

Appeal of Denial of NRI/FSD No. 420240850

**Montgomery Planning Witness List**

**Witnesses (resumes attached)**

Ariel Zelaya, Montgomery Planning

Amy Lindsey, Montgomery Planning

**Optional Witnesses on Rebuttal**

Steve Simpson, Department of Permitting Services

Mark Etheridge, Department of Permitting Services

Domenic Bello, Montgomery Planning

# Ariel Saúl Zelaya

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## EDUCATION

<b>M.S. Forestry and Environmental Resources   North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina</b>	May 2020
<b>B.S., Agronomic Engineering   National Agriculture University of Honduras, Catacamas, Honduras</b>	December 2013

## PROFESSIONAL/ RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

<b>Environmental Planner II, M-NCPPC, Montgomery Planning</b>	Aug 2023- Present
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- Interpret and apply various master plans in Montgomery County to inform environmental decision-making processes.
- Developed comprehensive environmental recommendations for master plans, ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements and sustainability goals.
- Deep understanding of policies, procedures, regulations, and standards impacting plan reviews, including Environmental Guidelines for Development in Montgomery County, Chapter 22A Forest Conservation Law, The Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Trees Technical Manual, Special Protection Area Water Quality Plan requirements, and forest planting requirements.
- Reviewed and provided timely comments and recommendations on Natural Resource Inventories/Forest Stand Delineations (NRI/FSD), Special Protection Area Water Quality Plans, and Forest Conservation Plans to meet regulatory deadlines.
- Assist during the sketch and concept plan for parks, facilities, and mandatory referrals.
- Conducted field work year-round, proficiently identifying trees, vegetation, streams, and wetlands to inform planning and development processes.
- Conducted comprehensive environmental reviews of preliminary plans, site plans, parks projects, zoning applications, and mandatory referrals, ensuring compliance with Forest Conservation Law and Environmental Guidelines.
- Coordinated with local, state, and federal agencies on environmental issues, facilitating resolution and providing guidance where necessary.
- Prepared and submitted draft staff reports for development applications as required, ensuring accuracy and compliance with regulations.

<b>Landscape Supervisor II, M-NCPPC, Prince George's County</b>	Nov 2021-Aug 2023
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- Supervise landscape maintenance of 5 teams (16 members) engaged in maintaining parks, gardens, rain gardens, bioswales, and other landscaped areas.
- Plan, schedule, assign work, and evaluate work of major landscape programs for a geographical area (65 parks or facilities).
- Survey parks, gardens, and other Commission facilities to determine major landscaping need and recommend maintenance and capital improvement projects to be accomplished.
- Estimate materials, equipment, supplies, and other resources needed.
- Monitor, inspect, and approve work of contractors performing work.
- Install and design botanical displays/landscape areas for Commission facilities and review planting plans, select native plants, and design layout of seasonal outdoor gardens.
- Provide expert technical assistance and horticultural consulting to park planning and development projects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implement reforestation (over 700 trees), native vegetation, and habitat restoration projects.</li> <li>- Maintain records, files, inventory, fleet vehicles, equipment, tools, supplies, and materials pertinent to areas of responsibility.</li> <li>- Manage unit's budget and prepare annual budget requests for areas of responsibility .</li> <li>- Perform a full range of supervisory human resource (HR) management functions, unit-wide.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Consulting Utility Arborist, Davey Resource Group</b>	Aug 2020-May 2021
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vegetation management, planning, inspection, and analysis.</li> <li>- Provide tree identification and tree protection zone recommendations.</li> <li>- Collect data and document work; assess terrain, habitat, and environmental conditions.</li> <li>- Create tree work maps using geographic information systems (GIS) tools.</li> <li>- Coordinate projects with city foresters, electric power company and customers.</li> <li>- Identity hazardous trees within The District of Columbia boundaries.</li> <li>- Locate suitable planting spots for trees to increase and reach The District of Columbia canopy goals.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Graduate Research Assistant, NC State University</b>	Aug 2017-May 2020
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supervise planting, data collection, and sampling at international and US plantations (Eucalyptus and Gmelina plantations in Colombia; Loblolly pine plantations in eastern North Carolina).</li> <li>- Design, conduct and execute multi-site field, greenhouse, and lab experiments.</li> <li>- Organize, analyze and visualize data from multiple research projects for field, greenhouse and lab experiments.</li> <li>- Perform volumetric analysis, pH, soil nutrients availability, soil nutrients concentration and nutrient mass to evaluate plantation tree stand productivity.</li> <li>- Use statistical software including SAS, JMP, R for multi-variate data analysis including Tukey-Kramer, T-test, and ANOVA.</li> <li>- Collaborate and coordinate with international industry partners, Forestry Productivity Cooperative and University.</li> <li>- Coordinate and participate in Forestry Productivity Cooperative annual meetings (2017- 2019).</li> <li>- Authored 2+ journal articles, 5 conference publications, and 6 oral presentations.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Lab/Field Research Assistant (Soybean Breeding &amp; Nitrogen Fixation), USDA-ARS/ NC State University</b>	Oct 2015-Jul 2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supervision and data collection of soybean harvesting at USDA Nursery in Isabela, Puerto Rico.</li> <li>- Prepare samples for gas chromatography and seed germination testing.</li> <li>- Obtain near-infrared spectroscopy measurements on samples.</li> </ul>	
	<b>Lab/Greenhouse Research Assistant (Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics, seasonal), NC State University Crop Science Department</b>	Feb 2015-Sep 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Care for 10,000+ greenhouse plants (planting, watering, fertilizing, transplanting, repotting, soil preparation).</li> <li>- Perform seed germination in sterile lab environment by following established lab protocols.</li> <li>- Breed plant crosses for improved turfgrass quality.</li> </ul>	

	- Perform <b>DNA extraction</b> and prepare <b>plant tissue samples</b> for flow cytometry measurements.
<b>Agriculture Quarantine Official OIRSA, (International Sanitary Agricultural Organization, Honduras)</b>	Dec 2013-Jan 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead/supervise a team of 12 agricultural inspectors at Honduras/El Salvador/Nicaraguan borders.</li> <li>- Manage inspection/treatment fee accounts.</li> <li>- Maintain import/export records of agricultural products (agricultural chemicals, vegetables, fruits, meats, dairy, livestock feed, etc.).</li> <li>- Identify insect species (<i>lepidoptera, homoptera, coleoptera, orthoptera, diptera, etc.</i>) to determine shipping container risk.</li> <li>- Train agricultural inspectors in inspection, fumigation, and food sanitation requirements.</li> </ul>

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### SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

<b>Journal Articles:</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Highly Reactive Calcium Fertilizer Response on the Growth, Nutrient Availability and Uptake of <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>. (2020) Published.</li> <li>2) <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i> Response to Calcium Fertilization in Colombia. Co-author, (2021) Published.</li> </ol>
<b>Conference Publications:</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Highly Reactive Calcium Fertilizer Response on the Growth, Nutrient Availability and Uptake of <i>Eucalyptus grandis</i>. Poster and five minutes talk section, Forestry Productivity Cooperative 2019 Annual Meeting.</li> <li>4) Highly Reactive Calcium Fertilizer Response on the Growth, Nutrient Availability and Uptake of <i>Pinus taeda, Eucalyptus grandis</i> and <i>Gmelina arborea</i>. Poster section, Latin American Student Association (LASA) Research Symposiums, 2017.</li> </ol>
<b>Awards:</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Performance Recognition Award Prince George's M-NCPPC 2022</li> <li>2) Bruce and Barbara Zobel Endowment for International Forestry Studies, 2017 and 2018.</li> </ol>

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Diversity Council Member, M-NCPPC	2022-2023
Cleanup at Peirce Mill, Rock Creek Conservancy, Volunteer, Washington DC.	2022
Tree planting at UDC, Earth Day, Volunteer, Washington DC.	2022
Member, National Capital Orchid Society, Washington DC.	2020- present
Member, Heart of Texas Orchid Society, Austin TX.	2019-2020
Board of Trustees, Triangle Orchid Society, Raleigh NC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Help organize meetings, plant auctions, and orchid shows.</li> <li>- Avid orchid hobbyist with collection of more than 300+ tropical orchids kept in greenhouse/ terrarium.</li> </ul>	2015-2019
Duke University, Blueprint Nature + Progress, Participant, Raleigh NC.	2018
Lake Johnson Trail Clean, Volunteer, Raleigh NC.	2015
Universities Fighting World Hunger, Conference Work Team. Honduras, Olancho.	2012

### CERTIFICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)	2022-present
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Member, American Planning Association (APA)	2024-present
Instructor, CBLP Sustainable Stormwater BMP Management for Crews.	2022-present
Maryland, Professional Fertilizer Applicator License.	2022-present
Maryland, Public Agency Pesticides Applicator License.	2022-present
Maryland, Certified Professional Horticulturist (CPH).	2023-present

## Amy V. Lindsey

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**Education:**      **Morgan State University**      Baltimore, Maryland  
*Masters of Landscape Architecture, May 2007*

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**      Blacksburg, Virginia  
*Bachelors of Science, Horticulture, Concentration in Landscape Design May 1990*

### Employment:

**Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission**      **Wheaton, Maryland**  
*Planner III (Planner Coordinator), December 2014 – current*  
*Senior Planner, December 2007 – December 2014*  
*Planner, May 2005 – December 2007*  
*Senior Planning Technician, Intern, June 2001 – May 2005*

### Regulatory Review

- Lead reviews of complicated site and subdivision plans for compliance with all regulations, as well as excellence in design.
  - Affordable housing.
  - Multi-phased mixed-use developments.
- Provide regulatory review for all types of development plans including sediment control plans, preliminary plans, site plans, sketch plans, zoning cases, special exceptions, and mandatory referrals. Areas of review include forest conservation law, environmental guidelines, subdivision regulations, master plan, and zoning code compliance.

### Technical Analysis

- Environmental aspects reviewed include water resources and associated buffers, forest, individual trees, wetlands, soils, noise, air quality, and odor.
- Perform GIS analyses at the master plan and individual property levels for imperviousness, tree cover, slopes, and other environmental features that could affect or be affected by development.

### Project Management and Coordination

- Lead projects with complicated timeframes to ensure timely approvals.
- Coordinate other staffs' reviews and summaries for inclusion in staff reports.
- Work with County agencies as property owners, developers, regulatory reviewers, and enforcers.
- Understand other agency regulations and the interactions between types of plans reviewed by other agencies.
- Cooperate with building industry associations to address private sector concerns.

- Coordinate with other staff to ensure consistent review policies and standards.
- Enter all appropriate data and review information in tracking software.

#### Master Plan Support

- Assist in the development of master plans for land use development in developing areas of the County. Perform initial inventory of natural features, coordinate data with other agencies and governing documents, and identify features to protect, preserve and restore. Provide guidance on incorporating health into land use planning.
- Perform carbon footprint analyses for planning areas.
- Develop recommendations for land use in conjunction with other planning specialties to achieve environmental goals such as maximizing urban tree canopy and minimizing impervious surfaces.
- Write chapters and appendices for master plans which include recommendations for the planning area and individual properties.

#### **Other expertise**

Proficient in most computer applications including ePlans, Hansen, ArcView GIS, AutoCad, Adobe Acrobat and Creative Suite products, and Microsoft Office products.

Hand sketches and graphics for presentations.

Previously licensed as a Virginia Certified Pest Applicator and ISA Certified Arborist