

June 4, 2010

Mr. Paul O'Conner, AICP
1500 Monroe Street
Fort Myers, FL 33902

Dear Mr. O'Conner:

I am writing in support of the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA2009-00001) involving Alico West. As you know, the land in question was previously a rock crushing plant located north of Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). While this property is a part of the DRGR lands, it is noteworthy that the land has been severely impacted by historic mining activities. Further, when the university was being created, new zoning was established that increased density on the properties surrounding the university in order to encourage a university community that would be affordable for university employees and students. The land being considered in Alico West would have been included in the original zoning, but at the time, there was an active mining permit, thus the university envelope excluded this land.

Today, there is no longer any mining activity on the property being considered and the university has grown faster than earlier estimates. As we approach 12,000 students this fall with an overall master plan to support 22,000 students within the next ten years, availability of land on the footprint of our original core campus is rapidly declining. Also, future university employees will require moderately priced homes, ideally located near the FGCU campus. Included in the Alico West proposal is a gift of 40 acres of land to the university for its expansion. This parcel, through a road easement, is contiguous to the university. Additionally, Alico West proposes increased densities on the impacted acreage so that affordable homes can be built along with commercial enterprises to encourage the development of a "university village". Obviously, these would be attractive enhancements for the university. Not unrelated is the fact that the land is located in the area of our Innovation Hub (IHUB), FGCU's recent research park initiative. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment being proposed by Alico has the potential of furthering our research efforts.

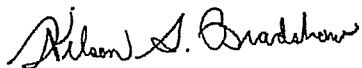
For all of aforementioned reasons, I want to clearly and unequivocally articulate the university's support of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment being proposed. This will provide a means to further evolve the wonderful university community envisioned by past county planners. It will continue the robust and mutually beneficial relationship between the county and the university.



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Finally, it will contribute to the promotion of regional economic development and research as the university strives to provide the best education for the citizens of Southwest Florida. Thank you for your consideration of this Comprehensive Plan Amendment. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wilson A. Bradshaw".

Wilson Bradshaw, Ph.D.
President

WGB:vaf

c: Joe Shepard, VP Finance and Administrative Services