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resources for their long-term
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MyFWC.com

October 8, 2020

Rebecca Hammock
County Services Building
1101 East First Street
Sanford, Florida 32771-1468
rhammock@seminolecountyfl.gov

RE: Seminole County 20-02ESR (Novel Parkway - Large Scale Future Land Use Map Amendment)

Dear Ms. Hammock:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff reviewed the above-referenced comprehensive plan amendment package and provides the following comments and recommendations for your consideration in accordance with Chapter 163.3184, Florida Statutes. While there are no objections to the amendment, the following technical assistance information is provided to assist the Department of Economic Opportunity, the County, and any applicants during the amendment review and future project planning.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed amendment seeks to change the Future Land Use Map from Higher Intensity Planned Development – Target Industry (HIPTI) to Planned Development (PD), with a companion rezoning from Agriculture (A-1) to Planned Development (PD), for a planned multi-family residential and commercial mixed-use development. The subject property is approximately 14.8 acres, located southwest of the Wilson Road and International Parkway intersection. Dominant land covers on-site include mixed hardwood-coniferous (5.5 acres) and coniferous plantations (4.8 acres).

Potentially Affected Resources

No wildlife information was included with the application package for this amendment. FWC staff conducted a geographic information system (GIS) analysis, which found this site located near, within, or adjacent to:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Consultation Areas for the following federally threatened species:
 - Florida scrub-jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*, Federally Threatened)
 - Everglade snail kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis plumbeus*, Federally Endangered)
- Two wood stork (*Mycteria americana*, Federally Threatened [FT]) nesting colony core foraging areas (CFA). The CFA consists of a 15-mile radius around each nesting colony.
- Potential habitat for the following state-listed and managed species:
 - Gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*, State Threatened [ST])
 - Florida sandhill crane (*Antigone canadensis pratensis*, ST)
 - Florida black bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus* – Central Bear Management Unit [BMU])

Comments and Recommendations

Gopher Tortoise

The project area may have potential habitat for the gopher tortoise. The applicant should refer to the FWC's Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (Revised January 2017) (<http://www.myfwc.com/license/wildlife/gopher-tortoise-permits/>) for survey methodology and permitting guidance prior to any development activity. Specifically, the permitting guidelines include methods for avoiding impacts as well as options and state requirements for minimizing, mitigating, and permitting potential impacts of the proposed activities. If you have any questions regarding gopher tortoise permitting, please contact Samantha Cobble by phone at (352) 620-7351 or at Samantha.Cobble@MyFWC.com.

Florida Black Bear

The FWC has received 3,239 reports of human-bear conflicts within a 5-mile radius of the project site since the year 2000. Florida black bears are frequent in this area within the Central BMU identified in the 2019 Bear Management Plan. While black bears tend to shy away from people, they are adaptable and take advantage of human-provided food sources. This includes sources currently available near this site, sources that may be available during construction, and sources available after construction, including unsecured garbage, pet food, and bird seed. Once bears become accustomed to finding food around people, their natural wariness is reduced to the point that there can be an increased risk to public safety or private property.

During construction, construction sites should be kept clean, with refuse that might attract bears kept separate from construction debris and stored securely in bear-resistant containers or removed daily from the construction site before dark. Refuse that might attract bears includes all food and drink-related materials, as well as any items with strong scents like cleaning agents. Once the mixed-use development is completed, residents and tenants should be provided with bear-resistant garbage disposal options as part of their regular waste service, and any larger waste storage containers should also be bear-resistant. Providing residents with information on how to avoid human-bear conflicts is also recommended. This information can include:

- Keeping garbage secure and placing garbage on the curb the morning of pick-up rather than the night before (<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/bear/living/attractants/>);
- Removing bird and wildlife feeders, or modifying them to exclude bears (<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/bear/wildlife-feeders/>);
- Keeping pets safe (<https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/bear/living/protect-pets/>); and
- Cleaning and securing barbeque grills.

Information should also include guidelines for how residents should respond to bears in the area, such as

- What to do if they encounter a bear, whether from a distance or at close range,
- How to keep pets and livestock safe in bear range, and
- When and how to contact the FWC regarding a bear issue.

FWC staff is available to assist with residential planning to incorporate the above features. Additional information about Florida black bears can be found on FWC's website at <http://www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/bear>.

Federal Species

This site may also contain habitat suitable for the federally listed species identified above. FWC staff recommends coordination with USFWS North Florida Ecological Services Office (ESO) as necessary for information regarding potential impacts to these species. The USFWS North Florida ESO can be contacted at (904) 731-3336.

FWC staff appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this project and looks forward to working with the applicant throughout the permitting process. If you have specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Jennifer Paredes at (850) 617-9408 or by email at Jennifer.Paredes@MyFWC.com. All other inquiries may be sent to ConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Hight', is positioned above the typed name.

Jason Hight
Land Use Planning Program Administrator
Office of Conservation Planning Services

jh/jp
Seminole County 20-02ESR_42424_10082020

cc: Ray Eubanks, Florida Department of Economic Opportunity,
DCPexternalagencycomments@deo.myflorida.com