



CITY OF ORMOND BEACH

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Ed Kelley
Mayor

James Stowers
Zone 1

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Rick Boehm
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Bill Partington
Zone 4/Deputy Mayor

February 2, 2016

The Honorable James T. Dinneen
County Manager
Volusia County Council
123 West Indiana Avenue
Deland, FL 32720

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RE: Volusia County Wetlands Regulations

Dear Mr. Dinneen:

The City Commission of the City of Ormond Beach has reviewed the proposed wetland ordinance and **recommends that Volusia County eliminate its wetland regulations like Ormond Beach did in 2010.**

The City, at one time had its own wetland standards that were more stringent than either the County or Saint John's River Water Management (SJRWMD) standards. The City regulations were difficult to administer, created conflict and were misplaced in that the regulations protected isolated wetlands that were not of high quality.

At a time when the region is struggling to recover from the recent economic slump, it is difficult to understand why more stringent wetland regulations are required beyond SJRWMD and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The **FINDINGS** in Sec. 50-201 of the County's proposed ordinance can be satisfied by following the Saint John's requirements and just because subsection (m) acknowledges the authority of the local jurisdiction to adopt additional regulations, there seems to be no compelling reason to do so.

Further, **Sec. 30-203. Purpose and Intent**, of the County's proposed ordinance enumerates laudable goals but seem no different than the goals of the existing Saint John's regulations. The remainder of the proposed ordinance sets forth enforcement strategies, exemption criteria, and appeal procedures.

In keeping with the County's and the Cities' strategic efforts toward economic development and reduced regulation, we would urge the County Council to step away from additional and onerous regulations of wetlands that may inhibit future economic development of the region and let the Saint John's regulations govern wetland impacts for consistency throughout the region.

Sincerely,

Ed Kelley
Mayor