or services to such entity. Any such contribution shall be a common expense to be included in the Assessments levied by the Association and included as a line item in the Association's annual budget.

### **3.9 Conveyance of Common Area and Special Common Area to the Association.**

The Association may acquire, hold, and dispose of any interest in tangible and intangible personal property and real property. Declarant and its assignees reserve the right, from time to time and at any time, to designate, convey, assign or transfer by written and Recorded instrument property being held by the Declarant or a third party for the benefit of the Association, in the sole and absolute discretion of the Declarant. Upon the Recording of a designation, the portion of the property identified therein will be considered Common Area or Special Common Area, as applicable, for the purpose of this Covenant and the Association shall have an easement over and across the Common Area or Special Common Area necessary or required to discharge the Association's obligations under this Covenant, subject to any terms and limitations to such easement set forth in the designation. Declarant and its assignees may also assign, transfer or convey to the Association interests in real or personal property within or for the benefit of the Development, for the Development and the general public, or otherwise, as determined in the sole and absolute discretion of the Declarant. All or any real or personal property assigned, transferred and/or conveyed by the Declarant to the Association shall be deemed accepted by the Association upon Recordation, and without further action by the Association, and shall be considered Common Area or Special Common Area without regard to whether such real or personal property is designated by the Declarant as Common Area or Special Common Area. If requested by the Declarant, the Association will execute a written instrument, in a form requested by the Declarant, evidencing acceptance of such real or personal property; provided, however, execution of a written consent by the Association shall in no event be a precondition to acceptance by the Association. The assignment, transfer, and/or conveyance of real or personal property to the Association may be by deed without warranty, may reserve easements in favor of the Declarant or a third party designated by Declarant over and across such property, and may include such other provisions, including restrictions on use, determined by the Declarant, in the Declarant's sole and absolute discretion. Property assigned, transferred, and/or conveyed to the Association may be improved or unimproved and may consist of fee simple title, easements, leases, licenses, or other real or personal property interests. Upon Declarant's written request, the Association will re-convey to Declarant any unimproved real property that Declarant originally conveyed to the Association for no payment. Declarant and/or its assignees may construct and maintain upon portions of the Common Area and/or the Special Common Area such facilities and may conduct such activities which, in Declarant's sole opinion, may be required, convenient, or incidental to the construction or sale of Improvements in the Development, including, but not limited to, business offices, signs, model homes, and sales offices. Declarant and its assignees shall have an easement over and across the Common Area and the Special Common Area for access and shall have the right to use such facilities and to conduct such activities at no charge.

**3.10 Indemnification.** To the fullest extent permitted by Applicable Law but without duplication of (and subject to) any rights or benefits arising under the Certificate or Bylaws of the Association, the Association shall indemnify any person who was, or is, a party, or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or

proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative by reason of the fact that such person is, or was, a director, officer, committee member, employee, servant or agent of the Association against expenses, including attorneys' fees, reasonably incurred by him or her in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if it is found and determined by the Board or a court of competent jurisdiction that such person: (a) acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Association; or (b) with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by settlement, or upon a plea of *nolo contendere* or its equivalent, shall not of itself create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith or in a manner which was reasonably believed to be in, or not opposed to, the best interests of the Association or, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

**3.11 Insurance.** The Board may purchase and maintain, at the expense of the Association, insurance on behalf of any person who is acting as a director, officer, committee member, employee, servant or agent of the Association against any liability asserted against such person or incurred by such person in their capacity as an director, officer, committee member, employee, servant or agent of the Association, or arising out of the person's status as such, whether or not the Association would have the power to indemnify the person against such liability or otherwise.

### **3.12 Bulk Rate Contracts.**

3.12.1 Without limitation on the generality of the Association powers set out in *Section 3.8*, the Association shall have the power to enter into Bulk Rate Contracts at any time and from time to time. The Association may enter into Bulk Rate Contracts with any service providers the Board chooses (including Declarant, and/or any entities in which Declarant, or the owners or partners of Declarant are the owners or participants, directly or indirectly). The Bulk Rate Contracts may be entered into on such terms and provisions as the Board may determine in its sole and absolute discretion. Notwithstanding the foregoing, during the Development Period, the Declarant must approve all Bulk Rate Contracts.

3.12.2 The Association may, at its option and election: (i) add the charges payable by such Owner under such Bulk Rate Contract to the Assessments (Regular, Special, Service Area, Special Common Area, or Individual, as the case may be) against such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit; or (ii) agree to alternative methods of payment under the terms and provisions of any such Bulk Rate contract, including, but not limited to, providing that any such Bulk Rate Contract invoice(s) shall be delivered directly to each Owner for direct payment to the service provider(s) under such Bulk Rate Contract. In this regard, it is agreed and understood that, if any Owner fails to pay any charges due by such Owner under the terms of any Bulk Rate Contract, then the Association shall be entitled to collect such charges by exercising the same rights and remedies it would be entitled to exercise under this Covenant with respect to the failure by such Owner to pay Assessments, including without limitation the

right to foreclose the lien against such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit which is reserved under the terms and provisions of this Covenant. In addition, in the event of nonpayment by any Owner of any charges due under any Bulk Rate Contract and after the lapse of at least twelve (12) days since such charges were due, the Association may, upon five (5) days' prior written notice to such Owner (which may run concurrently with such 12-day period), in addition to all other rights and remedies available at law, equity or otherwise, terminate, in such manner as the Board deems appropriate, any utility service or other service provided at the cost of the Association and not paid for by such Owner (or Occupant of such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit) directly to the applicable service or utility provider. Such notice shall consist of a separate mailing or hand delivery at least five (5) days prior to a stated date of termination, with the title "termination notice" or similar language prominently displayed on the notice. The notice shall include the office or street address where the Owner (or Occupant of such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit) can make arrangements for payment of the bill and for re-connection or re-institution of service. No utility or cable television service shall be disconnected on a day, or immediately preceding a day, when personnel are not available for the purpose of collection and reconnecting such services.

**3.13 Community Services and Systems.** The Declarant, or a designee of the Declarant, is specifically authorized, but not required, to install, provide, maintain or furnish, or to enter into contracts with other persons to install, provide, maintain or furnish, central telecommunication receiving and distribution systems (e.g. cable television, high speed data/Internet/intranet services, and security monitoring) and utility services (e.g., electricity, solar, gas, water), and related components, including associated infrastructure, equipment, hardware, and software to serve all or any portion of the Development ("**Community Services and Systems**"). The Community Services and Systems may be located on Common Area or Special Common Area, and on or in any Improvements constructed upon the Common Area or Special Common Area, and an easement is herein reserved in favor of Declarant or its designee for the purpose of installing, operating, managing, maintaining, upgrading and modifying the Community Services and Systems. In the event the Declarant, or a designee of the Declarant, elects to provide any of the Community Services and Systems to all or any portion of the Development, the Declarant or designee of the Declarant, may enter into an agreement with the Association with respect to such services. In the event Declarant, or any designee of the Declarant, enters into a contract with a third party for the provision of any Community Services and Systems to serve all or any portion of the Development, the Declarant or the designee of the Declarant may assign any or all of the rights or obligations of the Declarant or the designee of the Declarant under the contract to the Association or any individual or entity. Any such contracts may provide for installation, operation, management, maintenance, and upgrades or modifications to the Community Services and Systems as the Declarant or its designee determines appropriate. **Each Owner acknowledges that interruptions in Community Services and Systems will occur from time to time. The Declarant and the Association, or any of their respective affiliates, directors, officers, employees and agents, or any of their successors or assigns shall not be liable for, and no Community Services and Systems user**

shall be entitled to refund, rebate, discount, or offset in applicable fees for, any interruption in Community Services and Systems and services, regardless of whether or not such interruption is caused by reasons within the service provider's control.

**3.14 Protection of Declarant's Interests.** Despite any assumption of control of the Board by Owners other than Declarant, until the expiration or termination of the Development Period, the Board is prohibited from taking any action which would discriminate against Declarant, or which would be detrimental to the sale of Lots, Condominium Units or any portion of the Property owned by Declarant. Declarant shall be entitled to determine, in its sole and absolute discretion, whether any such action discriminates or is detrimental to Declarant. Unless the Declarant agrees otherwise in advance and in writing, the Board shall be required to continue the same level and quality of maintenance, operations and services as that provided immediately prior to assumption of control of the Board by Owners other than Declarant until the expiration or termination of the Development Period.

**3.15 Administration of Common Area.** The administration of the Common Area, Special Common Area and Service Area by the Association shall be in accordance with the provisions of Applicable Law and the Documents, and of any other agreements, documents, amendments or supplements to the foregoing which may be duly adopted or subsequently required by any institutional or governmental lender, purchaser, insurer or guarantor of mortgage loans (including, for example, the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation) designated by Declarant or by any Governmental Entity having regulatory jurisdiction over the Common Area, Special Common Area or Service Area or by any title insurance company selected by Declarant to insure title to any portion of such areas.

**3.16 Right of Action by Association.** The Association shall not have the power to institute, defend, intervene in, settle or compromise litigation or administrative proceedings: (i) in the name of or on behalf of any Owner (whether one or more); or (ii) pertaining to a Claim, as such term is defined in *Section 11.1* below, relating to the design or construction of Improvements on a Lot or Condominium Unit (whether one or more). This *Section 3.16* may not be amended or modified without the written and acknowledged consent of the Declarant and Members entitled to cast at least one hundred percent (100%) of the total number of votes of the Association, which must be part of a Recorded amendment instrument.

## ARTICLE 4 INSURANCE AND RESTORATION

**4.1 Insurance.** Each Owner shall be required to purchase and maintain commercially standard insurance on the Improvements located upon such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit. The Association shall not maintain insurance on the Improvements constructed upon any Lot or Condominium Unit. The Association may, however, obtain such other insurance as it may deem necessary, including but not limited to such policies of liability and property damage insurance as the Board, in its discretion, may deem necessary. Insurance



premiums for such policies shall be a common expense the Association will include in the Assessments levied. The acquisition of insurance by the Association shall be without prejudice to the right and obligation of any Owner to obtain additional individual insurance.

**ARE YOU COVERED?**

The Association will not provide insurance which covers an Owner's Lot, a Condominium Unit, or any Improvements or personal property located on a Lot or within a Condominium Unit.

**4.2 Restoration Requirements.** In the event of any fire or other casualty, unless otherwise approved by the Steele Creek Reviewer, the Owner shall: (i) promptly repair, restore and replace any damaged or destroyed structures to their same exterior condition existing prior to the damage or destruction thereof or (ii) in the case of substantial or total damage or destruction of any Improvement, remove all such damaged Improvements and debris from the Development within sixty (60) days after the occurrence of such damage. Such repair, restoration or replacement shall be commenced and completed in a good and workmanlike manner using exterior materials substantially similar to those originally used in the structures damaged or destroyed. To the extent that the Owner fails to commence such repair, restoration or replacement of substantial or total damage or destruction within one hundred and twenty (120) days after the occurrence of such damage or destruction, and thereafter prosecute the same to completion, or if the Owner does not clean up any debris resulting from any damage within sixty (60) days after the occurrence of such damage, the Association may commence, complete or effect such repair, restoration, replacement, removal, or clean-up, and such Owner shall be personally liable to the Association for the cost of such work; provided, however, that if the Owner is prohibited or delayed under Applicable Law from commencing such repair, restoration, replacement or clean-up, the rights of the Association under this provision shall not arise until the expiration of thirty (30) days after such prohibition or delay is removed. If the Owner fails to pay such cost upon demand by the Association, the cost thereof (plus interest from the date of demand until paid at the maximum lawful rate, or if there is no such maximum lawful rate, than at the rate of one and one-half percent (1½%) per month) shall be added to the Assessment chargeable to the Owner's Lot. Any such amounts added to the Assessments chargeable against a Lot or Condominium Unit shall be secured by the liens reserved in this Covenant for Assessments and may be collected by any means provided in this Covenant for the collection of Assessments, including, but not limited to, foreclosure of such liens against the Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit. **EACH OWNER, BY ACCEPTING TITLE TO ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, HEREBY RELEASES AND HOLDS HARMLESS THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION INCURRED OR THAT MAY ARISE BY REASON OF THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTS OR ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS SECTION, EXCEPT FOR SUCH COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR COST OF ACTION ARISING BY REASON OF THE ASSOCIATION'S GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL**

**MISCONDUCT. "GROSS NEGLIGENCE" AS USED HEREIN DOES NOT INCLUDE SIMPLE NEGLIGENCE, CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE OR SIMILAR NEGLIGENCE SHORT OF ACTUAL GROSS NEGLIGENCE.**

**4.3 Restoration - Mechanic's and Materialmen's Lien.** Each Owner whose structure the Association repairs, restores, replaces or cleans up pursuant to the rights granted under this Article, hereby grants to the Association an express mechanic's and materialmen's lien for the reasonable cost of such repair, restoration, replacement or clean-up of the damaged or destroyed Improvement to the extent that the cost of such repair, restoration, replacement, or clean-up exceeds any insurance proceeds allocable to such repair, restoration, replacement, or clean-up which are delivered to the Association. Upon request by the Board, and before the commencement of any reconstruction, repair, restoration, replacement, or clean-up such Owner shall execute all documents sufficient to effectuate such mechanic's and materialmen's lien in favor of the Association.

## **ARTICLE 5 COVENANT FOR ASSESSMENTS**

### **5.1 Assessments.**

**5.1.1 Established by Board.** The Board shall levy Assessments pursuant to the provisions of this Article against each Lot and Condominium Unit in such amounts as the Board shall determine pursuant to *Section 5.9*. The Board shall determine the total amount of Assessments in accordance with the terms of this Article.

**5.1.2 Personal Obligation; Lien.** Each Assessment, together with such interest thereon and costs of collection as hereinafter provided, shall be the personal obligation of the Owner of the Lot or Condominium Unit against which the Assessment is levied and shall be secured by a lien hereby granted and conveyed by Declarant to the Association against each such Lot and all Improvements thereon and each such Condominium Unit (such lien, with respect to any Lot or Condominium Unit not in existence on the date hereof, shall be deemed granted and conveyed at the time that such Lot or Condominium Unit is created). The Association may enforce payment of such Assessments in accordance with the provisions of this Article. Unless the Association elects otherwise (which election may be made at any time), each residential condominium association established by a condominium regime imposed upon all or a portion of the Development Area shall collect all Assessments levied pursuant to this Covenant from Condominium Unit Owners within such condominium regime. The condominium association shall promptly remit all Assessments collected from Condominium Unit Owners to the Association. If the condominium association fails to timely collect any portion of the Assessments due from the Owner of the Condominium Unit, then the Association may collect such Assessments allocated to the Condominium Unit on its own behalf and enforce its lien against the Condominium Unit without joinder of the condominium association. The condominium association's right to collect Assessments on behalf of the Association is a license

from the Association which may be revoked by written instrument at any time, and from time to time, at the sole and absolute discretion of the Board.

5.1.3 Declarant Subsidy. Declarant may, but is not obligated to, reduce Assessments which would otherwise be levied against Lots and Condominium Units for any fiscal year by the payment of a subsidy to the Association. Any subsidy the Declarant pays to the Association may be treated as a contribution or a loan, in Declarant's sole and absolute discretion. The payment of a subsidy in any given year shall not obligate Declarant to continue payment of a subsidy to the Association in future years.

5.1.4 Commencement of Assessments. Assessments will commence as to a particular Lot on the first day of the month after the Lot has been made subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant. If Assessments are due and payable less frequently than once per month, e.g., quarterly or annually, Assessments will be prorated based on the number of months remaining during the billing period.

5.2 Maintenance Fund. The Board shall establish a maintenance fund into which shall be deposited all monies paid to the Association and from which disbursements shall be made in performing the functions of the Association under this Covenant. The funds of the Association may be used for any purpose authorized under the Documents and Applicable Law.

5.3 Regular Assessments. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board will prepare a budget for the purpose of determining amounts sufficient to pay the estimated net expenses of the Association ("**Regular Assessments**") which sets forth: (a) an estimate of expenses the Association will incur during such year in performing its functions and exercising its powers under this Covenant, including, but not limited to, the cost of all management, repair and maintenance, the cost of providing street and other lighting, the cost of administering and enforcing the Documents; and (b) an estimate of the amount needed to maintain a reasonable provision for contingencies and an appropriate replacement reserve, but excluding (c) the operation, maintenance, repair and management costs and expenses associated with any Service Area and Special Common Area. Regular Assessments sufficient to pay such estimated expenses will then be levied at the level set by the Board in its sole and absolute discretion, and the Board's determination will be final and binding. If the sums collected prove inadequate for any reason, including nonpayment of any Assessment by an Owner, the Association may at any time, and from time to time, levy further Regular Assessments in the same manner. All such Regular Assessments will be due and payable to the Association at the beginning of the fiscal year or in such other manner as the Board may designate in its sole and absolute discretion.

5.4 Special Assessments. In addition to the Regular Assessments provided for above, the Board may levy special assessments (the "**Special Assessments**") whenever in the Board's opinion such Special Assessments are necessary to enable the Board to carry out the functions of the Association under the Documents. The amount of any Special Assessments will

be at the sole discretion of the Board. In addition to the Special Assessments authorized above, the Association may, in any fiscal year, levy a Special Assessment for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement upon the Common Area or Special Common Area. Any Special Assessment the Association levies for the purpose of defraying, in whole or in part, costs of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of capital improvement upon the Common Area will be levied against all Owners based on Assessment Units. Any Special Assessments the Association levies for the purpose of defraying in whole or in part, the cost of any construction, reconstruction, repair or replacement of a capital improvement upon any Special Common Area will be levied against all Owners who have been assigned the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments based on Assessment Units. All Special Assessments will be due and payable to the Association at the beginning of the fiscal year or in such other manner as the Board may designate in its sole and absolute discretion.

**5.5 Special Common Area Assessments.** Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board will prepare a separate budget covering the estimated expenses to be incurred by the Association to operate, maintain, repair, or manage any Special Common Area. The budget will be an estimate of the amount needed to operate, maintain, repair and manage such Special Common Area including a reasonable provision for contingencies and an appropriate replacement reserve. The level of Special Common Area Assessments will be set by the Board in its sole and absolute discretion, and the Board's determination will be final and binding. If the sums collected prove inadequate for any reason, including non-payment of any Assessment by an Owner, the Association may at any time, and from time to time, levy further Special Common Area Assessments in the same manner as aforesaid. All such Special Common Area Assessments will be due and payable to the Association at the beginning of the fiscal year or in such other manner as the Board may designate in its sole and absolute discretion.

**5.6 Service Area Assessments.** Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the Board will prepare a separate budget for each Service Area reflecting the estimated Service Area Expenses to be incurred by the Association in the coming year. The total amount of Service Area Assessments will be allocated (a) equally among Lots or Condominium Units within the Service Area, (b) based on Assessment Units assigned to Lots or Condominium Units within the Service Area, or (c) based on the benefit received among all Lots and Condominium Units in the Service Area. All amounts that the Association collects as Service Area Assessments will be expended solely for the benefit of the Service Area for which they were collected and will be accounted for separately from the Association's general funds.

**5.7 Individual Assessments.** In addition to any other Assessments, the Board may levy an individual assessment (the "**Individual Assessment**") against an Owner and the Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit, which may include, but is not limited to: (i) interest, late charges, and collection costs on delinquent Assessments; (ii) reimbursement for costs incurred in bringing an Owner or the Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit into compliance with the Documents; (iii) fines for violations of the Documents; (iv) transfer-related fees and resale

certificate fees; (v) fees for estoppel letters and project documents; (vi) insurance deductibles; (vii) reimbursement for damage or waste caused by willful or negligent acts of the Owner, the Owner's guests, invitees or Occupants of the Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit; (viii) common expenses that benefit fewer than all of the Lots or Condominium Units, which may be assessed according to benefit received; (ix) fees or charges levied against the Association on a per-Lot or per-Condominium Unit basis; and (x) "pass through" expenses for services to Lots or Condominium Units provided through the Association and which are paid by each Lot or Condominium Unit according to benefit received.

**5.8 Working Capital Assessment.** Each Owner (other than Declarant) will pay a one-time working capital assessment (the "**Working Capital Assessment**") to the Association in such amount, if any, as may be determined by the Declarant, until expiration or termination of the Development Period, and the Board thereafter. The Working Capital Assessment hereunder will be due and payable to the Association by the transferee immediately upon each transfer of title to the Lot or Condominium Unit, including upon transfer of title from one Owner of such Lot or Condominium Unit to any subsequent purchaser or transferee thereof. Such Working Capital Assessment need not be uniform among all Lots or Condominium Units, and the Declarant or the Board, as applicable, is expressly authorized to establish Working Capital Assessments of varying amounts depending on the size, use and general character of the Lots or Condominium Units. The Working Capital Assessment may be used to discharge operating expenses or capital expenses, as determined from time to time by the Board. The levy of any Working Capital Assessment will be effective only upon the Recordation of a written notice, signed by the Declarant or a duly authorized officer of the Association, setting forth the amount of the Working Capital Assessment and the Lots or Condominium Units to which it applies.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, the following transfers will not be subject to the Working Capital Assessment: (a) foreclosure of a deed of trust lien, tax lien, or the Association's Assessment lien; (b) transfer to, from, or by the Association; (c) voluntary transfer by an Owner to one or more co-owners, or to the Owner's spouse, child, or parent, including any conveyances to trusts. Additionally, an Owner who is a Homebuilder or a Residential Developer will not be subject to the Working Capital Assessment. In the event of any dispute regarding the application of the Working Capital Assessment to a particular Owner, Declarant, until expiration or termination of the Development Period, will determine application of an exemption in its sole and absolute discretion. The Working Capital Assessment will be in addition to, not in lieu of, any other Assessments levied in accordance with this *Article 5* and will not be considered an advance payment of such Assessments. The Declarant during the Development Period, and thereafter the Board, will have the power to waive the payment of any Working Capital Assessment attributable to a Lot or Condominium Unit (or all Lots and Condominium Units) by the Recordation of a waiver notice or in the Notice of Applicability, which waiver may be temporary or permanent.

**5.9 Amount of Assessment.**

5.9.1 Assessments to be Levied. The Board shall levy Assessments against each “**Assessment Unit**” (as defined in *Section 5.9.2* below). Unless otherwise provided in this Covenant, Assessments levied pursuant to *Section 5.3* and *Section 5.4* shall be levied uniformly against each Assessment Unit. Special Common Area Assessments levied pursuant to *Section 5.5* shall be levied uniformly against each Assessment Unit allocated to a Lot or Condominium Unit that has been assigned the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments for specified Special Common Area. Service Area Assessments levied pursuant to *Section 5.6* shall be levied: (i) equally; (ii) based on Assessment Units allocated to the Lots and/or Condominium Units within the Service Area; or (iii) based on the benefit received among all Lots and Condominium Units in the benefited Service Area that has been included in the Service Area to which such Service Area Assessment relates.

5.9.2 Assessment Unit. Each Residential Lot shall be allocated one (1) “**Assessment Unit**” unless otherwise provided in *Section 5.9.4*. In the event of the re-subdivision of any Residential Lot into two (2) or more Residential Lots, each Residential Lot resulting from the re-subdivision shall be allocated one (1) Assessment Unit. In the event of the consolidation of two (2) or more Residential Lots for the purposes of constructing a single residence thereon, the Assessment Units will continue to be determined according to the number of original Residential Lots contained in such consolidated Residential Lot. Nothing in this Covenant shall be construed as authorization for any re-subdivision or consolidation of Residential Lots, such actions being subject to the conditions and restrictions of the Steele Creek Reviewer.

5.9.3 Commercial Lots and Condominium Units. Each Commercial Lot and Condominium Unit will be allocated the Assessment Units set forth in the Notice of Applicability attributable to such Commercial Lot or Condominium Unit, which may be less than one (1) Assessment Unit per Commercial Lot or Condominium Unit. Declarant will determine the number of Assessment Units in its sole and absolute discretion, which determination, unless otherwise provided in this *Section 5.9.3*, will be final, binding and conclusive. If the Notice of Applicability includes the number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units to be established within the Development Area, and the number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units actually created differ from the number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units set forth in the Notice of Applicability, the Declarant, during the Development Period, or the Board after the expiration or termination of the Development Period, may modify and amend the Notice of Applicability to reflect the actual number of Commercial Lots or Condominium Units.

5.9.4 Residential Assessment Unit Allocation. Declarant, in Declarant’s sole and absolute discretion, may elect to allocate more than one Assessment Unit to a Residential Lot. An allocation of more than one Assessment Unit to a Residential Lot must be made in a Notice of Applicability or in a Development Area Declaration for the Development Area in which the Residential Lot is located. Declarant’s determination regarding the number of

Assessment Units applicable to a Residential Lot pursuant to this *Section 5.9.4* shall be final, binding and conclusive.

**5.9.5 Declarant Exemption.** Notwithstanding anything in this Covenant to the contrary, no Assessments shall be levied upon Lots or Condominium Units owned by Declarant.

**5.9.6 Other Exemptions.** Declarant may, in its sole discretion, elect to: (i) exempt any un-platted or unimproved portion of the Development, Lot or Condominium Unit from Assessments; (ii) delay the levy of Assessments against any un-platted, unimproved or improved portion of the Development, Lot or Condominium Unit; or (iii) reduce the levy of Assessments against any un-platted, unimproved or improved portion of the Development, Lot or Condominium Unit. In the event Declarant elects to delay or reduce Assessments pursuant to this *Section 5.9.6*, the duration of the delay or the amount of the reduction shall be set forth in a Recorded instrument. Declarant may terminate, extend or modify any delay or reduction set forth in a previously Recorded instrument by Recording a replacement instrument. Declarant or the Board may also exempt from Assessments any portion of the Development which is dedicated to and accepted by a Governmental Entity.

**5.10 Late Charges.** At the Board's election, it may require the Owner responsible for any payment not paid by the applicable due date to pay a late charge in such amount as the Board may determine, and the late charge (and any reasonable handling costs) shall be a charge upon the Lot or Condominium Unit owned by such Owner, collectible in the manner as provided for collection of Assessments, including foreclosure of the lien against such Lot or Condominium Unit; provided, however, such charge shall never exceed the maximum charge permitted under Applicable Law.

**5.11 Owner's Personal Obligation for Payment of Assessments.** Assessments levied as provided for herein will be the personal and individual debt of the Owner of the Lot or Condominium Unit against which are levied such Assessments. No Owner may exempt himself from liability for such Assessments. In the event of default in the payment of any such Assessment, the Owner of the Lot or Condominium Unit will be obligated to pay interest on the amount of the Assessment at the highest rate allowed by applicable usury laws then in effect on the amount of the Assessment from the due date thereof (or if there is no such highest rate, then at the rate of 1½% per month), together with all costs and expenses of collection, including reasonable attorney's fees.

**5.12 Assessment Lien and Foreclosure.** The payment of all sums assessed in the manner provided in this Article, together with late charges as provided in *Section 5.10* and interest as provided in *Section 5.11* hereof and all costs of collection, including attorney's fees, as herein provided, are secured by the continuing Assessment lien granted to the Association pursuant to *Section 5.1.2* above, and shall bind each Lot and Condominium Unit in the hands of

the Owner thereof, and such Owner's heirs, devisees, personal representatives, successors or assigns.

5.12.1 The aforesaid lien shall be superior to all other liens and charges against such Lot or Condominium Unit, except only for (i) tax or governmental assessment liens; (ii) all sums secured by a Recorded first mortgage lien or Recorded first deed of trust lien, to the extent such lien secures sums borrowed for the acquisition or improvement of the Lot or Condominium Unit in question; and (iii) home equity loans or home equity lines of credit which are secured by a second mortgage lien or Recorded second deed of trust lien provided that, in the case of *clauses (ii) and (iii)* above, such Mortgage was Recorded, before the delinquent Assessment was due. The Association shall have the power to subordinate the aforesaid Assessment lien to any other lien. Such power shall be entirely discretionary with the Board, and such subordination may be signed by a Board member or officer of the Association. The Association may, at its option and without prejudice to the priority or enforceability of the Assessment lien granted hereunder, prepare a written notice of Assessment lien setting forth the amount of the unpaid indebtedness, the name of the Owner of the Lot or Condominium Unit covered by such lien and a description of the Lot or Condominium Unit. Such notice may be signed by an authorized officer of the Association and shall be Recorded. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or ownership interest to a Lot or Condominium Unit subject to this Covenant shall be deemed conclusively to have granted a power of sale to the Association to secure and enforce the Assessment lien granted hereunder.

5.12.2 The Assessment liens and rights to foreclosure thereof shall be in addition to and not in substitution of any other rights and remedies the Association may have pursuant to Applicable Law and under this Covenant, including the rights of the Association to institute suit against such Owner personally obligated to pay the Assessment and/or for foreclosure of the aforesaid lien. In any foreclosure proceeding, such Owner shall be required to pay the costs, expenses and reasonable attorney's fees incurred.

5.12.3 The Association shall have the power to bid (in cash or by credit against the amount secured by the lien) on the property at foreclosure or other legal sale and to acquire, hold, lease, mortgage, convey or otherwise deal with the same. Upon the written request of any Mortgagee, the Association shall report to said Mortgagee any unpaid Assessments remaining unpaid for longer than sixty (60) days after the same are due. The lien hereunder shall not be affected by the sale or transfer of any Lot or Condominium Unit; except, however, that in the event of foreclosure of any lien superior to the Assessment lien, the lien for any Assessments that were due and payable before the foreclosure sale shall be extinguished, provided that past-due Assessments shall be paid out of the proceeds of such foreclosure sale only to the extent that funds are available after the satisfaction of the indebtedness secured by the Mortgage. The provisions of the preceding sentence shall not, however, relieve any subsequent Owner (including any Mortgagee or other purchaser at a foreclosure sale) from paying Assessments becoming due and payable after the foreclosure sale.



5.12.4 Upon payment of all sums secured by a lien of the type described in this *Section 5.12*, the Association shall upon the request of the Owner, and at such Owner's cost, execute an instrument releasing the lien relating to any lien for which written notice has been Recorded as provided above, except in circumstances in which the Association has already foreclosed such lien. Such release must be signed by an authorized officer of the Association and Recorded. In addition to the lien hereby retained, in the event of nonpayment by any Owner of any Assessment and after the lapse of at least twelve (12) days since such payment was due, the Association may, upon five (5) days' prior written notice (which may run concurrently with such 12-day period) to such Owner, in addition to all other rights and remedies available pursuant to Applicable Law, equity or otherwise, terminate, in such manner as the Board deems appropriate, any utility or cable services, provided through the Association and not paid for directly by an Owner or occupant to the utility or service provider. Such notice shall consist of a separate mailing or hand delivery at least five (5) days prior to a stated date of disconnection, with the title "termination notice" or similar language prominently displayed on the notice. The notice shall include the office or street address where the Owner or the Owner's tenant can make arrangements for payment of the bill and for reconnection of service. Any utility or cable service shall not be disconnected or terminated on a day, or immediately preceding a day, when personnel are not available for the purpose of collection and reconnecting such services. Except as otherwise provided by Applicable Law, the sale or transfer of a Lot or Condominium Unit shall not relieve the Owner of such Lot or Condominium Unit or such Owner's transferee from liability for any Assessments thereafter becoming due or from the lien associated therewith. If an Owner conveys its Lot or Condominium Unit and on the date of such conveyance Assessments against the Lot or Condominium Unit remain unpaid, or said Owner owes other sums or fees under this Covenant to the Association, the Owner shall pay such amounts to the Association out of the sales price of the Lot or Condominium Unit, and such sums shall be paid in preference to any other charges against the Lot or Condominium Unit other than liens superior to the Assessment liens and charges in favor of the State of Texas or a political subdivision thereof for taxes on the Lot or Condominium Unit which are due and unpaid. The Owner conveying such Lot or Condominium Unit shall remain personally liable for all such sums until the same are fully paid, regardless of whether the transferee of the Lot or Condominium Unit also assumes the obligation to pay such amounts. The Board may adopt an administrative transfer fee to cover the administrative expenses associated with updating the Association's records upon the transfer of a Lot or Condominium Unit to a third party.

**5.13 Exempt Property.** The following area within the Development shall be exempt from the Assessments provided for in this Article:

- (i) All area dedicated to and accepted by a Governmental Entity;
- (ii) The Common Area and the Special Common Area; and
- (iii) Any portion of the Property or Development owned by Declarant.

No portion of the Property shall be subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant, and no portion of the Property (nor any owner thereof) shall be obligated to pay Assessments hereunder unless and until such Property has been made subject to the terms of this Covenant by the Recording of a Notice of Applicability in accordance with *Section 9.5*.

#### **5.14 Fines and Damages Assessment.**

5.14.1 Board Assessment. The Board may assess fines against an Owner for violations of the Documents committed by such Owner, an Occupant or an Owner's or Occupant's guests, agents or invitees pursuant to the *Fine and Enforcement Policy* contained in the Community Manual. Any fine and/or charge for damage levied in accordance with this *Section 5.14* shall be considered an Individual Assessment pursuant to this Covenant. Each day of violation may be considered a separate violation if the violation continues after written notice to the Owner. The Board may assess damage charges against an Owner for pecuniary loss to the Association from property damage or destruction of Common Area, Special Common Area, Service Area or any Improvements caused by the Owner, the Occupant or their guests, agents, or invitees. The Manager shall have authority to send notices to alleged violators, informing them of their violations and asking them to comply with the Documents and/or informing them of potential or probable fines or damage assessments. The Board may from time to time adopt a schedule of fines.

5.14.2 Lien Created. The payment of each fine and/or damage charge levied by the Board against the Owner of a Lot or Condominium Unit is, together with interest as provided in *Section 5.11* hereof and all costs of collection, including attorney's fees as herein provided, secured by the lien granted to the Association pursuant to *Section 5.1.2* of this Covenant. The fine and/or damage charge shall be considered an Assessment for the purpose of this Article and shall be enforced in accordance with the terms and provisions governing the enforcement of Assessments pursuant to this Article.

### **ARTICLE 6 THE STEELE CREEK REVIEWER**

6.1 Architectural Control by Declarant. During the Development Period, none of the Association, the Board, or any committee appointed by the Association or Board (no matter how the committee is named) may involve itself with the approval of any Improvements. Until expiration of the Development Period, the Steele Creek Reviewer for Improvements is Declarant or its designee. No Improvement the Declarant constructs or causes to be constructed shall be subject to the terms and provisions of this Article or approval by the Steele Creek Reviewer.

6.1.1 Declarant's Rights Reserved. Each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot or Condominium Unit, whether or not it is so expressed in the instrument of conveyance, covenants and agrees that during the Development Period no Improvements shall be started or progressed without the prior written approval of the Steele Creek Reviewer, which

approval may be granted or withheld at Declarant's sole discretion. In reviewing and acting on an application for approval, Declarant may act solely in its self-interest and owes no duty to any other person or any organization. Declarant may designate one or more persons from time to time to act on its behalf in reviewing and responding to applications.

6.1.2 Delegation by Declarant. During the Development Period, Declarant may from time to time, but is not obligated to, delegate all or a portion of its reserved rights under this Article to an architectural control committee appointed by the Board or a committee comprised of architects, engineers, or other persons who may or may not be members of the Association. Any such delegation shall be in writing and shall specify the scope of delegated responsibilities. Any such delegation is at all times subject to the unilateral rights of Declarant to: (i) revoke such delegation at any time and reassume jurisdiction over the matters previously delegated until expiration of twenty-four (24) months after the expiration of the Development Period; and (ii) to veto any decision which Declarant in its sole discretion determines to be inappropriate or inadvisable for any reason. The Declarant is not responsible for: (a) errors in or omissions from the plans and specifications submitted to the Declarant; (b) supervising construction for the Owner's compliance with approved plans and specifications; or (c) the compliance of the Owner's plans and specifications with Applicable Law.

6.2 Architectural Control by Association. Until such time as Declarant delegates all or a portion of its reserved rights to the Board, or the Development Period is terminated or expires, the Association has no jurisdiction over architectural matters. On termination or expiration of the Development Period, or earlier if delegated in writing by Declarant, the Association, acting through an architectural control committee (the "ACC") shall assume jurisdiction over architectural control and shall have the powers of the Steele Creek Reviewer hereunder.

6.2.1 ACC. The ACC shall consist of at least three (3) but no more than seven (7) persons appointed by the Board. Members of the ACC serve at the pleasure of the Board and may be removed and replaced at the Board's discretion. At the Board's option, the Board may act as the ACC, in which case all references in the Documents to the ACC shall be construed to mean the Board. Members of the ACC need not be Owners or Occupants, and may but need not include architects, engineers, and design professionals whose compensation, if any, may be established from time to time by the Board.

6.2.2 Limits on Liability. The ACC has sole discretion with respect to taste, design, and all standards specified by this Article. The members of the ACC have no liability for the ACC's decisions made in good faith, and which are not arbitrary or capricious. The ACC is not responsible for: (i) errors in or omissions from the plans and specifications submitted to the ACC; (ii) supervising construction for the Owner's compliance with approved plans and specifications; or (iii) the compliance of the Owner's plans and specifications with Applicable Law.

**6.2.3 Release.** EACH OWNER, BY ACCEPTING TITLE TO ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, HEREBY RELEASES AND HOLDS HARMLESS THE DECLARANT AND ITS AFFILIATES, THE STEELE CREEK REVIEWER, ASSOCIATION AND THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, PARTNERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS FROM ANY COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION INCURRED OR THAT MAY ARISE BY REASON OF THE STEELE CREEK REVIEWER'S ACTS OR ACTIVITIES UNDER THIS COVENANT.

**6.3 Prohibition of Construction, Alteration and Improvement.** No Improvement, or any addition, alteration, improvement, installation, modification, redecoration, or reconstruction thereof may occur unless approved in advance by the Steele Creek Reviewer. The Steele Creek Reviewer has the right but not the duty to evaluate every aspect of construction, landscaping, and property use that may adversely affect the general value or appearance of the Property or the Development. Unless otherwise provided in the Design Guidelines, an Owner will have the right to modify, alter, repair, decorate, redecorate, or improve the interior of an Improvement located on such Owner's Lot or within such Owner's Condominium Unit, provided that such action is not visible from any other portion of the Development or Property.

**6.4 Architectural Approval.**

**6.4.1 Submission and Approval of Plans and Specifications.** Construction plans and specifications or, when an Owner desires solely to plat, re-subdivide or consolidate Lots or Condominium Units, a proposal for such plat, re-subdivision or consolidation, shall be submitted in accordance with the Design Guidelines, if any, or any additional rules adopted by the Steele Creek Reviewer together with any review fee which is imposed by the Steele Creek Reviewer in accordance with *Section 6.4.2*. No plat, re-subdivision or consolidation shall be made, nor any Improvement placed or allowed on any Lot or Condominium Unit, until the plans and specifications and the contractor which the Owner intends to use to construct the proposed Improvement have been approved in writing by the Steele Creek Reviewer. The Steele Creek Reviewer may, in reviewing such plans and specifications consider any information that it deems proper; including, without limitation, any permits, environmental impact statements or percolation tests that may be required by the Steele Creek Reviewer or any other entity; and harmony of external design and location in relation to surrounding structures, topography, vegetation, and finished grade elevation. The Steele Creek Reviewer may postpone its review of any plans and specifications submitted for approval pending receipt of any information or material which the Steele Creek Reviewer, in its sole discretion, may require. Site plans must be approved by the Steele Creek Reviewer prior to the clearing of any Lot or Condominium Unit, or the construction of any Improvements. The Steele Creek Reviewer may refuse to approve plans and specifications for proposed Improvements, or for the plat, re-subdivision or consolidation of any Lot or Condominium Unit on any grounds that, in the sole and absolute discretion of the Steele Creek Reviewer, are deemed sufficient, including, but

not limited to, purely aesthetic grounds. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Covenant, the Steele Creek Reviewer may issue an approval to Homebuilders or a Residential Developer for the construction of Improvements based on the review and approval of plan types and adopt a procedure which differs from the procedures for review and approval otherwise set forth in this Covenant.

6.4.2 Design Guidelines. The Steele Creek Reviewer shall have the power, from time to time, to adopt, amend, modify, revoke, or supplement the Design Guidelines which may apply to all or any portion of the Development. In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the Design Guidelines and the terms and provisions of this Covenant, the terms and provisions of this Covenant shall control. In addition, the Steele Creek Reviewer shall have the power and authority to impose a fee for the review of plans, specifications and other documents and information submitted to it pursuant to the terms of this Covenant. Such charges shall be held by the Steele Creek Reviewer and used to defray the administrative expenses and any other costs incurred by the Steele Creek Reviewer in performing its duties hereunder; provided, however, that any excess funds held by the Steele Creek Reviewer shall be distributed to the Association at the end of each calendar year. The Steele Creek Reviewer shall not be required to review any plans until a complete submittal package, as required by this Covenant and the Design Guidelines, is assembled and submitted to the Steele Creek Reviewer. The Steele Creek Reviewer shall have the authority to adopt such additional or alternate procedural and substantive rules and guidelines not in conflict with this Covenant (including, without limitation, the imposition of any requirements for a compliance deposit, certificates of compliance or completion relating to any Improvement, and the right to approve in advance any contractor selected for the construction of Improvements), as it may deem necessary or appropriate in connection with the performance of its duties hereunder.

6.4.3 Approval of Regulatory Submission Item. Each Owner is further advised that prior to submitting any application, variance or special use permit, plat, drainage plans, building or site plan, expressly including any amendments to a preliminary plan or a development plan (a "**Regulatory Submission Item**") required to be submitted by an Owner to a Governmental Entity for approval or issuance of a permit, as applicable, the Owner must first obtain approval from the Steele Creek Reviewer of the Regulatory Submission Item (the "**Preliminary Regulatory Approval**"). Any Preliminary Regulatory Approval granted by the Steele Creek Reviewer is conditional and no Improvements may be constructed in accordance with the Regulatory Submission Item until the Owner has submitted to the Steele Creek Reviewer a copy of the Regulatory Submission Item approved by the Governmental Entity and the Steele Creek Reviewer has issued to the Owner a "Notice to Proceed". In the event of a conflict between the Regulatory Submission Item approved by the Steele Creek Reviewer and the Regulatory Submission Item approved by the regulatory authority, the Owner will be required to resubmit the Regulatory Submission Item to the Steele Creek Reviewer for approval. Each Owner acknowledges that no Governmental Entity has the authority to modify the terms and provisions of the Documents applicable to all or any portion of the Development.

6.4.4 The Steele Creek Reviewer Approval of Project Names. Each Owner is advised that the name used to identify the Development Area or any portion thereof for marketing or identification purposes must be approved in advance and in writing by the Steele Creek Reviewer.

6.4.5 Failure to Act. In the event that any plans and specifications are submitted to the Steele Creek Reviewer as provided herein, and the Steele Creek Reviewer fails to either approve or reject such plans and specifications for a period of sixty (60) days following such submission, the plans and specifications shall be deemed disapproved.

6.4.6 Variances. The Steele Creek Reviewer may grant variances from compliance with any of the provisions of the Documents, when, in the opinion of the Steele Creek Reviewer, in its sole and absolute discretion, such variance is justified by specific circumstances of a particular case. All variances shall be evidenced in writing and, if Declarant has assigned its rights to the ACC, must be approved by the Declarant until expiration or termination of the Development Period, or otherwise by a Majority of the members of the ACC. Each variance shall also be Recorded; provided, however, that failure to Record a variance shall not affect the validity thereof or give rise to any claim or cause of action against the Steele Creek Reviewer, Declarant, the Board or the ACC. If a variance is granted, no violation of the covenants, conditions, or restrictions contained in the Documents shall be deemed to have occurred with respect to the matter for which the variance was granted. The granting of such variance shall not operate to waive or amend any of the terms and provisions of the Documents for any purpose, except as to the particular property and in the particular instance covered by the variance, and such variance shall not be considered to establish a precedent for any future waiver, modification, or amendment of the terms and provisions of the Documents.

6.4.7 Duration of Approval. The approval of the Steele Creek Reviewer of any final plans and specifications, and any variances granted by the Steele Creek Reviewer shall be valid for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days only. If construction in accordance with such plans and specifications or variance is not commenced within such one hundred and eighty (180) day period and diligently prosecuted to completion within either: (i) one year after issuance of approval of such plans and specifications; or (ii) such other period thereafter as determined by the Steele Creek Reviewer, in its sole and absolute discretion, the Owner shall be required to resubmit such final plans and specifications or request for a variance to the Steele Creek Reviewer, and the Steele Creek Reviewer shall have the authority to re-evaluate such plans and specifications in accordance with this *Section 6.4.7* and may, in addition, consider any change in circumstances which may have occurred since the time of the original approval.

6.4.8 No Waiver of Future Approvals. The approval of the Steele Creek Reviewer to any plans or specifications for any work done or proposed in connection with any matter requiring the approval or consent of the Steele Creek Reviewer shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of any right to withhold approval or consent as to any plans and specifications on any other matter, subsequently or additionally submitted for approval by the

same or a different person, nor shall such approval or consent be deemed to establish a precedent for future approvals by the Steele Creek Reviewer.

**6.5 Non-Liability of the Steele Creek Reviewer.** NEITHER THE DECLARANT, THE BOARD, NOR THE STEELE CREEK REVIEWER WILL BE LIABLE TO ANY OWNER OR TO ANY OTHER PERSON FOR ANY LOSS, DAMAGE OR INJURY ARISING OUT OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE STEELE CREEK REVIEWER UNDER THIS COVENANT.

## **ARTICLE 7 MORTGAGE PROVISIONS**

The following provisions are for the benefit of holders, insurers and guarantors of first Mortgages on Lots or Condominium Units within the Development. The provisions of this Article apply to the Covenant and the Bylaws of the Association.

**7.1 Notice of Action.** An institutional holder, insurer, or guarantor of a first Mortgage which provides a written request to the Association (such request to state the name and address of such holder, insurer, or guarantor and the street address of the Lot or Condominium Unit to which its Mortgage relates (thereby becoming an “**Eligible Mortgage Holder**”)), shall be entitled to timely written notice of:

(i) Any condemnation loss or any casualty loss which affects a material portion of the Development or which affects any Lot or Condominium Unit on which there is an eligible Mortgage held, insured, or guaranteed by such Eligible Mortgage Holder; or

(ii) Any delinquency in the payment of Assessments or charges owed for a Lot or Condominium Unit subject to the Mortgage of such Eligible Mortgage Holder, where such delinquency has continued for a period of sixty (60) days, or any other violation of the Documents relating to such Lot or Condominium Unit or the Owner or Occupant which is not cured within sixty (60) days after notice by the Association to the Owner of such violation; or

(iii) Any lapse, cancellation, or material modification of any insurance policy maintained by the Association.

**7.2 Examination of Books.** The Association shall permit Mortgagees to examine the books and records of the Association during normal business hours.

**7.3 Taxes, Assessments and Charges.** All taxes, assessments and charges that may become liens prior to first lien mortgages under Applicable Law shall relate only to the individual Lots or Condominium Units and not to any other portion of the Development.

## ARTICLE 8 EASEMENTS

**8.1 Right of Ingress and Egress.** Declarant, its agents, employees, successors, and assigns shall have a right of ingress and egress over and the right of access to the Common Area or Special Common Area to the extent necessary to use the Common Area or Special Common Area and the right to such other temporary uses of the Common Area or Special Common Area as may be required or reasonably desirable (as determined by Declarant in its sole discretion) in connection with construction and development of the Property or the Development. The Development shall be subject to a perpetual non-exclusive easement for the installation and maintenance of, including the right to read, meters, service or repair lines and equipment, and to do any work necessary to properly maintain and furnish the Community Services and Systems and the facilities pertinent and necessary to the same, which easement shall run in favor of Declarant. Declarant shall have the right, but not the obligation, to install and provide the Community Services and Systems and to provide the services available through the Community Services and Systems to any Lots or Condominium Units within the Development. Neither the Association, nor any Owner, shall have any interest therein. Such services may be provided either: (i) directly through the Association and paid for as part of the Assessments; or (ii) directly by Declarant, any affiliate of Declarant, or a third party, to the Owner who receives such services or the Association. The Community Services and Systems, including any fees or royalties paid or revenue generated therefrom, shall be the property of Declarant unless transferred by Declarant, whereupon any proceeds of such transfer shall belong to Declarant. Declarant shall have the right but not the obligation to convey, transfer, sell or assign all or any portion of the Community Services and Systems or all or any portion of the rights, duties or obligations with respect thereto, to the Association or to any Person. The rights of Declarant with respect to the Community Services and Systems installed by Declarant and the services provided through such Community Services and Systems are exclusive, and no other person may provide such services through the Community Services and Systems installed by Declarant without the prior written consent of Declarant. In recognition of the fact that interruptions in the Community Services and Systems services will occur from time to time, no person or entity described above shall in any manner be liable, and no user of the Community Services and Systems shall be entitled to any refund, rebate, discount or offset in applicable fees, for any interruption in Community Services and Systems services, regardless of whether or not same is caused by reasons within the control of the then-provider of such services.

**8.2 Reserved and Existing Easements.** All dedications, limitations, restrictions and reservations shown on any Plat and all grants and dedications of easements, rights-of-way, restrictions and related rights made by Declarant or any third-party prior to any portion of the Property becoming subject to this Covenant are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this Covenant for all purposes as if fully set forth herein, and shall be construed as being adopted in each and every contract, deed or conveyance executed or to be executed by or on behalf of Declarant. Declarant reserves the right to relocate, make changes in, and additions to



said easements, rights-of-way, dedications, limitations, reservations and grants for the purpose of developing the Property and the Development.

**8.3 Roadway and Utility Easements.** Declarant hereby reserves for itself, its affiliates, and its assigns a perpetual non-exclusive easement over and across the Development (but not through a then-existing structure) for: (i) the installation, operation and maintenance of utilities and associated infrastructure to serve the Development, the Property, and any other property owned by Declarant; (ii) the installation, operation and maintenance of cable lines and associated infrastructure for sending and receiving data and/or other electronic signals, security and similar services to serve the Development, the Property, and any other property owned by Declarant; (iii) the installation, operation and maintenance of, walkways, pathways and trails, drainage systems, street lights and signage to serve the Development, the Property, and any other property owned by Declarant; and (iv) the installation, location, relocation, construction, erection and maintenance of any streets, roadways, or other areas to serve the Development, the Property, and any other property owned by Declarant. Declarant will be entitled to unilaterally assign the easements reserved hereunder to any third party who owns, operates or maintains the facilities and Improvements described in (i) through (iv) of this Section. In addition, Declarant may designate all or any portion of the easements or facilities constructed therein as Common Area, Special Common Area, or a Service Area.

**8.4 Entry and Fencing Easement.** Declarant reserves for itself and the Association, an easement over and across the Development for the installation, maintenance, repair or replacement of fencing and subdivision entry facilities which serves the Development, the Property, and any other property owned by Declarant. Declarant will have the right, from time to time, to Record a written notice which identifies the fencing and/or subdivision entry facilities to which the easement reserved hereunder applies. Declarant may designate all or any portion of the fencing and/or subdivision entry facilities as Common Area, Special Common Area, or a Service Area.

**8.5 Landscape, Monumentation and Signage Easement.** Declarant hereby reserves an easement over and across the Development for the installation, maintenance, repair or replacement of landscaping, monumentation and signage which serves the Development, the Property, and any other property owned by Declarant. Declarant will have the right, from time to time, to Record a written notice which identifies the landscaping, monumentation, or signage to which the easement reserved hereunder applies. Declarant may designate all or any portion of the landscaping, monumentation, or signage as Common Area, Special Common Area, or a Service Area.

**8.6 Easement for Special Events.** The Declarant reserves for itself and the Association, and their successors, assigns, and designees, a perpetual, nonexclusive easement over the Common Area, for the purpose of conducting educational, cultural, artistic, musical and entertainment activities; and other activities of general community interest at such locations and times as the Declarant or the Association, in their reasonable discretion, deem appropriate.

Members of the public may have access to such events. Each Owner, by accepting a deed or other instrument conveying any interest in a Lot or Condominium Unit subject to this Covenant acknowledges and agrees that the exercise of this easement may result in a temporary increase in traffic, noise, gathering of crowds, and related inconveniences, and each Owner agrees on behalf of itself and the Occupants to take no action, legal or otherwise, which would interfere with the exercise of such easement.

**8.7 Shared Amenities Reciprocal Easements.** Certain portions of real property located near the Property (the “**Other Development**”) may be developed and made subject to a separate covenants and governed by a separate property owners association (the “**Other Association**”), which in turn may share certain amenities, including drainage improvements, signage, monumentation, open space and landscaping (the “**Shared Amenities**”) with the Association. Declarant reserves the right to grant and convey easements to the owner(s) of the Other Development and the Other Association or other similar entity responsible for the Shared Amenities (each an “**Other Party**”) over and across Common Area or any portion of the Development which may be necessary or required to utilize and/or maintain the Shared Amenities; provided, however, that such easements may in no event unreasonably interfere with use of the Development or the Owner(s) thereof. Declarant reserves the right to (i) grant any Other Party the right to access and/or use the Shared Amenities, as applicable, located within the Development; (ii) obligate any Other Party to participate in performing the maintenance of the Shared Amenities located within the Development; (iii) require any Other Party to share in the expenses associated with the use and maintenance of the Shared Amenities; and (iv) enter into with any Other Party or cause any Other Party to enter into a shared amenity and cost allocation agreement (the “**SACA**”), to govern the rights and responsibilities of both the Association and the Other Party in regard to use and maintenance of the Shared Amenities, to allocate costs for the operation, maintenance and reserves for the Shared Amenities and to grant reciprocal easements for access and use of the Shared Amenities. Each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot or Condominium Unit, whether or not it is so expressed in the instrument of conveyance, covenants and agrees to pay any fee allocated under the SACA to the Association as an Assessment to be levied and secured by a continuing lien on the Lot or Condominium Unit in the same manner as any other Assessment and Assessment lien arising under *Article 5* of this Covenant.

**8.8 Solar Equipment Easement.** Declarant hereby reserves for itself and the Association, and their successors, assigns, and designees, a perpetual, nonexclusive easement over and across the Development for the installation, maintenance, repair or replacement of a rooftop solar electric generating system designed to deliver electric power to a particular residence built on a Lot or Common Area. Declarant will have the right, from time to time, to Record a written notice which identifies the solar equipment to which the easement reserved hereunder applies. Declarant will be entitled to unilaterally assign the easements reserved hereunder to any third party.

**8.9 Cellular Tower and Telecommunications Easement.** Declarant hereby grants and reserves for itself and its assigns, an exclusive, perpetual and irrevocable easement, license and right to use any portion of the Common Area or Special Common Area, or any portion of the Property or the Development which Declarant intends to designate as Common Area or Special Common Area (the “**CTT Easement Area**”) for the construction, installation, use, maintenance, repair, replacement, improvement, removal and operation of CTT Equipment. Declarant or its assignee will have the right, from time to time, but no obligation, to Record a written notice which identifies the portion of the Common Area or Special Common Area to which the CTT Easement Area pertains, and Declarant, or its assignee, may fence, install landscaping, or otherwise install improvements restricting access to the CTT Easement Area identified in such Recorded instrument. Neither the Association, nor any Owner other than the Declarant or its assignee hereunder, may use the CTT Easement Area in any manner which interferes with operation of the CTT Equipment. Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its assigns the right to use, sell, lease or assign all or any portion of the CTT Easement Area, for the construction, installation, use, maintenance, repair, replacement, improvement, removal and operation of the CTT Equipment. In addition, Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its assigns a non-exclusive, perpetual and irrevocable easement over the Property and the Development for access to and from the CTT Easement Area and to construct, install, use, maintain, repair, replace, improve, remove, and operate, or allow others to do the same, any utility lines servicing the CTT Equipment. Declarant also reserves for itself and its assigns the right to select and contract with any third-party for the construction, installation, use, maintenance, repair, replacement, improvement, removal and operation of the CTT Equipment and to provide any telecommunication, cellular, video or digital service associated therewith. Declarant shall have and hereby reserves for itself and its assigns the sole and exclusive right to collect and retain any and all income and/or proceeds received from or in connection with use or services provided by the CTT Equipment and the rights described in this *Section 8.9*. The rights reserved to Declarant under this *Section 8.9* shall benefit only Declarant and its assigns, and no other Owner or successor-in-title to any portion of the Property or the Development shall have any rights to income derived from or in connection with the rights and easements granted in this *Section 8.9*, except as expressly approved in writing by Declarant. **EACH OWNER AND OCCUPANT HEREBY RELEASES AND HOLDS HARMLESS THE DECLARANT AND ITS ASSIGNS FROM ANY COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION INCURRED OR THAT MAY ARISE BY REASON OF ANY ACTS, ACTIONS OR ACTIVITIES PERMITTED BY DECLARANT ITS ASSIGNS UNDER THIS SECTION 8.9 (INCLUDING ANY COST, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION ARISING OUT OF NEGLIGENCE IN CONNECTION THEREWITH), EXCEPT FOR SUCH COST, LOSS, DAMAGE, EXPENSE, LIABILITY, CLAIM OR CAUSE OF ACTION ARISING BY REASON OF GROSS NEGLIGENCE OR WILLFUL MISCONDUCT. “GROSS NEGLIGENCE” DOES NOT INCLUDE SIMPLE NEGLIGENCE, CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE OR SIMILAR NEGLIGENCE SHORT OF ACTUAL GROSS NEGLIGENCE.** The provisions of this *Section 8.9* shall not be amended

without the written and acknowledged consent of Declarant or the assignee of all or any portion of Declarant's rights hereunder.

**8.10 Easement for Maintenance of Drainage Facilities.** Declarant may grant easements for the benefit of a Governmental Entity or third party for the inspection, monitoring, operation, maintenance, replacement, upgrade and repair, as applicable, of certain drainage facilities that may be constructed to convey and receive stormwater runoff within the Development. From time to time, Declarant may impress upon certain portions of the Development, for the benefit of a Governmental Entity or third party, additional easements for the inspection, monitoring, operation, maintenance, replacement, upgrade and repair, as applicable, of other drainage facilities that convey and receive stormwater runoff as set forth in one or more declarations, agreements or other written instruments as the same shall be recorded in the Official Public Records of Guadalupe County, Texas.

**8.11 Easement to Inspect and Right to Correct.** For a period of ten (10) years after the expiration of the Development Period, Declarant reserves for itself and for the Declarant's architect, engineer, other design professionals, builder and general contractor the right, but not the duty, to inspect, monitor, test, redesign, correct and relocate any structure, Improvement or condition that may exist on any portion of the Property, including the Lots and Condominium Units, and a perpetual nonexclusive easement of access throughout the Property to the extent reasonably necessary to exercise this right. The party exercising such rights will promptly repair, at its sole expense, any damage resulting from the exercise of this right. By way of illustration but not limitation, relocation of mechanical or electrical facilities may be warranted by a change of circumstance, imprecise siting of the original facilities, or the desire or necessity to comply more fully with Applicable Law. This *Section 8.11* may not be construed to create a duty for Declarant, the Association, or any architect, engineer, other design professionals, builder or general contractor, and may not be amended without Declarant's advanced written consent. In support of this reservation, each Owner, by accepting an interest in or title to a Lot or Condominium Unit, hereby grants to Declarant an easement of access and entry over, across, under, and through the Property, including without limitation, all Common Areas, Special Common Areas, and the Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit, and all Improvements thereon for the purposes contained in this *Section 8.11*.

## ARTICLE 9 DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

**9.1 Development.** It is contemplated that the Development shall be developed pursuant to a plan, which, from time to time, the Declarant may amend or modify in its sole and absolute discretion. Declarant reserves the right, but shall not be obligated, to designate Development Areas, and to create and/or designate Lots, Condominium Units, Neighborhoods, Voting Groups, Common Area, Special Common Area, and Service Areas and to subdivide all or any portion of the Development and Property. As each area is conveyed, developed or dedicated, Declarant may Record one or more Development Area Declarations and designate

the use, classification and such additional covenants, conditions and restrictions as Declarant may deem appropriate for that area. Any Development Area Declaration may provide its own procedure for the amendment thereof.

**9.2 Special Declarant Rights.** Notwithstanding any provision of this Covenant to the contrary, at all times, Declarant will have the right and privilege: (a) to erect and maintain advertising signs (illuminated or non-illuminated), sales flags, other sales devices and banners for the purpose of aiding the sale of Lots and Condominium Units in the Development; (b) to maintain Improvements upon Lots, including the Common Area and Special Common Area, as sales, model, management, business and construction offices or visitor centers at no charge; and (c) to maintain and locate construction trailers and construction tools and equipment within the Development. The construction, placement or maintenance of Improvements by Declarant will not be considered a nuisance.

**9.3 Addition of Land.** Declarant may, at any time and from time to time, add additional lands to the Property and, upon the Recording of a notice of addition of land, such land shall be considered part of the Property for purposes of this Covenant, and upon the further Recording of a Notice of Applicability meeting the requirements of *Section 9.5*, such added lands shall be considered part of the Development subject to this Covenant and the terms, covenants, conditions, restrictions and obligations set forth in this Covenant, and the rights, privileges, duties and liabilities of the persons subject to this Covenant shall be the same with respect to such added land as with respect to the lands originally covered by this Covenant. Such added land need not be contiguous to the Property. To add lands to the Property, Declarant shall be required only to Record, a notice of addition of land (which notice may be contained within any Development Area Declaration affecting such land) containing the following provisions:

- (i) A reference to this Covenant, which reference shall state the document number or volume and page wherein this Covenant is Recorded;
- (ii) A statement that such land shall be considered Property for purposes of this Covenant, and that upon the further Recording of a Notice of Applicability meeting the requirements of *Section 9.5* of this Covenant, all of the terms, covenants, conditions, restrictions and obligations of this Covenant shall apply to the added land; and
- (iii) A legal description of the added land.

**9.4 Withdrawal of Land.** Declarant may, at any time and from time to time, reduce or withdraw from the Property, including the Development, and remove and exclude from the burden of this Covenant and the jurisdiction of the Association any portion of the Development. Upon any such withdrawal and removal, this Covenant and the covenants conditions, restrictions and obligations set forth herein shall no longer apply to the portion of the

Development withdrawn. To withdraw lands from the Property or the Development hereunder, Declarant shall be required only to Record a notice of withdrawal of land containing the following provisions:

- (i) A reference to this Covenant, which reference shall state the document number or volume and page number wherein this Covenant is Recorded;
- (ii) A statement that the provisions of this Covenant shall no longer apply to the withdrawn land; and
- (iii) A legal description of the withdrawn land.

**9.5 Notice of Applicability.** Upon Recording, this Covenant serves to provide notice that at any time, and from time to time, Declarant, and Declarant only, may subject all or any portion of the Property to the terms, covenants, conditions, restrictions and obligations of this Covenant, any applicable Development Area Declaration and the Community Enhancement Covenant. This Covenant, any applicable Development Area Declaration and the Community Enhancement Covenant shall apply to and burden a portion or portions of the Property upon the Recording of a Notice of Applicability describing such applicable portion of the Property by a legally sufficient description and expressly providing that such Property shall be considered a part of the Development and shall be subject to the terms, covenants conditions, restrictions and obligations of this Covenant, any applicable Development Area Declaration and the Community Enhancement Covenant. To be effective, a Notice of Applicability must be executed by Declarant, and the property included in the Notice of Applicability need not be owned by the Declarant if included within the Property. Declarant may also cause a Notice of Applicability to be Recorded covering a portion of the Property for the purpose of encumbering such Property with this Covenant and any Development Area Declaration previously Recorded by Declarant (which Notice of Applicability may amend, modify or supplement the restrictions, set forth in the Development Area Declaration, which shall apply to such Property). To make the terms and provisions of this Covenant applicable to a portion of the Property, Declarant shall be required only to cause a Notice of Applicability to be Recorded containing the following provisions:

- (i) A reference to this Covenant, which reference shall state the document number or volume and page number wherein this Covenant is Recorded;
- (ii) A reference, if applicable, to the Recorded Development Area Declaration which will apply to such portion of the Property (with any amendment, modification, or supplementation of the restrictions set forth in the Development Area Declaration which shall apply to such portion of the Property);

(iii) A reference, if applicable, to the Community Enhancement Covenant which will apply to such portion of the Property (with any amendment, modification, or supplementation of the restrictions set forth in the Community Enhancement Covenant which shall apply to such portion of the Property);

(iv) A statement that all of the provisions of this Covenant shall apply to such portion of the Property;

(v) A legal description of such portion of the Property; and

(vi) If applicable, a description of any Special Common Area or Service Area which benefits the Property and the beneficiaries of such Special Common Area or Service Area.

**NOTICE TO TITLE COMPANY**

NO PORTION OF THE PROPERTY IS SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THIS COVENANT AND THIS COVENANT DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY PORTION OF THE PROPERTY UNLESS A NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY DESCRIBING SUCH PROPERTY AND REFERENCING THIS COVENANT HAS BEEN RECORDED.

**9.6 Designation of Neighborhood.** Declarant may, at any time and from time to time, file a designation of neighborhood (a "**Designation of Neighborhood**") assigning portions of the Property to a specific Neighborhood. Upon the filing of a Designation of Neighborhood, such land will be considered part of the Neighborhood so designated. To assign portions of the Property to a specific Neighborhood, Declarant will be required only to Record a Designation of Neighborhood containing the following provisions:

(i) A reference to this Covenant, which reference will state the document number or volume and initial page number where this Covenant is Recorded;

(ii) An identification of the Neighborhood applicable to such portion of the Property and a statement that such land will be considered part of such Neighborhood for purposes of this Covenant; and

(iii) A legal description of the designated land.

**9.7 Assignment of Declarant's Rights.** Notwithstanding any provision in this Covenant to the contrary, Declarant may, by written instrument, assign, in whole or in part, any of its privileges, exemptions, rights, reservations and duties under this Covenant to any person

or entity and may permit the participation, in whole, in part, exclusively, or non-exclusively, by any other person or entity in any of its privileges, exemptions, rights, reservations and duties hereunder.

**9.8 Notice of Plat Recordation.** Declarant may, at any time and from time to time, Record a notice of plat recordation (a "**Notice of Plat Recordation**"). A Notice of Plat Recordation is Recorded for the purpose of more clearly identifying specific Lots subject to the terms and provisions of this Covenant after portions of the Property are made subject to a Plat. Unless otherwise provided in the Notice of Plat Recordation, portions of the Property included in the Plat identified in the Notice of Plat Recordation, but not shown as a residential Lot on such Plat, shall be automatically withdrawn from the terms and provisions of this Covenant (without the necessity of complying with the withdrawal provisions set forth in this Section). Declarant shall have no obligation to Record a Notice of Plat Recordation and failure to Record a Notice of Plat Recordation shall in no event remove any portion of the Property from the terms and provisions of this Covenant.

## ARTICLE 10 GENERAL PROVISIONS

**10.1 Term.** Upon the Recording of a Notice of Applicability pursuant to *Section 9.5*, the terms, covenants, conditions, restrictions, easements, charges, and liens set out in this Covenant shall run with and bind the portion of the Property described in such notice, and shall inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the Association, and every Owner, including Declarant, and their respective legal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, for a term beginning on the date this Covenant is Recorded, and continuing through and including January 1, 2089, after which time this Covenant shall be automatically extended for successive periods of ten (10) years unless a change (the word "change" meaning a termination, or change of term or renewal term) is approved by Members entitled to cast at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total number of votes of the Association. The foregoing sentence shall in no way be interpreted to mean sixty-seven percent (67%) of a quorum as established pursuant to the Bylaws. The Representative System of Voting is not applicable to a change as contemplated in this *Section 10.1*, it being understood and agreed that any change must be approved by a vote of the Members, with each Member casting their vote individually. Notwithstanding any provision in this *Section 10.1* to the contrary, if any provision of this Covenant would be unlawful, void, or voidable by reason of any Applicable Law restricting the period of time that covenants on land may be enforced, such provision will expire twenty-one (21) years after the death of the last survivor of the now living, descendants of Elizabeth II, Queen of England.

**10.2 Eminent Domain.** In the event it becomes necessary for any Governmental Entity to acquire all or any part of the Common Area or Special Common Area for any public purpose during the period this Covenant is in effect, the Board is hereby authorized to negotiate with such Governmental Entity for such acquisition and to execute instruments necessary for that purpose. Should acquisitions by eminent domain become necessary, only the Board need



be made a party, and in any event the proceeds received will be held by the Association for the benefit of the Owners. In the event any proceeds attributable to acquisition of Common Area are paid to Owners, such payments will be allocated on the basis of Assessment Units and paid jointly to the Owners and the holders of first Mortgages on the respective Lot or Condominium Unit. In the event any proceeds attributable to acquisition of Special Common Area are paid to Owners who have been assigned the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments attributable to such Special Common Area, such payment will be allocated on the basis of Assessment Units and paid jointly to such Owners and the holders of first Mortgages on the respective Lot or Condominium Unit.

**10.3 Amendment.** This Covenant may be amended or terminated by the Recording of an instrument executed and acknowledged by: (i) Declarant acting alone; or (ii) by the president and secretary of the Association setting forth the amendment and certifying that such amendment has been approved by Declarant (until expiration or termination of the Development Period) and Members entitled to cast at least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the total number of votes of the Association. The foregoing sentence shall in no way be interpreted to mean sixty-seven percent (67%) of a quorum as established pursuant to the Bylaws. The Representative System of Voting is not applicable to an amendment as contemplated in this *Section 10.3*, it being understood and agreed that any amendment must be approved by a vote of the Members, with each Member casting their vote individually. No amendment will be effective without the written consent of Declarant during the Development Period. No amendment may affect Declarant's rights under this Covenant without Declarant's written consent, which must be part of the Recorded amendment instrument.

**10.4 Enforcement.** Except as otherwise provided herein, any Owner of a Lot, at such Owner's own expense, Declarant and the Association will each have the right to enforce, by a proceeding at law or in equity, all restrictions, conditions, covenants, reservations, liens, charges and other terms now or hereafter imposed by the provisions of the Documents. The Association and/or the Declarant may initiate, defend or intervene in any action brought to enforce any provision of the Documents. Such right of enforcement will include both damages for and injunctive relief against the breach of any provision hereof. Every act or omission whereby any provision of the Documents is violated, in whole or in part, is hereby declared to be a nuisance and may be enjoined or abated by any Owner of a Lot (at such Owner's own expense), Declarant or the Association. Any violation of any Applicable Law pertaining to the ownership, occupancy, or use of any portion of the Property is hereby declared to be a violation of this Covenant and subject to all of the enforcement procedures set forth herein. Failure to enforce any right, provision, covenant, or condition set forth in the Documents will not constitute a waiver of the right to enforce such right, provision, covenants or condition in the future. Failure of the Declarant or the Association to enforce the terms and provisions of the Documents shall in no event give rise to any claim or liability against the Declarant, the Association, or any of their partners, directors, officers, or agents. **EACH OWNER, BY ACCEPTING TITLE TO ALL OR ANY PORTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, HEREBY**

RELEASES AND SHALL HOLD HARMLESS EACH OF THE DECLARANT, THE ASSOCIATION, AND THEIR PARTNERS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, OR AGENTS FROM AND AGAINST ANY DAMAGES, CLAIMS OR LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH THE FAILURE OF THE DECLARANT OR THE ASSOCIATION TO ENFORCE THE TERMS AND PROVISIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS.

**10.5 No Warranty of Enforceability.** Declarant makes no warranty or representation as to the present or future validity or enforceability of any restrictive covenants, terms, or provisions contained in the Covenant. Any Owner acquiring a Lot or Condominium Unit in reliance on one or more of such restrictive covenants, terms, or provisions shall assume all risks of the validity and enforceability thereof and, by acquiring the Lot or Condominium Unit, agrees to hold Declarant harmless therefrom.

**10.6 Higher Authority.** The terms and provisions of this Covenant are subordinate to Applicable Law. Generally, the terms and provisions of this Covenant are enforceable to the extent they do not violate or conflict with Applicable Law.

**10.7 Severability.** If any provision of this Covenant is held to be invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of any other provision of this Covenant, or, to the extent permitted by Applicable Law, the validity of such provision as applied to any other person or entity.

**10.8 Conflicts.** If there is any conflict between the provisions of this Covenant, the Certificate, the Bylaws, or any Rules adopted pursuant to the terms of such documents, or any Development Area Declaration, the provisions of this Covenant shall govern.

**10.9 Gender.** Whenever the context so requires, all words herein in the male gender shall be deemed to include the female or neuter gender, all singular words shall include the plural, and all plural words shall include the singular.

**10.10 Acceptance by Owners.** Each Owner of a Lot, Condominium Unit, or other real property interest in the Development, by the acceptance of a deed of conveyance, and each subsequent purchaser, accepts the same subject to all terms, restrictions, conditions, covenants, reservations, easements, liens and charges, and the jurisdiction rights and powers created or reserved by this Covenant or to whom this Covenant is subject, and all rights, benefits and privileges of every character hereby granted, created, reserved or declared. Furthermore, each Owner agrees that no assignee or successor to Declarant hereunder will have any liability for any act or omission of Declarant which occurred prior to the effective date of any such succession or assignment. All impositions and obligations hereby imposed will constitute covenants running with the land within the Development, and will bind any person having at any time any interest or estate in the Development, and will inure to the benefit of each Owner in like manner as though the provisions of this Covenant were recited and stipulated at length in each and every deed of conveyance.

## **10.11 Damage and Destruction.**

10.11.1 Claims. Promptly after damage or destruction by fire or other casualty to all or any part of the Common Area or Special Common Area covered by insurance, the Board, or its duly authorized agent, shall proceed with the filing and adjustment of all claims arising under such insurance and obtain reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair of the damage. Repair, as used in this *Section 10.11*, means repairing or restoring the Common Area or Special Common Area to substantially the same condition as existed prior to the fire or other casualty. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the provisions of this *Section 10.11* are not intended to limit or otherwise restrict the terms and conditions of the policy or policies of insurance obtained by the board.

10.11.2 Repair Obligations. Any damage to or destruction of the Common Area or Special Common Area shall be repaired unless a Majority of the Board decides within sixty (60) days after the casualty not to repair. If for any reason either the amount of the insurance proceeds to be paid as a result of such damage or destruction, or reliable and detailed estimates of the cost of repair, or both, are not made available to the Association within said period, then the period shall be extended until such information shall be made available.

10.11.3 Restoration. In the event that the Board should determine that the damage or destruction of the Common Area or Special Common Area shall not be repaired and does not authorize alternative Improvements, then the Association shall restore the affected portion of the Common Area or Special Common Area to its natural state and maintain it as an undeveloped portion of the Common Area in a neat and attractive condition.

10.11.4 Special Assessment for Common Area. If insurance proceeds are paid to restore or repair any damaged or destroyed Common Area, and such proceeds are not sufficient to defray the cost of such repair or restoration, the Board shall levy a Special Assessment, as provided in *Article 5*, against all Owners. Additional Assessments may be made in like manner at any time during or following the completion of any repair.

10.11.5 Special Assessment for Special Common Area. If insurance proceeds are paid to restore or repair any damaged or destroyed Special Common Area, and such proceeds are not sufficient to defray the cost of such repair or restoration, the Board shall levy a Special Assessment, as provided in *Article 5*, against all Owners who have been assigned the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments attributable to such Special Common Area. Additional Assessments may be made in like manner at any time during or following the completion of any repair.

10.11.6 Proceeds Payable to Owners. In the event that any proceeds from insurance policies required herein are paid to Owners as a result of any damage or destruction to any Common Area, such payments shall be allocated based on Assessment Units and paid jointly to the Owners and the holders of first Mortgages on their Lots or Condominium Units.

10.11.7 Proceeds Payable to Owners Responsible for Special Common Area. In the event that any proceeds from insurance policies required herein are paid to Owners as a result of any damage or destruction to Special Common Area, such payments shall be allocated based on Assessment Units and shall be paid jointly to the Owners who have been assigned the obligation to pay Special Common Area Assessments attributable to such Special Common Area and the holders of first Mortgages on their Lots or Condominium Units.

**10.12 No Partition.** Except as may be permitted in this Covenant or amendments hereto, no physical partition of the Common Area or Special Common Area or any part thereof shall be permitted, nor shall any person acquiring any interest in the Development or any part thereof seek any such judicial partition unless all or the portion of the Development in question has been removed from the provisions of this Covenant pursuant to *Section 9.4* above. This *Section 10.12* shall not be construed to prohibit the Board from acquiring and disposing of tangible personal property or from acquiring title to real property that may or may not be subject to this Covenant.

**10.13 View Impairment.** None of the Declarant, the Steele Creek Reviewer, or the Association guarantee or represent that any view over and across the Lots, Condominium Units, or any open space within the Development shall be preserved without impairment. The Declarant, the Steele Creek Reviewer and the Association shall have no obligation to relocate, prune, or thin trees or other landscaping. The Association (with respect to any Common Area or Special Common Area) shall have the right to add trees and other landscaping from time to time, subject to Applicable Law. There shall be no express or implied easements for view purposes or for the passage of light and air.

**10.14 Safety and Security.** Each Owner and Occupant of a Lot or Condominium Unit, and their respective guests and invitees, shall be responsible for their own personal safety and the security of their property in the Development. The Association may, but shall not be obligated to, maintain or support certain activities within the Development designed to promote or enhance the level of safety or security which each person provides for himself or herself and his or her property. However, none of the Association, the Declarant, or any of their Directors, employees, or agents, shall in any way be considered insurers or guarantors of safety or security within the Development, nor shall either be held liable for any loss or damage by reason of failure to provide adequate security or ineffectiveness of security measures undertaken.

No representation or warranty is made that any systems or measures, including security monitoring systems or any mechanism or system for limiting access to the Development, cannot be compromised or circumvented; or that any such system or security measures undertaken shall in all cases prevent loss or provide the detection or protection for which the system is designed or intended. Each Owner acknowledges, understands, and shall be responsible for informing any Occupants of such Owner's Lot or Condominium Unit that the Association, its Board, employees, agents, and committees, and the Declarant are not insurers or guarantors of

security or safety and that each person within the Development assumes all risks of personal injury and loss or damage to property, including any residences or Improvements constructed upon any Lot or Condominium Unit and the contents thereof, resulting from acts of third parties.

**10.15 Facilities Open to the Public.** Certain facilities and areas within the Property shall be open for the use and enjoyment of the public. Such facilities and areas may include, by way of example, greenbelts, trails and paths, parks, roads, sidewalks and medians.

**10.16 Water Quality Facilities.** Portions of the Development may include one or more water quality facilities, sedimentation, drainage and detention facilities, ponds or related improvements which serve all or a portion of the Development, the Property, or additional land (collectively, the "**Facilities**"). Declarant hereby reserves for itself and its assigns a perpetual non-exclusive easement over and across the Development for the installation, maintenance, repair or replacement of the Facilities. The Facilities may be designated by the Declarant in a written notice Recorded to identify the particular Facilities to which the easement reserved hereunder applies, or otherwise dedicated to the public or applicable governmental authority (which may include retention of maintenance responsibility by the Association), conveyed and transferred to any applicable Governmental Entity or conveyed and transferred to the Association as Common Area, Special Common Area or a Service Area. If the Facilities are designated or conveyed or maintenance responsibility reserved or assigned to the Association as Common Area, Special Common Area or a Service Area, the Association will be required to maintain and operate the Facilities in accordance with Applicable Law, or the requirements of any applicable Governmental Entity.

**10.17 Notices.** Any notice permitted or required to be given to any person by this Covenant shall be in writing and shall be considered as properly given if (a) mailed by first class United States mail, postage prepaid; (b) by delivering same in person to the intended addressee; (c) by delivery to an independent third party commercial delivery service for same day or next day delivery and providing for evidence of receipt at the office of the intended addressee; or (d) by prepaid telegram, telex, electronic mail, or facsimile to the addressee and providing for evidence of receipt at the office of the intended addressee. Notice so mailed shall be effective upon its deposit with the United States Postal Service or any successor thereto; notice sent by such a commercial delivery service shall be effective upon delivery to such commercial delivery service; notice given by personal delivery shall be effective only if and when received by the addressee; and notice given by other means shall be effective when received at the office or designated place or machine/equipment of the intended addressee. For purposes of notice the address of each Owner shall be the address of the Lot or Condominium Unit or such other address as provided by the Owner to the Association, and the address of each Mortgagee shall be the address provided to the Association; provided, however, that any party shall have the right to change its address for notice hereunder to any other location within the continental United States by the giving of thirty (30) days' notice to the Association.

**10.18 Notice Concerning Mineral Reservation.** Each Owner is hereby informed that Declarant has conveyed to an affiliated entity all right, title and interest, if any, of Declarant in all minerals, resources, and groundwater, including but not limited to oil, gas and hydrocarbons, in, on or under, and/or that may be produced from the Development. The conveyance instrument ("**Mineral Deed**") includes a provision whereby the owner of the minerals, resources and groundwater, if any, conveyed by such Mineral Deed will not be permitted to use the surface of the Development (to a depth of thirty feet below the finished grade of the Development) for the purpose of exploring for, developing or producing such minerals, resources and groundwater on and after the date of the first conveyance of a completed residence on the Property or the Development, as applicable (the "**Surface Waiver**"). This Surface Waiver applies only to the interest, if any, in the minerals, resources and groundwater conveyed by the Mineral Deed. (The minerals, resources and groundwater, or some portion thereof or some interest therein, may have been conveyed or reserved by third parties prior to Declarant's conveyance to its affiliate, and any such portion or interest would not be affected by the Surface Waiver contained in the Mineral Deed. No representation or warranty, express or implied, is made as to the ownership of the minerals, resources and groundwater or any portion thereof or any interest therein. Further, no representation or warranty, express or implied, is made with respect to whether the owner(s), if any, of any interest in or portion of the minerals, resources and groundwater not conveyed by the Mineral Deed has/have waived their rights to use the surface of the Development or the terms of any such waiver of surface rights.) The Surface Waiver in the Mineral Deed does not prevent the owner of the minerals, resources, and groundwater conveyed by the Mineral Deed from exploring, developing, drilling, producing, withdrawing, capturing, pumping, extracting, mining or transporting the minerals, resources, and groundwater by pooling, unitization, directional drilling or any other manner or method that does not require entry upon the surface of the Development. Each Owner should carefully review the title commitment delivered in connection with its acquisition of a Lot or Condominium Unit to determine the full extent to which the Mineral Deed and any other mineral conveyances affect the Lots, Condominium Units, Property and the Development. In addition, if the Covenant or a Development Area Declaration includes a prohibition against mineral, resource, and/or groundwater extraction, drilling, or mining, such provision is not binding on the owner(s) of the minerals, resources and groundwater.

## ARTICLE 11 DISPUTE RESOLUTION

**11.1 Introduction and Definitions.** Declarant, the Association and its officers, directors, and committee members, Owners and all other parties subject to this Covenant (collectively, the "**Parties**"), agree that it is in the best interest of all concerned to encourage the amicable resolution of disputes involving the Development without the emotional and financial costs of litigation and arbitration if at all possible. Accordingly, each Party hereby covenants and agrees that this Article applies to all Claims as hereinafter defined. *This Article 11 may only*

be amended with the prior written approval of the Declarant, the Association (acting through a Majority of the Board), and Owners holding 100% of votes in the Association. As used in this Article only, the following words, when capitalized, have the following specified meanings:

(i) **“Claim”** means:

(A) Claims relating to the rights and/or duties of Declarant, the Association, the Steele Creek Reviewer, or the ACC under the Documents; or

(B) Claims relating to the acts or omissions of the Declarant, the Association or a Board member or officer of the Association during Declarant’s control and administration of the Association, and any claim asserted against the ACC or the Steele Creek Reviewer; or

(C) Claims relating to the design or construction of Improvements on the Common Area, Special Common Area, Lots or Condominium Units.

(ii) **“Claimant”** means any Party having a Claim against any other Party.

(iii) **“Respondent”** means any Party against which a Claim has been asserted by a Claimant.

**11.2 Mandatory Procedures. Claimant may not initiate any proceeding before any administrative tribunal seeking redress of resolution of its Claim until Claimant has complied with the procedures of this Article. As provided in Section 11.9 below, a Claim will be resolved by binding arbitration.**

**11.3 Claims Affecting Common Areas or Special Common Areas.** In accordance with *Section 3.16* above, the Association does not have the power or right to institute, defend, intervene in, settle, or compromise litigation or administrative proceedings: (i) in the name of or on behalf of any Owner (whether one or more); or (ii) pertaining to a Claim, as defined in *Section 11.1* above, relating to the design or construction of Improvements on a Lot or Condominium Unit (whether one or more). In the event the Association or an Owner asserts a Claim related to the Common Areas or Special Common Areas, as a precondition to providing the Notice defined in *Section 11.5*, initiating the mandatory dispute resolution procedures set forth in this *Article 11*, or taking any other action to prosecute a Claim, the Association or an Owner, as applicable, must:

**11.3.1 Independent Report on the Condition of the Common Areas or Special Common Areas.** Obtain an independent third-party report (the **“Common Area Report”**) from a licensed professional engineer which: (a) identifies the Common Areas or Special Common

Areas subject to the Claim including the present physical condition of the Common Areas or Special Common Areas; (b) describes any modification, maintenance, or repairs to the Common Areas or Special Common Areas performed by the Owner(s) and/or the Association; (c) provides specific and detailed recommendations regarding remediation and/or repair of the Common Areas or Special Common Areas subject to the Claim. For the purposes of this *Section 11.3.1*, an independent third-party report is a report obtained directly by the Association or an Owner and paid for by the Association or an Owner, as applicable, and not prepared by a person employed by or otherwise affiliated with the attorney or law firm that represents or will represent the Association or an Owner in the Claim. As a precondition to providing the Notice described in *Section 11.5*, the Association or Owner must provide at least ten (10) days prior written notice of the inspection, calculated from the date of receipt of such notice, to each party subject to a Claim which notice shall identify the independent third-party engaged to prepare the Common Area Report, the specific Common Areas or Special Common Areas to be inspected, and the date and time the inspection will occur. Each party subject to a Claim may attend the inspection, personally or through an agent. Upon completion, the Common Area Report shall be provided to each party subject to a Claim. In addition, before providing the Notice described in *Section 11.5*, the Association or Owner, as applicable, shall have permitted each party subject to a Claim the right, for a period of ninety (90) days, to inspect and correct, any condition identified in the Common Area Report.

**11.3.2 Claims by Association – Owner Meeting and Approval.** If the Claim is brought by the Association, the Association must first obtain approval from Members holding sixty-seven percent (67%) of the votes in the Association to: (i) provide the Notice described in *Section 11.5*; (ii) initiate the mandatory dispute resolution procedures set forth in this *Article 11*; or (iii) take any other action to prosecute a Claim. Approval from Members must be obtained at a special meeting of Members called in accordance with the Bylaws. The notice of meeting required hereunder will be provided pursuant to the Bylaws but the notice must also include: (a) the nature of the Claim, the relief sought, the anticipated duration of prosecuting the Claim, and the likelihood of success; (b) a copy of the Common Area Report; (c) a copy of any proposed engagement letter, with the terms of such engagement between the Association and an attorney to be engaged by the Association to assert or provide assistance with the claim (the “**Engagement Letter**”); (d) a description of the attorney fees, consultant fees, expert witness fees, and court costs, whether incurred by the Association directly or for which it may be liable if it is not the prevailing party or that the Association will be required, pursuant to the Engagement Letter or otherwise, to pay if the Association elects to not proceed with the Claim; (e) a summary of the steps previously taken, and proposed to be taken, to resolve the Claim; (f) an estimate of the impact on the value of each Lot and Condominium Unit if the Claim is prosecuted and an estimate of the impact on the value of each Lot and Condominium Unit after resolution of the Claim; (g) an estimate of the impact on the marketability of each Lot and Condominium Unit if the Claim is prosecuted and during prosecution of the Claim, and an estimate of the impact on the value of each Lot and Condominium Unit during and after resolution of the Claim; (h) the manner in which the Association proposes to fund the cost of



prosecuting the Claim; and (i) the impact on the finances of the Association, including the impact on present and projected reserves, in the event the Association is not the prevailing party. The notice required by this paragraph must be prepared and signed by a person other than, and not employed by or otherwise affiliated with, the attorney or law firm that represents or will represent the Association in the Claim. In the event Members approve providing the Notice described in *Section 11.5*, or taking any other action to prosecute a Claim, the Members holding a Majority of the votes in the Association, at a special meeting called in accordance with the Bylaws, may elect to discontinue prosecution or pursuit of the Claim.

#### **11.4 Claim by Owners – Improvements on Lots or Condominium Unit.**

Notwithstanding anything contained herein to the contrary, in the event a warranty is provided to an Owner by the Declarant or a Homebuilder relating to the design or construction of any Improvements located on a Lot or Condominium Unit, then this *Article 11* will only apply to the extent that this *Article 11* is more restrictive than such Owner's warranty, as determined in the Declarant's sole discretion. If a warranty has not been provided to an Owner relating to the design or construction of any Improvements located on a Lot or Condominium Unit, then this *Article 11* will apply. If an Owner brings a Claim, as defined in *Section 11.1*, relating to the design or construction of any Improvements located on a Lot or Condominium Unit (whether one or more), as a precondition to providing the Notice defined in *Section 11.5*, initiating the mandatory dispute resolution procedures set forth in this *Article 11*, or taking any other action to prosecute a Claim, the Owner must obtain an independent third-party report (the "**Owner Improvement Report**") from a licensed professional engineer which: (i) identifies the Improvements subject to the Claim including the present physical condition of the Improvements; (ii) describes any modification, maintenance, or repairs to the Improvements performed by the Owner(s) and/or the Association; and (iii) provides specific and detailed recommendations regarding remediation and/or repair of the Improvements subject to the Claim. For the purposes of this Section, an independent third-party report is a report obtained directly by the Owner and paid for by the Owner, and not prepared by a person employed by or otherwise affiliated with the attorney or law firm that represents or will represent the Owner in the Claim. As a precondition to providing the Notice described in *Section 11.5*, the Owner must provide at least ten (10) days prior written notice of the inspection, calculated from the date of receipt of such notice, to each party subject to a Claim which notice shall identify the independent third-party engaged to prepare the Owner Improvement Report, the specific Improvements to be inspected, and the date and time the inspection will occur. Each party subject to a Claim may attend the inspection, personally or through an agent. Upon completion, the Owner Improvement Report shall be provided to each party subject to a Claim. In addition, before providing the Notice described in *Section 11.5*, the Owner shall have permitted each party subject to a Claim the right, for a period of ninety (90) days, to inspect and correct, any condition identified in the Owner Improvement Report.

**11.5 Notice.** Claimant must notify Respondent in writing of the Claim (the "**Notice**"), stating plainly and concisely: (i) the nature of the Claim, including date, time, location, persons

involved, and Respondent's role in the Claim; (ii) the basis of the Claim (i.e., the provision of the Restrictions or other authority out of which the Claim arises); (iii) what Claimant wants Respondent to do or not do to resolve the Claim; and (iv) that the Notice is given pursuant to this *Section 11.5*. For Claims governed by Chapter 27 of the Texas Property Code, the time period for negotiation in *Section 11.6* below, is equivalent to the sixty (60) day period under Section 27.004 of the Texas Property Code. If a Claim is subject to Chapter 27 of the Texas Property Code, the Claimant and Respondent are advised, in addition to compliance with *Section 11.6* to comply with the terms and provisions of Section 27.004 of the Texas Property Code during such sixty (60) day period. *Section 11.6* does not modify or extend the time period set forth in Section 27.004 of the Texas Property Code. Failure to comply with the time periods or actions specified in Section 27.004 of the Texas Property Code could affect a Claim if the Claim is subject to Chapter 27 of the Texas Property Code. The one hundred and twenty (120) day period for mediation set forth in *Section 11.7* below, is intended to provide the Claimant and Respondent with sufficient time to resolve the Claim in the event resolution is not accomplished during negotiation. If the Claim is not resolved during negotiation, mediation pursuant to *Section 11.7* is required without regard to the monetary amount of the Claim.

If the Claimant is the Association, the Notice will also include: (a) a true and correct copy of the Common Area Report; (b) a copy of the Engagement Letter; (c) copies of all reports, studies, analyses, and recommendations obtained by the Association related to the Common Area or Special Common Area which forms the basis of the Claim; (d) a true and correct copy of the special meeting notice provided to Members in accordance with *Section 11.3.2* above; and (e) and reasonable and credible evidence confirming that Members holding sixty-seven percent (67%) of the votes in the Association approved providing the Notice. If the Claimant is not the Association and the Claim pertains to the Improvements on a Lot or Condominium Unit, the Notice will also include a true and correct copy of the Owner Improvement Report.

**11.6 Negotiation.** Claimant and Respondent will make every reasonable effort to meet in person to resolve the Claim by good faith negotiation. Within sixty (60) days after Respondent's receipt of the Notice, Respondent and Claimant will meet at a mutually acceptable place and time to discuss the Claim. If the Claim involves all or any portion of the Property, then at such meeting or at some other mutually-agreeable time, Respondent and Respondent's representatives will have full access to the Property that is subject to the Claim for the purposes of inspecting the Property. If Respondent elects to take corrective action, Claimant will provide Respondent and Respondent's representatives and agents with full access to the Property to take and complete corrective action.

**11.7 Mediation.** If the parties negotiate, but do not resolve the Claim through negotiation within one-hundred twenty (120) days from the date of the Notice (or within such other period as may be agreed on by the parties), Claimant will have thirty (30) additional days within which to submit the Claim to mediation under the auspices of a mediation center or individual mediator on which the parties mutually agree. The mediator must have at least five (5) years of experience serving as a mediator and must have technical knowledge or expertise

appropriate to the subject matter of the Claim. If Claimant does not submit the Claim to mediation within the 30-day period, Respondent may submit the Claim to mediation in accordance with this *Section 11.7*.

**11.8 Termination of Mediation.** If the Parties do not settle the Claim within thirty (30) days after submission to mediation, or within a time deemed reasonable by the mediator, the mediator will issue a notice of termination of the mediation proceedings indicating that the Parties are at an impasse and the date that mediation was terminated. Thereafter, Claimant may file suit or initiate arbitration proceedings on the Claim, as appropriate and permitted by this Article.

**11.9 Binding Arbitration-Claims.** All Claims must be settled by binding arbitration. Claimant or Respondent may, by summary proceedings (e.g., a plea in abatement or motion to stay further proceedings), bring an action in court to compel arbitration of any Claim not referred to arbitration as required by this *Section 11.9*.

**11.9.1 Governing Rules.** If a Claim has not been resolved after mediation as required by *Section 11.7*, the Claim will be resolved by binding arbitration in accordance with the terms of this *Section 11.9* and the rules and procedures of the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”) or, if the AAA is unable or unwilling to act as the arbitrator, then the arbitration shall be conducted by another neutral reputable arbitration service selected by Respondent in Guadalupe County, Texas. Regardless of what entity or person is acting as the arbitrator, the arbitration shall be conducted in accordance with the AAA’s “Construction Industry Dispute Resolution Procedures” and, if they apply to the disagreement, the rules contained in the Supplementary Procedures for Consumer-Related Disputes. If such Rules have changed or been renamed by the time a disagreement arises, then the successor rules will apply. Also, despite the choice of rules governing the arbitration of any Claim, if the AAA has, by the time of Claim, identified different rules that would specifically apply to the Claim, then those rules will apply instead of the rules identified above. In the event of any inconsistency between any such applicable rules and this *Section 11.9*, this *Section 11.9* will control. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator shall be binding and not subject to appeal except as provided in *Section 11.9.4*, but may be reduced to judgment or enforced in any court having jurisdiction. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary or any applicable rules for arbitration, any arbitration with respect to Claims arising hereunder shall be conducted by a panel of three (3) arbitrators, to be chosen as follows:

- (i) one arbitrator shall be selected by Respondent, in its sole and absolute discretion;
- (ii) one arbitrator shall be selected by the Claimant, in its sole and absolute discretion; and

(iii) one arbitrator shall be selected by mutual agreement of the arbitrators which have been selected by Respondent and the Claimant, in their sole and absolute discretion.

11.9.2 Exceptions to Arbitration; Preservation of Remedies. No provision of, nor the exercise of any rights under, this *Section 11.9* will limit the right of Claimant or Respondent, and Claimant and the Respondent will have the right during any Claim, to seek, use, and employ ancillary or preliminary remedies, judicial or otherwise, for the purposes of realizing upon, preserving, or protecting any property, real or personal, that is involved in a Claim, including, without limitation, rights and remedies relating to: (i) exercising self-help remedies (including set-off rights); or (ii) obtaining provisions or ancillary remedies such as injunctive relief, sequestration, attachment, garnishment, or the appointment of a receiver from a court having jurisdiction before, during, or after the pendency of any arbitration. The institution and maintenance of an action for judicial relief or pursuit of provisional or ancillary remedies or exercise of self-help remedies shall not constitute a waiver of the right of any party to submit the Claim to arbitration nor render inapplicable the compulsory arbitration provisions hereof.

11.9.3 Statute of Limitations. All statutes of limitation that would otherwise be applicable shall apply to any arbitration proceeding under this *Section 11.9*.

11.9.4 Scope of Award; Modification or Vacation of Award. The arbitrator shall resolve all Claims in accordance with the applicable substantive law. The arbitrator may grant any remedy or relief that the arbitrator deems just and equitable and within the scope of this *Section 11.9* and subject to *Section 11.10* below (attorney's fees and costs may not be awarded by the arbitrator); provided, however, that for a Claim, or any portion of a Claim governed by Chapter 27 of the Texas Property Code, or any successor statute, in no event shall the arbitrator award damages which exceed the damages a Claimant would be entitled to under Chapter 27 of the Texas Property Code. In all arbitration proceedings the arbitrator shall make specific, written findings of fact and conclusions of law. In all arbitration proceedings the parties shall have the right to seek vacation or modification of any award that is based in whole, or in part, on (i) factual findings that have no legally or factually sufficient evidence, as those terms are defined in Texas law; (ii) conclusions of law that are erroneous; (iii) an error of federal or state law; or (iv) a cause of action or remedy not expressly provided under existing state or federal law. In no event may an arbitrator award speculative, consequential or punitive damages for any Claim.

11.9.5 Other Matters. To the maximum extent practicable, an arbitration proceeding hereunder shall be concluded within one hundred eighty (180) days of the filing of the Claim for arbitration by notice from either party to the other. Arbitration proceedings hereunder shall be conducted in Guadalupe County, Texas. The arbitrator shall be empowered to impose sanctions and to take such other actions as the arbitrator deems necessary to the same extent a judge could pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and Applicable Law. Each party agrees to keep all Claims and arbitration

proceedings strictly confidential, except for disclosures of information required in the ordinary course of business of the parties or by Applicable Law or regulation. In no event shall any party discuss with the news media or grant any interviews with the news media regarding a Claim or issue any press release regarding any Claim without the written consent of the other parties to the Claim.

**11.10 Allocation Of Costs.** Notwithstanding any provision in this Covenant on the contrary, each Party bears all of its own costs incurred prior to and during the proceedings described in *Sections 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6 and 11.7* above, including its attorney's fees. Respondent and Claimant will equally divide all expenses and fees charged by the mediator and arbitrator.

**11.11 General Provisions.** A release or discharge of Respondent from liability to Claimant on account of the Claim does not release Respondent from liability to persons who are not party to Claimant's Claim.

**11.12 Period of Limitation.**

**11.12.1 For Actions by an Owner.** The exclusive period of limitation for any of the Parties to bring any Claim, shall be the earliest of: (i) for Claims alleging construction defect or defective design, two (2) years and one (1) day from the date that the Owner discovered or reasonably should have discovered evidence of the Claim; (ii) for Claims other than those alleging construction defect or defective design, four (4) years and one (1) day from the date that the Owner discovered or reasonably should have discovered evidence of the Claim, or (iii) for all Claims, the applicable statute of limitations under Texas law. In no event shall this *Section 11.12.1* be intended to extend any period of limitations under Texas law.

**11.12.2 For Actions by the Association.** The exclusive period of limitation for the Association to bring any Claim, including, but not limited to, a Claim of construction defect or defective design of the Common Areas or Special Common Areas, shall be the earliest of: (i) for Claims alleging construction defect or defective design, two (2) years and one (1) day from the date that the Association or its agents discovered or reasonably should have discovered evidence of the Claim; (ii) for Claims other than those alleging construction defect or defective design of the Common Areas or Special Common Areas, four (4) years and one (1) day from the date that the Association discovered or reasonably should have discovered evidence of the Claim; or (iii) for all Claims, the applicable statute of limitations under Texas law. In no event shall this *Section 11.12.2* be intended to extend any period of limitations under Texas law.

**11.13 Funding Arbitration and Litigation.** The Association must levy a Special Assessment to fund the estimated costs of arbitration, including estimated attorney's fees, conducted pursuant to this *Article 11* or any judicial action initiated by the Association. The Association may not use its annual operating income or reserve funds or savings to fund

arbitration or litigation, unless the Association's annual budget or a savings account was established and funded from its inception as an arbitration and litigation reserve fund.

*[SIGNATURE PAGE FOLLOWS]*

EXECUTED to be effective on the date this instrument is Recorded.

**DECLARANT:**

**CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P.,**  
a Texas limited partnership

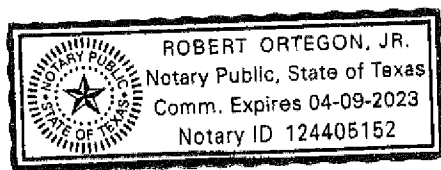
By: CHTEX OF TEXAS, INC., a Delaware corporation, its  
General Partner

By: James Kyle  
Printed Name: James Kyle  
Title: Vice President

THE STATE OF TEXAS     §  
                                      §  
COUNTY OF Brewer     §

This instrument was acknowledged before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020,  
by James Kyle, Vice President of CHTEX OF TEXAS, INC.,  
a Delaware corporation, General Partner of CONTINENTAL HOMES OF TEXAS, L.P., a Texas  
limited partnership, on behalf of said corporation and limited partnership.

(SEAL)



Robert Ortega, Jr.  
Notary Public Signature

**CONSENT AND JOINDER**

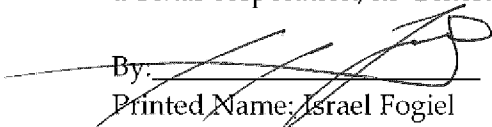
The undersigned, as the owner of a portion of the Property: (a) consents to the execution and recordation of the foregoing Steele Creek Master Covenant [Residential] (the "Covenant"), against the Property; (b) ratifies, affirms and adopts the terms of the Covenant; and (c) agrees that the portion of the Property owned by the undersigned is and shall be subject to the terms and provisions of the Covenant.

Executed to be effective as of the effective date of the Covenant.

**258 STEELE CREEK INVESTMENTS, LLC,**  
a Texas limited liability company

By: Zemel Associates, Ltd.,  
a Texas limited partnership, Member

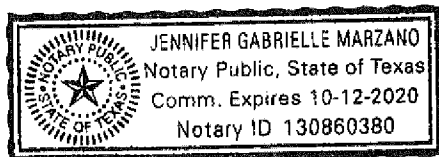
By: Great America Associates, Inc.  
a Texas corporation, its General Partner

By:   
Printed Name: Israel Fogiel  
Title: President

THE STATE OF TEXAS §  
COUNTY OF Bexar §

This instrument was acknowledged before me, this 3 day of February, 2020 by Israel Fogiel, President of Great America Associates, Inc., a Texas Corporation, General Partner of 258 Steele Creek Investments, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, on behalf of said limited liability company.

(SEAL)



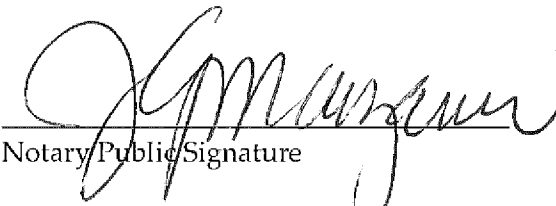
  
Notary Public Signature



EXHIBIT "A"**DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY**

411.584 acres of land being out of the Geronimo Leal Survey No. 85, Abstract No. 210 and the David Miller Survey No. 87, Abstract No. 226, in the city of Cibolo, Guadalupe County, Texas, and being a portion of that certain called 310.989 acres of land, as described in Volume 1302, Pages 593-596, Official Public Records of Guadalupe County, Texas; that certain called 85.60 acres, as described in Volume 2250, Page 634, Official Public Records of Guadalupe County, Texas and a portion of that certain tract of land conveyed to Janet Schubert Skinner, et al, as described in Document Number 2015025575, Official Public Records of Guadalupe County, Texas.

202099003080

I certify this instrument was ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
and RECORDED in the OFFICIAL PUBLIC RECORDS  
of Guadalupe County, Texas on  
02/06/2020 08:35:31 AM PAGES: 73 LEAH  
TERESA KIEL, COUNTY CLERK



*Teresa Kiel*