## CHAMPIONSGATE CPA EXHIBIT B GOPHER TORTOISE SURVEY



May 24, 2022

Mr. Marc Reicher RIDA Associates LLP 8390 ChampionsGate Blvd., Suite 104 ChampionsGate, Florida 33896

Re: Environmental Services – ChampionsGate – Gopher Tortoise Survey (25.73 acres) – ChampionsGate Blvd.-Westside Blvd. FL 33896 FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent # GTA-20-00077B SEI No. 418.18.22

## Dear Marc:

As requested, biologists from Stillwater Environmental, Inc. conducted a gopher tortoise survey of the property located on Ronald Regan Parkway near the intersection of Westside Blvd. and Ronal Reagan Parkway (Figure 1). A 100% survey was conducted for the presence of gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) on May 10, 2022 as required by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Gopher tortoises are listed as threatened by the FWC and are protected by Chapter 39-27.002 (4) Florida Administrative Code. Timothy Talbot of Stillwater Environmental, Inc., FWC Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent #GTA-14-00053D and Jessica Azpurua, FWC Gopher Tortoise Agent #GTA-20-000-77B, took part in the surveys. At the time of the survey, 4 "potentially active" gopher tortoise burrows were located on the ChampionsGate parcel. The soils and vegetation are ideal on the parcel to support a gopher tortoise population.

The location of each burrow was noted by GPS waypoints and marked with field stakes and surveyors flagging tape (Figure 1).

Currently there are five (5) options to conduct activities that may adversely impact tortoises and they are as follows:

- 1. Avoid developing the areas occupied by the tortoises.
- 2. Avoid individual burrow entrances to ensure the protection of the burrow. A radius of 25' surrounding each burrow is required.

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- 3. Capture and relocate each tortoise to a FWC Long-Term Protected Recipient Site.
- 4. Capture and relocate the tortoises onsite should the site plan allow for substantial habitat to remain following development, or potentially to the natural areas around the golf course.
- 5. If ten (10) or fewer tortoises are affected and some habitat will exist on the site following construction, tortoises may be captured and released back onto the site.

Typically, with parcels of this size, option no. 3 is the most viable option. However, we are currently in consultation with the FWC to relocate the tortoises to the natural areas on the ChampionsGate Golf Course. Prior to the initiation of any development activities, an application for a Conservation Permit application is prepared and submitted to the FWC. Once the permit has been issued and received, relocation efforts are scheduled. The tortoises will then be excavated and relocated to a either a FWC Long Term Protected Recipient Site or the natural habitat on the golf course.

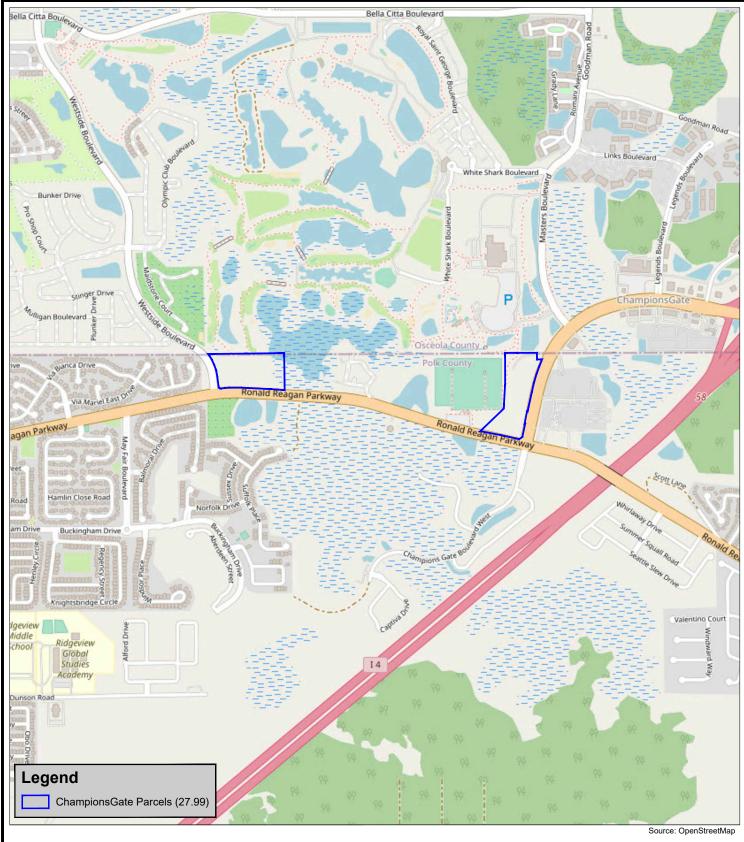
Stillwater Environmental, Inc. appreciates the opportunity to provide you with our services. Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

STILLWATER ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.

Timothy J. Talbot

**Environmental Professional** 





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6236 Ronald Reagan Parkway
Davenport, Florida 33896
Figure #1

**Location Map**Gopher Tortoise Survey



Feet

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Date: 05/23/2022





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Figure #2

Gopher Tortoise Survey
Gopher Tortoise Relocation



Feet

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