



Common Area Use Policy

Resolution 03-18-146; Adopted October 16, 2018

WHEREAS, the Third Laguna Hills Mutual, (“Mutual”) is a corporate homeowners association that was formed in 1970; by 1984 had acquired the assets and liabilities by vote of each of the fifty-nine (59) individual Mutuals within the larger Leisure World (now Laguna Woods Village) common interest development, with full authority to manage, operate, and maintain them. By 1988, each of the fifty-nine (59) Mutuals had agreed by vote of each Mutual’s membership to adopt identical amended CC&Rs.

WHEREAS, the decisions of the Mutual’s Board of Directors (“Board”), and any committees, task forces, etc., appointed by the Board, are governed or regulated by the Mutual’s Governing Documents, the City of Laguna Woods and Orange County codes, and California and federal Laws and Regulations;

WHEREAS, the Mutual’s Board recognizes that both new and existing Manor Owners may desire to upgrade or alter their Manors or elements thereof in style, structure or function. The current Mutual Board, prior Mutual Boards, and the Boards of the predecessor original condominium project mutual homeowner associations, have from time-to-time adopted policies and procedures to approve such Manor Alteration Applications in limited circumstances;

WHEREAS, the Mutual’s current Governing Documents require that all such Manor Alteration Applications be approved either by the Architectural Control Committee, which may either be the Board itself or a separate committee of Members appointed by the Board, or by the Mutual’s Manager, Village Management Services, Inc. (“Staff”), where VMSI is so authorized;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article X of the Mutual’s *Declaration of Revised and Amended Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions* (“CC&Rs”) and Article 7 of the Mutual’s Bylaws, the Board, by Resolution 03-16-128, dated December 20, 2016, has formed an Architectural Control and Standards Committee (“Committee”) to perform the functions described therein;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article IV, Section 2, Clause (c); Article IV, Section 5; and Article X, Section 1, Clause (c), of the CC&Rs, the Board has delegated, with continuing oversight by the Committee, authority to its Manager and Staff to receive, evaluate, and make recommendations to the Committee and the Board to approve or deny Manor Alteration Applications;

WHEREAS, the current Board, as well as prior Mutual boards, have noted that over the years that some manor Owners have made alterations to their Manors or to the immediately contiguous areas, both with and without Board authorization, which have affected relatively small sections of the Mutual’s Common Area. Typically those alterations have involved enclosing patios that are Exclusive Use Common Area and



occasionally have also involved extending that enclosure onto general Common Area, or the alterations have affected the landscape and hardscape contiguous to a Manor;

WHEREAS, in some cases these alterations may not have met the Mutual's then current Architectural Alteration Standards, notwithstanding the fact that the alteration may have enhanced the value of the Manor and possibly the community as well;

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that to identify each prior alteration and determine whether or not it is non-conforming and/or unauthorized would be expensive, time consuming and disruptive to the community and its residents. This Board has concluded that such an undertaking would not be in the best interests of the owners of undivided interests in the Mutual's general Common Area;

WHEREAS, the Committee and the Board have reviewed and reconsidered the Mutual's current policies and procedures regarding Manor Alteration Applications to ensure proper procedures are in place in the Mutual on a going-forward basis with regard to alterations by Members;

WHEREAS, among other things, the Common Area Use Policy sets forth very limited circumstances where the Mutual's Board, Committee or Staff, would approve a proposed alteration of, addition to, or improvement of any Manor ("Alteration") that would be located upon or over a portion of the common area; and,

WHEREAS, due to the administrative, financial, and legal burdens involved, the Board and the Committee have determined that it is not in the Association's best interests to approve any Manor Alteration Applications that do not satisfy the very limited circumstances defined from time to time by the Committee and approved by the Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, October 16, 2018, that the Board has prepared a "Decision Tree", "Neighbor Awareness Notice of Hearing" form, and "Covenant To Run With The Land" form, and the Board hereby adopts the policy outlined in this Resolution to govern the Board's, the Committee's and Staff's decision process when Manor Owners apply to the Mutual for authorization to make or construct an Alteration to or within the Manor's Separate Interest; to, upon or within the Exclusive Use Common Area ("Policy");

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, no proposed Alteration located upon or over a portion of the common area will be approved by the Board, the Committee or Staff for any reason, except as set forth pursuant to the Policy or as otherwise required by law;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that, in limited circumstances, as set forth in the Policy, Staff may, but is not obligated to; approve Manor Alteration Applications that meet pre-established *Third Architectural Alteration Standards* and other Board and Committee approved policies and procedures, and that do not raise an objection by the owner of a neighboring Manor which is defined as manors "within 150 feet" of the proposed manor Alteration Application. Any Manor Alteration Application that cannot or will not be approved by Staff for any reason will be treated as a unique Variance Request to be investigated by Staff and considered by the Committee for approval or denial, with



potential appeal of the Committee's decision to the Board, all in accordance with the Mutual's Governing Documents;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that, if the proposed Alteration is to be located entirely within or upon an Exclusive Use Common Area already associated with the Manor, Staff, as authorized, the Committee or the Board may, but is not obligated to, approve the Manor Alteration Application, provided the Alteration is in compliance with the Mutual's Architectural Review Procedures, subject to the discretion granted to Staff, the Committee, or the Board, as may be applicable, whether the Alteration would be located within a Manor's Separate Interest, to, within or upon Exclusive Use Common Area;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that, if the Staff, as authorized, the Committee or the Board decides to approve a Manor Owner's Application to make or construct an Alteration to, within or upon an Exclusive Use Common Area associated with that Manor, that Manor Owner must, as a condition to receiving final approval for the Manor Alteration Application, execute a recordable Covenant to Run with the Land. Such Covenant shall provide, among other things that the Manor Owner agrees that the area altered in any dimension or manner, shall remain Exclusive Use Common Area, licensed for the exclusive use of the Manor Owner, but shall not also become a part of the Manor's Separate Interest. The Covenant will also require that the Manor Owner shall assume the responsibility for insuring, maintaining, repairing, replacing and restoring the area containing the Alteration, and shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Mutual for any and all claims pertaining to the Alteration;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board, within the limits of its current authority, hereby "grandfathers" any existing Alteration to any of the Manors located within the original condominium projects, or to the area immediately adjacent to that Manor, which have been previously approved by this Board, a prior board of directors of the Mutual, a board of directors or the architectural committee of a predecessor original condominium project mutual homeowner association, or the staff of a prior management agent, if that staff were so authorized, prior to July 20, 2017, even though that Alteration may encroach upon some portion of the general Common Area, provided that:

- (1) there is no threat to the safety of persons or property;
- (2) the Alteration met the Mutual's construction and architectural standards in effect at the time of the Alteration; and
- (3) there is no direction or order of a court requiring the Board to take contrary action; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that "grandfathering" any such encroachment did not, does not, and will not constitute a transfer of general Common Area into any Manor's Exclusive Use Common Area or Separate Interest, or the conversion of Exclusive Use Common Area into a Manor's Separate Interest. Such "grandfathering" does not remove the obligation of a Member/Owner of a non-compliant Alteration to a correct or remove an Alteration to the Manor that:



- (1) was not permitted by the Mutual, or any predecessor mutual; or
- (2) was not constructed according to the terms or conditions of that permit.

“Grandfathering” merely means that such non-permitted or non-conforming Alterations will not be actively pursued by the Mutual, unless the Mutual determines that an Alteration poses a potential danger to persons or property, or a court of competent jurisdiction determines that the Alteration was not properly permitted;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that no further alteration may be approved or constructed on any previously approved or “grandfathered” alteration that encroaches upon common area, other than like for like, that augments, enlarges, or changes the construction, purpose, or use of the previously approved or grandfathered alteration;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the determination of whether a proposed Alteration is “like-for-like” shall be made by the Committee, in consultation with Staff, and subject to appeal to the Board, whose decision shall be final and made in the Board’s sole and absolute discretion;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board may, subject to the limitations provided in this Resolution, the Governing Documents, and applicable law, demand that any Alteration, not consistent with the Mutual’s *Third Architectural Alteration Standards* and other Mutual and VMSI policies and procedures published at the time of construction of said Alteration, be removed, at the Manor Owner’s expense, if the Alteration is not either altered or reconstructed to be in conformity with such *Third Architectural Alteration Standards*, state and local building codes, and other Mutual and VMSI policies and procedures;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Board may demand the removal of any Alteration that was constructed without the prior written approval of Staff, the Committee or the Board;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that, in accordance with the Mutual’s CC&Rs, the existence in the Mutual of a prior Alteration comparable to an Alteration being sought by a Manor Owner shall have no precedential value and shall not obligate in any way Staff, the Committee or the Board to approve any subsequent Manor Alteration Application;

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that Mutual Board Resolution 03-17-77 is hereby superseded and cancelled; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that Staff is charged with the responsibility of receiving, evaluating, approving or making recommendations for approval of Manor Alteration Applications; and overseeing construction of additions, modification, improvements, and such other Alterations to the Manors within the Mutual are hereby authorized to take all appropriate actions consistent with this Resolution and to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution and assure compliance with its terms.