Thomas Humphrey
Landscape Architect

5553 Watkins Road
Valdosta, GA 31601

229.560.7168
Email: tehdesignco@gmail.com

February 27, 2018

Zoning Board of Appeals

RE: Landscape Variance
IndoAmerican Cultural Society of South Georgia
Valdosta, GA

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are seeking a variance from the buffer yard and parking lot landscape requirements for the proposed location for the new building to house the Indo American Cultural Society of South Georgia. The site is currently farmland with a couple of residences at the back of the property. A proposed building will be located near the southwest corner of the site, accessed by a gravel drive and parking. A good portion of the front of the site is considered wetland and unsuitable for building. There are natural trees and shrubs screening the residences from the rest of the property. The site contains an easement near the eastern boundary to service the residences at the back. These residences house the original owners of the site who sold it to the Indo American Cultural Society.

Current requirements call for a 20′ buffer yard along the southern and eastern borders to include 4 shade trees and 25 shrubs per 100 linear feet. We feel this would be a burden as it would require removal of the existing screening plants in order to plant much smaller and less effective new plants. The screen to the east would be primarily ineffective as the only thing it would screen is the drive from existing farmland to the east. The parking lot plantings require 5% of the total lot to consist of internal landscaping to include 3 trees. We are seeking a variance to the parking lot requirements as a large portion of the site immediately bordering the parking and drive will remain natural due to being classified as wetlands. Survival of the 3 trees would be unlikely as there would be no dedicated islands in the gravel parking.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Humphrey