

February 25, 2016

Ms. Ginger Adair Director, Environmental Management Volusia County

Re: Ordinance 2016-TBD

Dear Ms. Adair,

I write at the behest of the ECVF on the issue of the above referenced ordinance. We believe this ordinance, which seeks to clarify and improve development regulations regarding wetlands and the potential impacts on them, will be welcomed by municipalities and developers alike.

The ECVF supports the County's decision to focus on protection of Priority Wetlands. After going over the draft proposal, our chief concern is that properties that are annexed by municipalities will retain their Priority level status. Currently, 92% of the Priority listed wetlands in the county lie in unincorporated Volusia County. Language in lines 21 and 22 on page 7 of the draft proposal seems to stipulate that annexed land will retain its Priority after annexation. We ask that the final ordinance voted on by the County Council contain language that is unambiguous in nature and leaves no doubt that any Priority listed wetlands that are annexed retain their Priority status after annexation and that parcels adjacent to Priority Wetlands shall receive Priority Review. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Hartgrove Corresponding Secretary, ECVF

cc: Volusia County Council and file