

TO: Polk County Commissioners
Ivan Nance, Lead Planner

Re: LDCU-2025-29

Date: January 19, 2026

Dear Polk County Commissioners,

Please find enclosed individual letters submitted to be considered and each counted in the appeal case regarding LDCU-2025-29. Each letter represents one of the overall 1,300 residents in Saddlebag Lake Resort, whose homes are within mere feet of the proposed sand mine that is to cover 855 acres for 65 years.

This referenced application was defeated in a sound decision based on incompatibility and will soon come before you.

It is with the greatest respect we ask for you to understand the magnitude of what is being proposed. We thank you in advance for giving these the consideration they are very deserving of.

Respectfully,

The Sand Mine Communication Team

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

The Lake Wales area is renowned for its rich biodiversity, including numerous native species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Many of these animals depend on the natural wetlands, forests, and lakes for shelter, breeding, and food sources. The development of a sand mine pit would inevitably lead to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and increased disturbances, all of which threaten the survival of sensitive species.

Potential Impacts

- **Habitat Loss:** Clearing land for mining operations will reduce available natural habitats, forcing wildlife to relocate and potentially decreasing population numbers.
- **Water Quality Degradation:** Mining activities impact local water bodies through sediment runoff, pollution, and changes in groundwater flow, affecting aquatic life and drinking water sources.
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- **Invasive Species:** Disturbed land is more susceptible to invasive plant and animal species, which can outcompete native wildlife and further alter the ecosystem.

Species of Particular Concern

Lake Wales is home to several species of special concern, including bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and Florida scrub-jays to name a few in this Ridge landscape. These animals are already facing pressures from development and habitat loss. Additional industrial disturbance will push these and other species closer to local eradication.

Long-Term Environmental Consequences

The effects of a sand mine are not limited to its immediate footprint. Habitat fragmentation isolates populations, reduces genetic diversity, and make species more vulnerable to disease and climate change. Water pollution and altered landforms has cascading impacts on surrounding ecosystems, harming both wildlife and human communities.

Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Ross Soria

Signature: Ross Soria

Date: 1.14.26

Address 33898: 16 W Saddle Bag TRAIL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name:

Herman Garcia

Signature:

Herman Garcia

Date:

01-16-26

Address 33898:

16 N. Saddlebag TRAIL

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Sincerely,

Name: Christopher Wright

Signature: 

Date: 1-19-20

Address 33898: 17 Saddlebag Trail N
Lake Wales FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Shawne Wright

Signature: 

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 17 N Saddlebag Trail, Lake Wales, FL 33898

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Sincerely,

Name:

Janice Wright

Signature:

Janice Wright

Date:

1-7

Address 33898:

29 Saddlebag Trail

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Sincerely,

Name:

Kelly Wright

Signature:

Kelly Wright

Date:

1-19-20

Address 33898:

29 Saddlebag Trail
Lake Wales FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Felicia Geiger

Signature: Felicia Geiger

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 12 ginger hill

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Janice Carroll

Signature: Janice Carroll

Date: Jan. 19

Address 33898: 102 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: HOLIS CARRON

Signature: Hol. Carron

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 102 Silvercreek

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Name:

FRANCIS TYSON

Signature:

Francis Tyson

Date:

1-19-2026

Address 33898:

10 RC

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Sincerely,

Name: Tera Borrero

Signature: Tera Borrero

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 7 Queen of Water

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Debra Buchman

Signature: Debra Buchman

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 27 Grey Fox Lane

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Name: THEODORE MILLER

Signature: Theodore Miller

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 40 SILERSIDES

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Species of Particular Concern

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Call to Action

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Cindy Koeppl

Signature: Cindy Koeppl

Date: 1-19-28

Address 33898: 18 Stonefly

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

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Sincerely,

Name: Nancy Warner

Signature: Nancy Warner

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 23 5TN

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Joy Scherr

Signature: 

Date: Jan. 19/26

Address 33898: 98 55

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Olive Blair

Signature: Olive Blair

Date: Jan 19/26

Address 33898: 77 SLB

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Jo Ann Thompson

Signature: Jo Ann Thompson

Date: Jan 19, 2026

Address 33898: 53 Benwick Rd

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Ruth A Miller

Signature: Ruth A. Miller

Date: 1/19/24

Address 33898: 40 Selevsides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert Masser

Signature: Robert Masser

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 5455 Saddlebag Lake Rd.
27 Red Quill
Lake Wales, Florida
33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Peggy Masser

Signature: Peggy Masser

Date: Jan. 19, 2026

Address 33898: 5455 Saddlebag Lake Rd, #27 RQ
Lake Wales, FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Tony Cabido

Signature: Tony Cabido

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 101 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Tony Gabardo

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

1-19-26

Address 33898:

103 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Carolyn Shoup

Signature: Carolyn Shoup

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 49 Silversides

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Sincerely,

Name: Keili Cabido

Signature: Keili Cabido

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 101 Saddlebay Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Larry Garvin

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

1-19-26

Address 33898:

29 Silver Side

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Yuri Cabido

Signature: Yuri Cabido

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 103 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Name: Lynette Larson

Signature: Lynette Larson

Date: Jan. 19, 2026

Address 33898: 3 Catskill Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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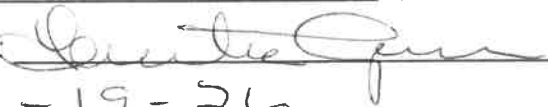
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Sincerely,

Name:

Lori Garcia

Signature:



Date:

1-19-26

Address 33898:

29 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: PATRICIA RIGG

Signature: Patricia Rigg

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 32 GRAYHACKLE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Tom Brady

Signature: Tom Brady

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 17 Silver Sides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Row POSANTE

Signature: Row Posante

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 11 SILVERSIDE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: TENISHA Boehl

Signature: Laura Koebel

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 6 Silver Doctor

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Timothy Goebel

Signature: Timothy Goebel

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 6 Silver Doctor Ln.

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Sincerely,

Name: Beverly Segur

Signature: Beverly Segur

Date: 1-19-20

Address 33898: #2 Saddlebag Trail North

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: CHERYL S F RUP

Signature: Cheryl Sign

Date: 1-20-20

Address 33898: #2 SADDLEBROOK Trail North

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address 33898:

Pam Grooms
Pam Grooms.
1-19-26
3 Woodruff.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Name: Terry DeBay-Gustafson

Signature: 

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 29 Starfly Cir., LAKE WALES, FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: John E. Ryan

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 53 Silversides St

Lake Wales, FL

33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Mary Denise Ryan

Signature: Mary Denise Ryan

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 53 Silversides St

Lake Wales, FL

33898

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Lake Wales is home to several species of special concern, including bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and Florida scrub-jays to name a few in this Ridge landscape. These animals are already facing pressures from development and habitat loss. Additional industrial disturbance will push these and other species closer to local eradication.

Long-Term Environmental Consequences

The effects of a sand mine are not limited to its immediate footprint. Habitat fragmentation isolates populations, reduces genetic diversity, and make species more vulnerable to disease and climate change. Water pollution and altered landforms has cascading impacts on surrounding ecosystems, harming both wildlife and human communities.

Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: TERRY ARMSTRONG

Signature: Terry Armstrong

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 95 Beaverkill Dr

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Name: Marianna Title

Signature: Marianna Title

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 65 Silversides St.

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Name: JANE PICKARD

Signature: Jane Pickard

Date: Jan 19/26

Address 33898: 12 S. SILVER DOCTOR

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Address 33898: _____

23 BLUE DEVIL CIR

LAKE WALES FL 33898

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Name:

Harold Hoagland

Signature:

Harold Hoagland

Date:

1.19.26

Address 33898:

37 Saddlebag Trail

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Name: Barbara Mansbury

Signature: Barbara M. Mansbury

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 34 Beaverkill

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding the Impacts of Sand Mines on Water Resources in Florida

Date: January 12, 2026

To: The County Commissioners and County Planner

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Sand mining often involves the removal of large quantities of sand from below the water table, which can have direct consequences for aquifers. In Florida, where much of our potable water comes from underground sources, this is especially concerning. The disruption of sand and gravel layers can alter the natural filtration of rainwater, potentially reducing the recharge rates of aquifers and lowering the water table. This can lead to reduced availability of clean water for homes, agriculture, and industry.

Surface Water Pollution

The process of sand extraction can increase sedimentation and turbidity in nearby lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This sediment can smother aquatic habitats, disrupt fish spawning grounds, and degrade water quality. Additionally, chemicals used in the mining process or from fuel spills have the potential to leach into waterways, causing further environmental harm.

Wetland and Ecosystem Degradation

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Aside from environmental concerns, the degradation of water resources may also affect property values, recreational opportunities, and local tourism-key elements of Florida's economy. Water scarcity or contamination can impose long-term costs on residents and local governments, including the need for more expensive water treatment and infrastructure.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you prioritize the protection of our water resources when considering sand mine proposals and ask that you deny this appeal. Our community's health, economy, and natural heritage depend on responsible stewardship of these vital assets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Name:

Gaurie Hawkins - Belden

Signature:

Gaurie Hawkins - Belden

Date:

1/20/26

Address 33898:

South Shore # 93

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

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Name:

Phil Belden

Signature:

Phillip Belden

Date:

1/20/24

Address 33898:

South Shore #93

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Name:

Sherry Norton

Signature:

Sherry Norton

Date:

1-17-2026

Address 33898:

7395 International Circle

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

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Name: Connie Siefers

Signature: Connie Siefers

Date: 1/17/26

Address 33898: 7364 International Circle

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Name: Donald Hoffman

Signature: Donald Hoffman

Date: 1/17/2026

Address 33898: 7386 International Circle.
LAKE WALES.

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Name: Jennifer L. Gearheart

Signature: Jennifer L. Gearheart

Date: 1-16-2026

Address 33898: 7355 midway lane Lake Wales Fl.

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

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Name:

RICHARD DIETRICH

Signature:

Richard Dietrich

Date:

1-14-26

Address 33898:

7356 MIDWAY LANE

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

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In closing, I respectfully ask that you prioritize the protection of our water resources when considering sand mine proposals and ask that you deny this appeal. Our community's health, economy, and natural heritage depend on responsible stewardship of these vital assets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Name:

Jonathan Tennant

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

1/20/26

Address 33898:

7387 International Cir
Lake Wales FL 33898

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding the Impacts of Sand Mines on Water Resources in Florida

Date: January 12, 2026

To: The County Commissioners and County Planner

Dear County Commissioners and County Planner,

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Impacts on Groundwater Resource

Sand mining often involves the removal of large quantities of sand from below the water table, which can have direct consequences for aquifers. In Florida, where much of our potable water comes from underground sources, this is especially concerning. The disruption of sand and gravel layers can alter the natural filtration of rainwater, potentially reducing the recharge rates of aquifers and lowering the water table. This can lead to reduced availability of clean water for homes, agriculture, and industry.

Surface Water Pollution

The process of sand extraction can increase sedimentation and turbidity in nearby lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This sediment can smother aquatic habitats, disrupt fish spawning grounds, and degrade water quality. Additionally, chemicals used in the mining process or from fuel spills have the potential to leach into waterways, causing further environmental harm.

Wetland and Ecosystem Degradation

Sand mines are frequently located near or within wetland areas, which serve as critical natural buffers during heavy rains and hurricanes. The removal of sand and vegetation can reduce the ability of wetlands to store and filter water, making communities more

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Respectfully,

Name: Ronald Tanney

Signature: R. Tanney

Date: 1-17-26

Address 33898: 7205 Windsony Dr Lake Wales

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Respectfully,

Name: Harold Vinson

Signature: H Vinson

Date: Jan 17th, 2026

Address 33898: 7346 Midway Ln

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

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Respectfully,

Name:

Terry Van Heukelum

Signature:

Terry Van Heukelum

Date:

1-17-20

Address 33898:

7390 International Circle
Lake Wales, FL

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Respectfully,

Name: Cuzman Boffe

Signature: Cuzman Boffe

Date: 1-17-26

Address 33898: 7346 Manway Lane

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Respectfully,

Name: Eric Van Heukelum

Signature: 

Date: Jan - 17 - 20

Address 33898: 7590 International, Cy -

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Respectfully,

Name:

GVERN JOHNSON

Signature:



Date:

1/17/26

Address 33898:

7349 MIDWAY AVE

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Respectfully,

Name: Jane Denton

Signature: Jane Denton

Date: Jan. 17. 2026

Address 33898: 2334 INTERWETLAND CR
LAKE WILKS FL 33898

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Name: Beverly Brady

Signature: Beverly Brady

Date: 1/17/2025

Address 33898: 7315 International Cir
Lake Wales, FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

The Lake Wales area is renowned for its rich biodiversity, including numerous native species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Many of these animals depend on the natural wetlands, forests, and lakes for shelter, breeding, and food sources. The development of a sand mine pit would inevitably lead to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and increased disturbances, all of which threaten the survival of sensitive species.

Potential Impacts

- **Habitat Loss:** Clearing land for mining operations will reduce available natural habitats, forcing wildlife to relocate and potentially decreasing population numbers.
- **Water Quality Degradation:** Mining activities impact local water bodies through sediment runoff, pollution, and changes in groundwater flow, affecting aquatic life and drinking water sources.
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- **Invasive Species:** Disturbed land is more susceptible to invasive plant and animal species, which can outcompete native wildlife and further alter the ecosystem.

Species of Particular Concern

Lake Wales is home to several species of special concern, including bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and Florida scrub-jays to name a few in this Ridge landscape. These animals are already facing pressures from development and habitat loss. Additional industrial disturbance will push these and other species closer to local eradication.

Long-Term Environmental Consequences

The effects of a sand mine are not limited to its immediate footprint. Habitat fragmentation isolates populations, reduces genetic diversity, and make species more vulnerable to disease and climate change. Water pollution and altered landforms has cascading impacts on surrounding ecosystems, harming both wildlife and human communities.

Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Jim Rayl

Signature: Jim Rayl

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 18 Royal Coachman

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Beth Neve

Signature: Beth Neve

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 33 Stone Fly

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Darrell Eason

Signature: Darrell Eason

Date: Jan 19/26

Address 33898: 2 Blue Quail Circle
Lake Wales, FL.
33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Name:

Deb Moody

Signature:

Deb Moody

Date:

Jan 19, 2026

Address 33898:

2 Blue Quill Circle
Lake Wales, FL
33898

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Sincerely,

Name:

Kathy Pratt

Signature:

Kathy Pratt

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

6 Saddlebag Trail S.
Lake Wales FL.

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Call to Action

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Greg Pratt

Signature: 

Date: 1/19/20

Address 33898: 6 Saddlebag Trail S.
Lake Wales, FL.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Laurie Jacobs

Signature:

Lauri Jacobs

Date:

1.19.26

Address 33898:

33 Blue Quill

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Cheryl Brady

Signature: Cheryl Brady

Date: Jan 19 / 2026

Address 33898: 4 Silversides, Lake Wales, FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Richard Fredrickson

Signature: Richard Fredrickson

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 45 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert Miller

Signature: Robert Miller

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 90 Silver Sides Lake Wales FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Cindy D. Baker

Signature: Cindy D. Baker

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 15 Queen of Waters

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Ronald K. Baker

Signature: Ronald K. Baker

Date: 1/19/2025

Address 33898: 8 Silver Doctor

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Tim Breitigan

Signature: Tim Breitigan

Date: 1/19/24

Address 33898: 26 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Pat Wallwin

Signature: Pat Wallwin

Date: January 19 2026

Address 33898: 5709 Saddlebag Lake Rd
47 Woodruff Way
Lake Wales Fla
33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Inge Voisard

Signature: Inge Voisard

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 2 Catskill

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: GERY VOISARD

Signature: Gery Voisard

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 2 CATSKILL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Kim Wagner

Signature:

Kim Wagner

Date:

Jan 19/26

Address 33898:

48 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Bill Wagner

Signature:

Bill Wagner

Date:

Jan 19/26

Address 33898:

48 Silverides

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Sincerely,

Name: Deniele Pahl

Signature: Deniele Pahl

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 82 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

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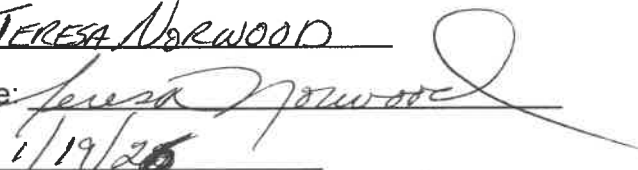
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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: TERESA NORWOOD

Signature: 

Date: 1/19/20

Address 33898: 83 Silversides St

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Karen Ashley

Signature: Karen Ashley

Date: 11/19/2026

Address 33898: 7 Red Quill

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: GARY R SCHEVERS

Signature: Gary R Schevers

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 16 SADDLE BAG TRAIL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Debbie Messer

Signature: Debbie Messer

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 70 W Lake Wales Fl

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Jennie Beal

Signature: Jennie Beal

Date: Jan. 19, 2026

Address 33898: 6955

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Julie Ibriks

Signature: Julie Ibriks

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 18 Grayhackle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: JOHN IBRIKS

Signature: 

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 18 GRAYHACKLE ST

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Sincerely,

Name: Dorothy Logan

Signature: Dorothy G. Logan

Date: Jan 19, 2026

Address 33898: 48 Queen of Waters St. Lake Wales, FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: David Ashley

Signature: David Ashley

Date: 1/14/2026

Address 33898: 7 Redoubt Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Erna Friasen

Signature: Erna Friasen

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 30 Silvercreek

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Mary Wardwell

Signature: Mary Wardwell

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 70 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: JAMES WARDWELL

Signature: James Wardwell

Date: 10-19-25

Address 33898: 70 SADDLEBAG TRAIL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Brenda Grimm Brenda G. 'm m

Signature: Brenda Grimm

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 6# Woodruff Way

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Arlene Ireland

Signature: Arlene E. Ireland

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 5460 Saddlebag Trk Rd
Lake Wales, FL 33898
7 Woodruff Way

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: HAROLD PRAY

Signature: Harold Pray

Date: Jan 19 - 2026

Address 33898: 41 RED QUILL CIRCLE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Ina Hunter

Signature: Ina Hunter

Date: Jan 19, '26

Address 33898: 105 ST

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Michael Mayberry

Signature: M. Mayberry

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 4 Woodruff Ln

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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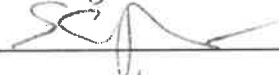
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Sincerely,

Name:

Gray P. Dean

Signature:



Date: Jan 19 / 2026

Address 33898: 4 S, 1st side Lake Wales 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Orville Hunter

Signature:

Orville Hunter

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

105 SB

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: DIANNE GILLIES

Signature: *D. Gillies*

Date: Jan. 19, 2026

Address 33898: 77 R.C.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address 33898:

JOHN O'DAY
1-19-26
5 GREENWICH ST

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Kathleen J. O'Dom

Signature: Kathleen J. O'Dom

Date: 1/12/26

Address 33898: 5 Grayhackle st.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Diane Murphy

Signature: Diane Murphy

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 16 Red Bull Circle
Lake Wales

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: JANET H RAYL

Signature: Janet H. Rayl

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 18 Royal Coachman

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Judy Langner

Signature: Judy Langner

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 4 RQ

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name:

Veronica Varner

Signature:

Veronica Varner

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898:

25 RQ

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name:

Steve Gillies

Signature:

Steve Gillies

Date:

Jan 19/26

Address 33898:

77 Royal Coachman St.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Name: Martha Woodruff

Signature: Martha Woodruff

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: #4QW, 5686 Saddlebag LK Rd, Lake Wales

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Gail Kondi

Signature: Gail Kondi

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 115 Saddlebay Trl
Lake Wales FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Jean Schavers

Signature: Jean Schavers

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 16 S Bog Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Bruce & Sue Toothaker

Signature: Bruce & Sue Toothaker

Date: Jan 19th 2026

Address 33898: 19 Saddle Bay Trail North

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: TIMOTHY P YOUNG

Signature: Timothy P. Young

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: SADDLEBAG TRAIL NORTH 27
PO# 5560 SADDLE BAG TRAIL.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: John Antonio

Signature: John Antonio

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 26 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Deborah A. Laley

Signature:

DEBORAH A. LALEY

Date:

1/19/2026

Address 33898:

26 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Lynne Baker

Signature: Lynne Baker

Date: 1-19-24

Address 33898: 67 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Charlie Mounce

Signature: 

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 59 Woodruff Way

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Name: Terry Mounce

Signature: Deresa M. Mounce

Date: 1/19/20

Address 33898: 59 Woodruff Way

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Sincerely,

Name: Linda Gross

Signature: Linda Gross

Date: Jan 19 2026

Address 33898: 26575 Lake Wales Fl.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Thomas R. MORAVEC

Signature: 

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 12 Red Quail Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Terry Casico Jr.

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

1/19/2026

Address 33898:

39 Woodluff Way 5245 Saddlebag Lake Rd.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Call to Action

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Janet Cariofe

Signature: Janet Cariofe

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 39 Woodruff Way, Lake Wales
Box 5255 Saddlebag Lake Rd Lake Wales

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Name: SUZANNE SPEIDEL

Signature: Suzanne Speidel

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 21 ROYA/ COACHMAN St

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: ROBERT J. Speidel

Signature: Robert J. Speidel

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 21 ROYAL COACHMAN ST

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: PATRICIA VAUGHAN

Signature: Patricia Vaughan

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 41 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Chris Bower

Signature:

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Date:

JAN 19, 2028

Address 33898:

31 SBLT

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert Clark

Signature: R. Clark

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 7 Saddlebag Trail South

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Ruth A Schafer

Signature: Ruth A Schafer

Date: 1/18/26

Address 33898: 5362 Saddlebag Lake Rd.
39 Queen of Waters
Lake Wales, FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: ELIZABETH PACE

Signature: Elizabeth Pace

Date: 1/29/26

Address 33898: 6 Pink Lady

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Bruce LaLiberte

Signature: Bruce LaLiberte

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 1 Saddlebag Trail North
Lake Wales, FL 33898

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Name: Sheila Mayfield

Signature: nm

Date: 1/19/16

Address 33898: 23 Woodruff Way

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Norma Och

Signature: Norma Och

Date: 1/19/20

Address 33898: 45 Royal Coachman Rd, Lake Wales, FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Kera Och

Signature: Kera H. Och

Date: 01-19-2020

Address 33898: 45 Royal Coachmen

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Appeal on Proposed Sand Mine in Lake Wales – Impacts to Ground Water, Aquifer, Evaporation Rates, and Confining Layers

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the pending appeal for the proposed sand mine development in Lake Wales. As a resident and stakeholder in Polk County, I urge you to carefully consider the long-term environmental consequences this project may have on our local water resources, particularly in relation to ground water, the underlying aquifer, evaporation rates, and the integrity of confining layers.

Ground Water Impacts

Sand mining operations typically require significant dewatering processes, which can lower the water table and affect nearby wells and wetlands. The alteration of natural hydrology may lead to reduced water availability for residential, agricultural, and ecological purposes. Any changes to ground water levels could have a cascading effect on local ecosystems and the livelihoods of residents who rely on these resources.

Aquifer Vulnerability

Lake Wales sits atop sensitive portions of the Floridan aquifer system, one of the principal sources of potable water in Central Florida. The removal of sand and the disturbance of protective soil layers may increase the risk of contamination and reduce the natural recharge capacity of the aquifer. This could threaten the future sustainability of our drinking water supply and undermine the resilience of the aquifer to drought conditions.

Evaporation Rates and Water Loss

Open mining pits and exposed water surfaces can significantly increase evaporation rates, leading to additional loss of valuable water resources. In a region where water conservation is already a pressing concern, any activity that accelerates evaporation should be carefully scrutinized. Increased evaporation not only reduces available water but may also alter microclimates and affect local agriculture.

Confining Layers and Environmental Integrity

The confining layers that separate surface water from deep aquifer systems act as natural barriers against pollution and excessive water loss. Disturbance or removal of these layers during sand mining operations can compromise their effectiveness, potentially allowing contaminants to migrate more freely into the aquifer and increasing susceptibility to sinkholes or subsidence. Protecting these layers is critical to maintaining the long-term health of our water resources.

Conclusion and Request

Given the potential risks outlined above, I respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners deny this sand mine appeal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I trust that you will consider the well-being of Polk County's residents and environment in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Name: Betty Malburg

Signature: Betty Malburg

Date: 1-12-26

Address 33898: 9 Pink Lady Ln.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Sandra Danover

Signature: Sandra Danover

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 24 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

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- **Invasive Species:** Disturbed land is more susceptible to invasive plant and animal species, which can outcompete native wildlife and further alter the ecosystem.

Species of Particular Concern

Lake Wales is home to several species of special concern, including bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and Florida scrub-jays to name a few in this Ridge landscape. These animals are already facing pressures from development and habitat loss. Additional industrial disturbance will push these and other species closer to local eradication.

Long-Term Environmental Consequences

The effects of a sand mine are not limited to its immediate footprint. Habitat fragmentation isolates populations, reduces genetic diversity, and make species more vulnerable to disease and climate change. Water pollution and altered landforms has cascading impacts on surrounding ecosystems, harming both wildlife and human communities.

Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: TOD DAVIS

Signature: 

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 65 Siversides St.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: MICHAEL KABACINSKI

Signature: 

Date: 1-19-2024

Address 33898: 5181 SADDLEBAK LAKE RD LAKE WALES FL.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Nancy Kabacinski

Signature: Nancy Kabacinski

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 5181 Saddleback Rd Lake Wales, FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Name: _____

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Date: _____

Address 33898: _____

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Sincerely,

Name: Robin Mussaw

Signature: Robin Mussaw

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 56 Silversides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Bonita Cameron

Signature: Bonita E. Cameron

Date: Jan. 19, 2026

Address 33898: 39 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: DAWN Schwent

Signature: Dawn Schwent

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 25 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: JANET S. Cook

Signature: Janet S. Cook

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 58 Beaverkill Dr, Lake Wales Fl. 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Lyle J. J. J.

Signature: Lyle J. J. J.

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 5259 Sandkey Lake Rd. F.L.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: RANDAL S. LOGAN

Signature: Randal S. Logan

Date: 04/19/2026

Address 33898: 48 QUEEN OF WATERS ST

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Marsha Pawley

Signature: Marsha Pawley

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 26 Saddlebag Trail North

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Steven R. Pawley

Signature: Steven R. Pawley

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 36 Saddlabay Trail North
Lake Wales

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Carol Martin

Signature: Carol Martin

Date: Jan 19/26

Address 33898: 33 Silverside

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Sharon Martin

Signature: Sharon Martin

Date: January 19 2026

Address 33898: 33 Silverside

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address 33898:


VERONICA SCHNEILSKI
19 JAN 2026
5121 Saddlebag Lake Rd

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Jill L. Wilke

Signature: Jill L. Wilke

Date: 1. 19. 2026

Address 33898: 27 Blue Quill

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Jane E. Hein

Signature: Jane E. Hein

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 13 Saddle Bag Trail S.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Molly S. O'Connell

Signature: Molly S. O'Connell

Date: 1/29/26

Address 33898: 5 Blue Quill Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Anna Hoop

Signature: Anna Hoop

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 6 ST

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: JOAN HANNON

Signature: Joan Hannon

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 24 SILVER DR, LANE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Sue Youngblut

Signature: Sue Youngblut

Date: Jan 19 2016

Address 33898: 26 Bearkell Dr
S. L. R.

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: JUDITH LEE

Signature: Judith Lee

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 59 SADDLEBAG TRAIL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Elaine H. Try

Signature:

Elaine H. Try

Date:

June 19, 2018

Address 33898:

25 RD

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Maryann Kohl

Signature: Maryann Kohl

Date: 1-19-26 24 Saddlebag TRS.

Address 33898: 5337 Saddlebag Lake Rd
Lake Wales, FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: James Paul Cook

Signature: James Paul Cook

Date: 1/19/24

Address 33898: 58 Beaverkill Lake Wales

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: William A Schmeilski

Signature: William A Schmeilski

Date: 19 JAN 2024

Address 33898: 5121 Saddlebag Lake Rd

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Rhonda Rydzewski

Signature:

Rhonda Rydzewski

Date:

1-19-26

Address 33898:

206Q

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

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Species of Particular Concern

Lake Wales is home to several species of special concern, including bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and Florida scrub-jays to name a few in this Ridge landscape. These animals are already facing pressures from development and habitat loss. Additional industrial disturbance will push these and other species closer to local eradication.

Long-Term Environmental Consequences

The effects of a sand mine are not limited to its immediate footprint. Habitat fragmentation isolates populations, reduces genetic diversity, and make species more vulnerable to disease and climate change. Water pollution and altered landforms has cascading impacts on surrounding ecosystems, harming both wildlife and human communities.

Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: RICHARD CLARK

Signature: Richard Clark

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 89 BK

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: MARILYN STORIN

Signature: Marilyn Storin

Date: 01/16/17

Address 33898: 27 BLUE GULL CIRCLE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Kathleen West

Signature: Kathleen West

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 15 Parson Tom Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Shirley Beron

Signature: Shirley M Beron

Date: 1-15-26

Address 33898: 6 Parson Tom Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: RICHARD STRIPP

Signature: Richard Stripp

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 61 WOODRUFF WAY

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: ELIZABETH STRIPP

Signature: Elizabeth Stripp

Date: 1/19/24

Address 33898: 62 WOODRUFF WAY

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: DEBORAH LAMB

Signature: Deborah Lamb

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 57 WOODRUFF WAY

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Shirley Beron

Signature:

Shirley M Beron

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

34 Queen of Water

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Helen Wilson

Signature: Helen Wilson

Date: 1/20/26

Address 33898: 2575

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: JAMES HITZ

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: JAN 19 / 2026

Address 33898: 20 GRAYHACKLE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name:

Norann Beron

Signature:

Norann Beron

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

13 Saddlebag Trail

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Brayden Shenn

Signature:

Brayden Shenn

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

10 Pink Lady

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name:

Eian Beron Sr

Signature:

Eian Beron Sr

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

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Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: Jack West

Signature: Jack West

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 12 Penk Lady

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

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Sincerely,

Name: Steve Larsen

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 5 Catskill Cr

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Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Laurie Welch

Signature: Laurie Welch

Date: Jan 19 2026

Address 33898: 27 Beaverhill Dr

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Pamela Carson

Signature: Pamela Carson

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 5 Cabell Circle

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: William Gredl

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1/19/24

Address 33898: 101 BK

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Sincerely,

Name:

Penny Sredl

Signature:

Penny Sredl

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

67 BK

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Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Gary Sallans

Signature: Gary Sallans

Date: 1-19-20

Address 33898: 30 Saddle bag Trail North

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Elaine Sallans

Signature: Elaine Sallans

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 30 Saddlebag Trail North

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Appeal on Proposed Sand Mine in Lake Wales – Impacts to Ground Water, Aquifer, Evaporation Rates, and Confining Layers

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the pending appeal for the proposed sand mine development in Lake Wales. As a resident and stakeholder in Polk County, I urge you to carefully consider the long-term environmental consequences this project may have on our local water resources, particularly in relation to ground water, the underlying aquifer, evaporation rates, and the integrity of confining layers.

Ground Water Impacts

Sand mining operations typically require significant dewatering processes, which can lower the water table and affect nearby wells and wetlands. The alteration of natural hydrology may lead to reduced water availability for residential, agricultural, and ecological purposes. Any changes to ground water levels could have a cascading effect on local ecosystems and the livelihoods of residents who rely on these resources.

Aquifer Vulnerability

Lake Wales sits atop sensitive portions of the Floridan aquifer system, one of the principal sources of potable water in Central Florida. The removal of sand and the disturbance of protective soil layers may increase the risk of contamination and reduce the natural recharge capacity of the aquifer. This could threaten the future sustainability of our drinking water supply and undermine the resilience of the aquifer to drought conditions.

Evaporation Rates and Water Loss

Open mining pits and exposed water surfaces can significantly increase evaporation rates, leading to additional loss of valuable water resources. In a region where water conservation is already a pressing concern, any activity that accelerates evaporation should be carefully scrutinized. Increased evaporation not only reduces available water but may also alter microclimates and affect local agriculture.

Confining Layers and Environmental Integrity

The confining layers that separate surface water from deep aquifer systems act as natural barriers against pollution and excessive water loss. Disturbance or removal of these layers during sand mining operations can compromise their effectiveness, potentially allowing contaminants to migrate more freely into the aquifer and increasing susceptibility to sinkholes or subsidence. Protecting these layers is critical to maintaining the long-term health of our water resources.

Conclusion and Request

Given the potential risks outlined above, I respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners deny this sand mine appeal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I trust that you will consider the well-being of Polk County's residents and environment in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Name: Lynette Larson

Signature: Lynette Larson

Date: Jan. 17, 2025

Address 33898: 3 Catskill Circle

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding the Impacts of Sand Mines on Water Resources in Florida

Date: January 12, 2026

To: The County Commissioners and County Planner

Dear County Commissioners and County Planner,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of Saddlebag Lake Resort regarding the potential impacts of a Proposed sand mining operation on water resources throughout Florida. As you consider current and future applications for sand mine developments in our county, I urge you to take into account the significant risks these activities pose to our groundwater, surface water, and the overall health of our ecosystems.

Impacts on Groundwater Resources

Sand mining often involves the removal of large quantities of sand from below the water table, which can have direct consequences for aquifers. In Florida, where much of our potable water comes from underground sources, this is especially concerning. The disruption of sand and gravel layers can alter the natural filtration of rainwater, potentially reducing the recharge rates of aquifers and lowering the water table. This can lead to reduced availability of clean water for homes, agriculture, and industry.

Surface Water Pollution

The process of sand extraction can increase sedimentation and turbidity in nearby lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This sediment can smother aquatic habitats, disrupt fish spawning grounds, and degrade water quality. Additionally, chemicals used in the mining process or from fuel spills have the potential to leach into waterways, causing further environmental harm.

Wetland and Ecosystem Degradation

Sand mines are frequently located near or within wetland areas, which serve as critical natural buffers during heavy rains and hurricanes. The removal of sand and vegetation can reduce the ability of wetlands to store and filter water, making communities more

vulnerable to flooding and decreasing the resilience of native plant and animal populations.

Long-Term Community Impacts

Aside from environmental concerns, the degradation of water resources may also affect property values, recreational opportunities, and local tourism—key elements of Florida's economy. Water scarcity or contamination can impose long-term costs on residents and local governments, including the need for more expensive water treatment and infrastructure.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you prioritize the protection of our water resources when considering sand mine proposals and ask that you deny this appeal. Our community's health, economy, and natural heritage depend on responsible stewardship of these vital assets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Name: KEITH WALKER

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: JAN 12 / 20

Address 33898: 47 WOODRUFF WAY

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

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Sincerely,

Name: Linda Marsh

Signature: Linda Marsh

Date: 1-13-2026

Address 33898: 19 Queen of Waters

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Sincerely,

Name:

PAUL MARSH

Signature:

Paul Marsh

Date:

1/13/26

Address 33898:

19 OCEAN OF WATERS

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: WILLIAM J. GUSTAFSON

Signature: WJG

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 29 STONEFLY CIRCLE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: LINDA BEHYMER

Signature: Linda Behymer

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 56 BEAVERKILL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Karen Baithan

Signature: Karen Baithan

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 42 SL Rd

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

JOE WITTE

Signature:

Joe Witte

Date:

1/19/26

Address 33898:

33 ROYAL COACHMAN ST.

SANTA SAYS NO! NO! NO!
TO THE SAND MINE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Bonnie Arneson

Signature: Bonnie Arneson

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 20 Woodruff Way

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: BARRY COFFMAN

Signature: 

Date: 01-19-2026

Address 33898: 3 RED GRUB CIRCLE

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Sarah A. Fillingame

Signature: Sarah A. Fillingame

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 47 Red Oak

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: ROBERT BEAHON

Signature: Robert Beahon

Date: 01-19-2026

Address 33898: 49 BEAVER KILL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Karen Beahon

Signature: Karen Beahon

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 49 Beaverkill Dr.

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Sincerely,

Name: Joan Hartshorn

Signature: Joan Hartshorn

Date: 1/19/2026

Address 33898: 18 Ginger Quill 33898
Lake Wales FL

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Name: Charles Beal

Signature: Charles Beal

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 69 SilverSides

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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Name: CONOR HARTSHORN

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 18 GINGER QUAIL CIR

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

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Sincerely,

Name: Michael Lavallee

Signature: Mike Lavallee

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 5110 Saddlebag Lake Rd 793K
LAKE WALES FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: LINDA LAVALEE

Signature: Linda Lavallee

Date: 1-19-2026

Address 33898: 5110 Saddlebag Lake Rd 79BK
LAKE WALES, FL 33898

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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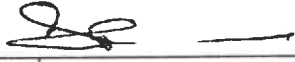
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Sincerely,

Name: John Tavernant

Signature: 

Date: 1/19/2025

Address 33898: 20 Beaverkill Drive

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

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- **Invasive Species:** Disturbed land is more susceptible to invasive plant and animal species, which can outcompete native wildlife and further alter the ecosystem.

Species of Particular Concern

Lake Wales is home to several species of special concern, including bald eagles, gopher tortoises, and Florida scrub-jays to name a few in this Ridge landscape. These animals are already facing pressures from development and habitat loss. Additional industrial disturbance will push these and other species closer to local eradication.

Long-Term Environmental Consequences

The effects of a sand mine are not limited to its immediate footprint. Habitat fragmentation isolates populations, reduces genetic diversity, and make species more vulnerable to disease and climate change. Water pollution and altered landforms has cascading impacts on surrounding ecosystems, harming both wildlife and human communities.

Call to Action

Protecting our natural heritage is not only vital for animals but also for the well-being and future of our community.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly urge you to protect the long-term welfare of Lake Wales' wildlife and ecosystems and deny the appeal.

Sincerely,

Name: JANE MARTINOS +

Signature: J. Martinos

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 31 Silver Doctor Lane

Advocating for Protection of Local Ecosystems

Re: LDCU-2025-29

January 19, 2026

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed construction of a sand mine pit abutting Saddlebag Lake Resort in Lake Wales, Florida. As a resident and advocate for wildlife conservation, I believe it is crucial to consider the significant impacts that such a project could have on our local ecosystems and the diverse species that call Lake Wales home.

Threats to Wildlife and Habitat

The Lake Wales area is renowned for its rich biodiversity, including numerous native species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Many of these animals depend on the natural wetlands, forests, and lakes for shelter, breeding, and food sources. The development of a sand mine pit would inevitably lead to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and increased disturbances, all of which threaten the survival of sensitive species.

Potential Impacts

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Sincerely,

Name: Sandra Tavormina

Signature: Sandra

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 20 BK

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Sincerely,

Name: Patricia Goodwin

Signature: Patricia Goodwin

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 43 Silveridge

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Sincerely,

Name: DONNA WINDSOR

Signature: Donna Windsor

Date: 1-19-26

Address 33898: 118 S. S.

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Sincerely,

Name: TERRI ESPERSEN

Signature: Terri Espersen

Date: 1-19-2020

Address 33898: 91 Saddlebrig trail

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Sincerely,

Name: John B. Bert

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1/19/26

Address 33898: 91 SADDIEBAG TRAIL

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Appeal on Proposed Sand Mine in Lake Wales – Impacts to Ground Water, Aquifer, Evaporation Rates, and Confining Layers

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the pending appeal for the proposed sand mine development in Lake Wales. As a resident and stakeholder in Polk County, I urge you to carefully consider the long-term environmental consequences this project may have on our local water resources, particularly in relation to ground water, the underlying aquifer, evaporation rates, and the integrity of confining layers.

Ground Water Impacts

Sand mining operations typically require significant dewatering processes, which can lower the water table and affect nearby wells and wetlands. The alteration of natural hydrology may lead to reduced water availability for residential, agricultural, and ecological purposes. Any changes to ground water levels could have a cascading effect on local ecosystems and the livelihoods of residents who rely on these resources.

Aquifer Vulnerability

Lake Wales sits atop sensitive portions of the Floridan aquifer system, one of the principal sources of potable water in Central Florida. The removal of sand and the disturbance of protective soil layers may increase the risk of contamination and reduce the natural recharge capacity of the aquifer. This could threaten the future sustainability of our drinking water supply and undermine the resilience of the aquifer to drought conditions.

Evaporation Rates and Water Loss

Open mining pits and exposed water surfaces can significantly increase evaporation rates, leading to additional loss of valuable water resources. In a region where water conservation is already a pressing concern, any activity that accelerates evaporation should be carefully scrutinized. Increased evaporation not only reduces available water but may also alter microclimates and affect local agriculture.

Confining Layers and Environmental Integrity

The confining layers that separate surface water from deep aquifer systems act as natural barriers against pollution and excessive water loss. Disturbance or removal of these layers during sand mining operations can compromise their effectiveness, potentially allowing contaminants to migrate more freely into the aquifer and increasing susceptibility to sinkholes or subsidence. Protecting these layers is critical to maintaining the long-term health of our water resources.

Conclusion and Request

Given the potential risks outlined above, I respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners deny this sand mine appeal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I trust that you will consider the well-being of Polk County's residents and environment in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Name: CHERYL PAUSEN

Signature: Cheryl Pausen

Date: 1-14-2024

Address 33898: 21 Queen of Waters

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

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To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

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Sincerely,

Name: Roy GROTHE

Signature: Roy Grothe

Date: 1-14-2026

Address 33898: 21 Queen of Waters

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding the Impacts of Sand Mines on Water Resources in Florida

Date: January 12, 2026

To: The County Commissioners and County Planner

Dear County Commissioners and County Planner,

I am writing to you as a concerned resident of South Shore Resort located at Saddle Bag Lake regarding the potential impacts of a Proposed sand mining operation on water resources throughout Florida. As you consider current and future applications for sand mine developments in our county, I urge you to take into account the significant risks these activities pose to our groundwater, surface water, and the overall health of our ecosystems.

Impacts on Groundwater Resource

Sand mining often involves the removal of large quantities of sand from below the water table, which can have direct consequences for aquifers. In Florida, where much of our potable water comes from underground sources, this is especially concerning. The disruption of sand and gravel layers can alter the natural filtration of rainwater, potentially reducing the recharge rates of aquifers and lowering the water table. This can lead to reduced availability of clean water for homes, agriculture, and industry.

Surface Water Pollution

The process of sand extraction can increase sedimentation and turbidity in nearby lakes, rivers, and wetlands. This sediment can smother aquatic habitats, disrupt fish spawning grounds, and degrade water quality. Additionally, chemicals used in the mining process or from fuel spills have the potential to leach into waterways, causing further environmental harm.

Wetland and Ecosystem Degradation

Sand mines are frequently located near or within wetland areas, which serve as critical natural buffers during heavy rains and hurricanes. The removal of sand and vegetation can reduce the ability of wetlands to store and filter water, making communities more

vulnerable to flooding and decreasing the resilience of native plant and animal populations.

Long-Term Community Impacts

Aside from environmental concerns, the degradation of water resources may also affect property values, recreational opportunities, and local tourism-key elements of Florida's economy. Water scarcity or contamination can impose long-term costs on residents and local governments, including the need for more expensive water treatment and infrastructure.

In closing, I respectfully ask that you prioritize the protection of our water resources when considering sand mine proposals and ask that you deny this appeal. Our community's health, economy, and natural heritage depend on responsible stewardship of these vital assets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,

Name: Jeremy W. Parker

Signature: 

Date: Jan 15 2026

Address 33898: 7388 INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE
LAKE WALES, FL 33898

Letter to County Commissioners and Planner

LDCU-2025-29

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Respectfully,

Name:

Terry W Parker

Signature:

Terry W Park

Date:

Jan 15 2026

Address 33898:

7388 INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE
LAKE WALES, FL. 33898

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Appeal on Proposed Sand Mine in Lake Wales – Impacts to Ground Water, Aquifer, Evaporation Rates, and Confining Layers

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Conclusion and Request

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I trust that you will consider the well-being of Polk County's residents and environment in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Name: Lane Crawford

Signature: _____

Date: 1/12/2026

Address 33898: 5447 S Bay Lk Rd. #5
Midway

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

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Sincerely,

Name:

DAVID HEYMANN

Signature:

David A Heymann

Date:

1-12-2026

Address 33898:

5046 LOT 2 QUENO WATERS

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

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Sincerely,

Name:

John Platt

Signature:

John Platt

Date:

1-13-2026

Address 33898:

5193 SADDLEBAG LAKE ROAD

14 SBT

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

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Sincerely,

Name: Ken Kottel

Signature: Ken Kottel

Date: 11/14/26

Address 33898: 24515

Letter to Polk County Commissioners

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

To: Polk County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Appeal on Proposed Sand Mine in Lake Wales – Impacts to Ground Water, Aquifer, Evaporation Rates, and Confining Layers

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the pending appeal for the proposed sand mine development in Lake Wales. As a resident and stakeholder in Polk County, I urge you to carefully consider the long-term environmental consequences this project may have on our local water resources, particularly in relation to ground water, the underlying aquifer, evaporation rates, and the integrity of confining layers.

Ground Water Impacts

Sand mining operations typically require significant dewatering processes, which can lower the water table and affect nearby wells and wetlands. The alteration of natural hydrology may lead to reduced water availability for residential, agricultural, and ecological purposes. Any changes to ground water levels could have a cascading effect on local ecosystems and the livelihoods of residents who rely on these resources.

Aquifer Vulnerability

Lake Wales sits atop sensitive portions of the Floridan aquifer system, one of the principal sources of potable water in Central Florida. The removal of sand and the disturbance of protective soil layers may increase the risk of contamination and reduce the natural recharge capacity of the aquifer. This could threaten the future sustainability of our drinking water supply and undermine the resilience of the aquifer to drought conditions.

Evaporation Rates and Water Loss

Open mining pits and exposed water surfaces can significantly increase evaporation rates, leading to additional loss of valuable water resources. In a region where water conservation is already a pressing concern, any activity that accelerates evaporation should be carefully scrutinized. Increased evaporation not only reduces available water but may also alter microclimates and affect local agriculture.

Confining Layers and Environmental Integrity

The confining layers that separate surface water from deep aquifer systems act as natural barriers against pollution and excessive water loss. Disturbance or removal of these layers during sand mining operations can compromise their effectiveness, potentially allowing contaminants to migrate more freely into the aquifer and increasing susceptibility to sinkholes or subsidence. Protecting these layers is critical to maintaining the long-term health of our water resources.

Conclusion and Request

Given the potential risks outlined above, I respectfully request that the Board of County Commissioners deny this sand mine appeal.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I trust that you will consider the well-being of Polk County's residents and environment in your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Name: BONITA CAMERON

Signature: Bonita L. Cameron

Date: JAN. 13, 2026

Address 33898: 39 SADDLEBAG TRAIL, LAKE WALES

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Name: Gary Billings

Signature: Gary Billings

Date: 1/13/26

Address 33898: 5207 Saddlehorn Circle Rd.

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Sincerely,

Name: WALLACE Lewis

Signature: Wallace Lewis

Date: 1/13/26

Address 33898: 3 Stonefly

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Sincerely,

Name: Louis Montanti

Signature: Louis Montanti

Date: 1-12-26

Address 33898: 23 Wadsworth Way