MEMORANDUM
FROM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Date: **May 18, 2012**

To: **Pete Blackwell, Senior Planner**

From: **Doug Griffith, Environmental Planner**
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Project: **Fiddlesticks Parcel**
Case: **CPA2011-00020**
STRAP **34-45-25-00-00001.0000, 34-45-25-00-00002.0000**

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:
ES Staff has reviewed the application submittal and has the following comments and questions:

1) The onsite wetlands had been hydrologically impacted by the construction of the Briarcliff-Fiddlesticks Canal along the southern edge of the property. The canal severed a historic connection to a flowway that originated from the east. However staff has noted that there is offsite hydrologic connectivity from I-75 and construction of the proposed Three Oaks Extension alongside I-75 that will increase stormwater flow. In addition, the property is located within the Six Mile Cypress Slough Watershed. **Objective 60.4 Critical Areas:** The Six Mile Cypress Basin and the Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource land use category are both identified as "critical areas for surface water management." The county will maintain existing regulations to protect the unique environmental and water resource values of these areas.

   ES Staff identifies an opportunity to design the stormwater management system to incorporate the onsite wetlands, offsite flow from the east (I-75 and future Three Oaks Parkway extension), with a connection to the offsite flowway to the north ultimately providing hydrologic connectivity to Six Mile Cypress Slough. Hydrologic connectivity is addressed through the Lee Plan to ensure protection of natural systems and to restore historic flows for water quality, aquifer recharge and removal of pollutants. To ensure that the stormwater management area be designed to meet the intent of and consistency with the Lee Plan, please provide a narrative indicating through the use of stormwater management and offsite flow that hydrologic connectivity to the wetlands and ultimately Six Mile Cypress Slough will be incorporated into the project.

ES Staff's recommendation to incorporate the wetlands into the storm water management system and hydrologic reconnection of the historic flowway is consistent with the following Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Lee Plan:

Goal 60: Coordinated Surface Water Management and Land Use Planning on a Watershed Basis: To protect or improve the quality of receiving waters and surrounding natural areas and the functions of natural groundwater aquifer recharge areas while also providing flood protection for existing and future development.

Lee Plan Objective 60.1: Countywide Program: Lee County will continue its efforts in developing a surface water management program that is multi-objective in scope and is geographically based on basin boundaries.

Lee Plan Policy 60.1.1: Develop surface water management systems in such a manner as to protect or enhance the groundwater table as a possible source of potable water.

Lee Plan Policy 60.1.2: Incorporate, utilize, and where practicable restore natural surface water flow-ways and associated habitats. (Relocated by Ordinance No. 07-12)

Lee Plan Policy 60.1.3: The County will examine steps necessary to restore principal flow-way systems, if feasible, to assure the continued environmental function, value, and use of natural surface water flow-ways and associated wetland systems.

Lee Plan Objective 60.4 Critical Areas: The Six Mile Cypress Basin and the Density Reduction/Groundwater Resource land use category are both identified as "critical areas for surface water management." The county will maintain existing regulations to protect the unique environmental and water resource values of these areas.

Lee Plan Policy 60.4.2: The County will maintain the elimination of the exemptions in its development regulations for agricultural uses and small subdivisions within the "critical areas for surface water management" and will continue to subject these uses to an appropriate review process.

Lee Plan Objective 60.5: Incorporation of Green Infrastructure into the Surface Water Management System: The long-term benefits of incorporating green infrastructure as part of the surface water management system include improved water quality, improved air quality, improved water recharge/infiltration, water storage, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and visual relief within the urban environment.

Lee Plan Policy 60.5.1: The County encourages new developments to design their surface water management systems to incorporate best management practices including, but not limited to, filtration marshes, grassed swales planted with native vegetation, retention/detention lakes with enlarged littoral zones, preserved or restored wetlands and meandering flow-ways.

Lee Plan Policy 60.5.2: The County encourages new developments to design their surface water management system to incorporate existing wetland systems.

Lee Plan Policy 61.2.4: Where feasible within future urban areas, surface water management plans are encouraged that mimic the functions of natural systems, notwithstanding the type or intensity of development permitted.

Lee Plan Objective 61.2: Mimicking the Functions of Natural System: Support a surface water management strategy that relies on natural features and natural systems to receive and otherwise manage storm and surface water.

Lee Plan Policy 61.3.4: Natural flow patterns will be publicly restored where such action is of significant public or environmental benefit, and feasible.