



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES COMMISSIONER ADAM H. PUTNAM

July 12, 2017

VIA EMAIL (bdunn@leegov.com)

Lee County Department of Community Development
Mr. Brandon Dunn
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, Florida 33902-0398

Re: DACS Docket # - 20170613-943
Lee County CPA2016-00013 (Babcock)
Submission dated June 13, 2017

Dear Mr. Dunn:

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the "Department") received the above-referenced proposed comprehensive plan amendment on June 13, 2017. The Department has reviewed the proposal pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 163, Florida Statutes to address any potential adverse impacts to important state resources or facilities related to agricultural, aquacultural, or forestry resources in Florida if the proposed amendment(s) are adopted. Based on our review of your county's submission, the Department respectfully submits the following for consideration.

The proposed amendment includes approximately 4,156 acres in Lee County, with 2,494 acres in conservations/restoration and 1,662 acres being developed. This area has a history of active wildfires, with 24 fires occurring here since 1981. As this proposal goes forward, we encourage the landowner to work with the Florida Forest Service and Lee County Emergency Management to develop and implement mitigation strategies for the community to reduce the risk of wildfire and to suppress fires when they occur. Examples of strategies may include, but are not limited to, good ingress points into all natural/preserve areas, the creation of natural dip sites for aerial wildfire operations, and the establishment of static water sources such as draft sites or fire hydrants for use by fire trucks.

For those areas in conservation/restoration, frequent prescribed burns are encouraged on this land for ecological maintenance and to reduce wildfire risk. It is critical that residents be educated on the importance of prescribed fire and that they be advised of the potential for smoke from these burns.

If debris is burned during the land clearing process, managing the smoke and mitigating its impacts to neighboring communities should be a priority.

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July 7, 2017
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The Florida Forest Service is available to offer technical assistance or to answer any questions. Please contact Caloosahatchee Forestry Center Manager Mike Weston at 239-690-8000.

If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850-410-2280.

Sincerely,



Derek Buchanan
Director
Office of Policy and Budget

cc: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
(SLPA #: Lee County 17-4 DRI)