

TO: Polk County Commissioners
Ivan Nance, Lead Planner

Re: LDCU-2025-29

Date: January 26, 2026

Dear Polk County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

We respectfully submit the enclosed individual letters to each be counted and considered in the appeal case regarding LDCU-2025-29.

These letters each represent families, neighbors, and taxpayers who are residents of Polk County who have lived here for decades, adding vast economic and tax boosts to the County while supplying our own water, sewer, post office, and safety with Sheriff Grady Judd's Citizens' Assisted Patrol.

This appeal that will come before you was defeated in a 6 -1 decision by the Planning Commission based on various incompatibilities.

It is with all sincerity that we ask for your deepest consideration, as this is our actual health, safety and livelihood that is in your hands. We thank you for your commitment to your role of public service and for seeing that each of the enclosed represents a person, a person who is one of 1,400 homes directly next to this proposal.

Respectfully,

The Sand Mine Communication Team

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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 the conditional-use application for the Mammoth Grove wet-sand mine.

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: DIANE H. CLEMENTSON

Signature: Diane H. Clementson

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 5515 Saddlebag Lake Rd.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: MERRILL K. CLEMENTSON JR

Signature: 

Date: 7/26/20

Address 33898: 5515 Saddlebag Lake Rd

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Vickie Beichler

Signature: Victoria Beichler

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 9 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Randy Beichler

Signature: Randy Beichler

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 9 Woodruff Way

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Sincerely,

Name: Janet Caricofe

Signature: Janet Caricofe

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 39 Woodruff Way

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Sincerely,

Name: Shaen Walker

Signature: Shaen Walker

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 24. B.K.

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Sincerely,

Name: Barbara Moeller

Signature: Barbara Moeller

Date: 1-26-25

Address 33898: 88 ST

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Sincerely,

Name: Katie Keller

Signature: Katie Keller

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 19

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Dale Sinclair

Signature: Dale Sinclair

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 19 Woodruff

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Sincerely,

Name: Yvonne Boaden

Signature: Y Boaden

Date: Jan 26 2026

Address 33898: 46 Silversides

LDCU-2025-29

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Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address 33898:

John C. Nicoli
[Signature]
1/26/2025
5309 SAADLEBAY LK RD 57 SILVERSIDES

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Nancy Durand

Signature: Nancy Durand

Date: 1-26-20

Address 33898: #28 BK

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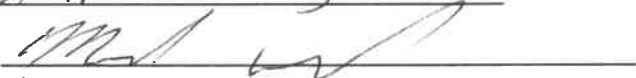
Conclusion and Request

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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: Mark Wright

Signature: 

Date: 1/26/2026

Address 33898: 40 Beaverkill

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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Sincerely,

Name: Susan St. John

Signature: Susan St. John

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: #2 Red Quill Cir.
Lake Wales, FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Joyce A. Nicol

Signature: Joyce A. Nicol

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 57 Silversides Rd.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Debra Jenkins

Signature: Debra Jenkins

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 57 Silversides

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Diane Anspaugh

Signature:

Diane Anspaugh

Date:

1-26-26

Address 33898:

107 Beaver Kill

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Connie Schueman

Signature: Connie Schueman

Date: Jan 26th 2026

Address 33898: 16 Stonefly Circle

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: DR. LINDA RHEIN

Signature: Dr. Linda Rhein

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 47 QUEEN OF WATERS
LAKE WALES F.

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Sincerely,

Name: GARY SCHULT

Signature: Gary Sch

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 27 QUEEN OF WATERS
LAKE WALES, FL.

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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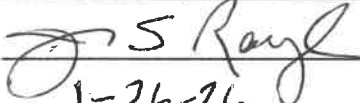
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Sincerely,

Name: JIM RAYL

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 18 ROYAL COACHMAN

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Judy Langner

Signature: Judy Langner

Date: 1-26-20

Address 33898: 4 Red Quill

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Deb Breitung Deb Breitigan

Signature:

Deb Breitung

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

5079 Saddlebag Lake Rd
Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: RA WEIRTHMAN

Signature: 

Date: 26 Jan 2026

Address 33898: DWW

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Kim Wagner

Signature: Kim Wagner

Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 48 Silverside

LDCU-2025-29

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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: STEVE BLACKBURN

Signature: Steve Blackburn

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 63 Silversides Dr.
Saddlebag Lake Resort
Lake Wales, Fl. 33898

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

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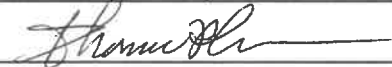
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Sincerely,

Name: Thomas P. Moravec

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 12 Red Quill

LDCU-2025-29

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January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: SHIRLEY WEIGHTMAN

Signature: 

Date: 26 Jan 2024

Address 33898: 2000

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Charlie Mounce

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 59 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Terry Mounce

Signature: Aeresa M. Mounce

Date: January 26, 2026

Address 33898: 59 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Ruth A Schafer

Signature: Ruth A Schafer

Date: 1/24/26

Address 33898: _____

39 Queens of Waters
Lake Wales, FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: RICHARD FREDRICKSON

Signature: Richard Fredrickson

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 45 SILVERSIDE, LAKE WALES FL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

LINDA LAVALLEE

Signature:

Linda Lavelle

Date:

1-26-26

Address 33898:

5110 Saddlebag Lake Rd
LAKE WALES

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Mike Lavallee

Signature: Mike Lavallee

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 5110 Saddlebag Lake Rd
Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: ELIZABETH PACE

Signature: Elizabeth Pace

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 6 Pink Lady Lane

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Pat Wallwin

Signature: Pat Wallwin

Date: Jan 26 2026

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

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Gary Sallans

Signature: Gary Sallans

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 67 SilverSides

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Cliff Jensen

Signature: Cliff Jensen

Date: 1-26-25

Address 33898: 29 Red Quill Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Tim Breitigan

Signature: Tim Breitigan

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 5079 Saddlebag Lake Resort
26 Silversides

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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.

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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 the conditional-use application for the Mammoth Grove wet-sand mine.

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:

Tanya Harper

Signature:

Tanya Harper

Date:

Jan 26-26

Address 33898:

25-STS

LDCU-2025-29

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January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Wade Buckler

Signature: Molly

Date: Jan 26 - 26

Address 33898: 25 STS

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Deniele Pahl

Signature: Deniele Pahl

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 82 Silversides

LDCU-2025-29

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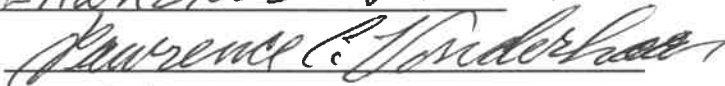
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Sincerely,

Name: LAWRENCE VONDERHAAR

Signature: 

Date: 26 Jan 2016

Address 33898: 18 GREY FOX LAKE WALES FL. 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: HAROLD PRAY

Signature: Harold Pray

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 41 RED QUILL CIRCLE

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert T Miller

Signature: Robert Miller

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 90 Silversides Lakes, FL 33890

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Imogen H. Rayl

Signature:

Imogen H. Rayl

Date:

1-26-24

Address 33898:

18 Royal Coachman

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Susan F Toothaker

Signature: Susan F Toothaker

Date: Jan 26, 2026

Address 33898: 19 Saddlery Trail north

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: PAT VAUGHAN

Signature: Patricia Vaughan

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 41 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Diane Murphy

Signature: Diane Murphy

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 16 Redgill Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Erna Friesen

Signature: Erna Friesen

Date: 11/26/26

Address 33898: 30 Silvercreek

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Stephen J Knitter

Signature: Stephen J Knitter

Date: JANUARY 26, 2026

Address 33898: 80 Saddlebag Trail, Lake Wales, FL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: JOE WITTE

Signature: Joe Witte

Date: 9/26/20

Address 33898: 33 ROYAL COCKMAN ST

SANTA STILL SAYS
NO! NO! NO!

LDCU-2025-29

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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.

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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.

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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: Sandra + Raymond

Signature: Sandra J. Raymond

Date: Jan 26 2024

Address 33898: 4 woodruff Lane

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Inge Voisard

Signature: Inge Voisard

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 2 Catskill Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Name:

Gery Voisard

Signature:

Gery Voisard /s/

Date:

1-26-26

Address 33898:

2 Catskill Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Sarah A. Fillingame

Signature: Sarah A. Fillingame

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 47 Red Gull

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: SUZANNE SPEIDEL

Signature: Suzanne Speidel

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 21-ROYAL COACHMAN

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: ROBERT J. SPEIDEL

Signature: Robert J. Speidel

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 21 ROYAL COACHMAN ST.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Elaine Sallans

Signature: Elaine Sallans

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 30 Saddlebag Trail North

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Mary Wardwell

Signature: Mary Wardwell

Date: 1/26/24

Address 33898: 70 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Ina Hunter

Signature: Ina Hunter

Date: Jan 26, '26

Address 33898: 105 ST Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: JAMES WARD WELLS

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 70 SADDLEBAG TRL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: VERONICA SCHMEILSKY

Signature: Veronica Schmeilsky

Date: 26 JAN 2024

Address 33898: 5121 Saddlebag Lake Rd

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: WILLIAM A SCHMEILSKI

Signature: William A Schmeilski

Date: 26 JAN 2024

Address 33898: 5121 Saddlebag LAKE Rd

LDCU-2025-29

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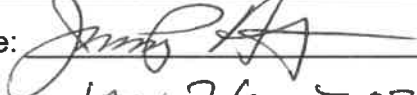
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Sincerely,

Name:

JAMES P. HITZ

Signature:



Date:

JAN 26, 2026

Address 33898:

20 GRAYHACKLE ST.

LDCU-2025-29

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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.

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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.

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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: MARSHA MALANE

Signature: Marsha L Malane

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 31 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: DIANNE GILLIES

Signature: D. Gillies

Date: January 26, 2026

Address 33898: 77 R.C.

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Steven Gillies

Signature: 

Date: Jan. 26/26

Address 33898: 77 R. C.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: DONNA GOWDY

Signature: Donna Gowdy

Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 13 Silverides - SLR. - Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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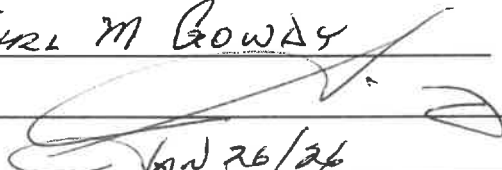
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Sincerely,

Name: Earl M Gowdy

Signature: 

Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 13 SILVERSIDES LAKE WAKES

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: DENNIS OSBORNE

Signature: Dennis Osborne

Date: 1-26-20

Address 33898: 61 SILVERSIDES

LDCU-2025-29

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January 26, 2026

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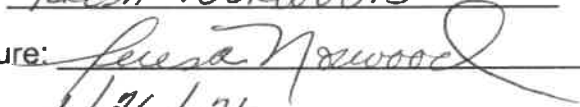
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Sincerely,

Name: TERESA NORWOOD

Signature: 

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 83 Silversides

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: William G Bamhart

Signature: William G Bamhart

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 6 Sackelberg Trail North

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Bruce Toothaker

Signature: Bruce Toothaker

Date: Jan 26, 2026

Address 33898: 19 Saddlebag Trail North

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Beverly Segur

Signature: Beverly Segur

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: #2 Saddlebag Trail North

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Corey B. Segert

Signature:

Corey B. Segert

Date:

1-26-26

Address 33898:

#2 SADDLEBAR TRAIL NORTH

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Orville Hunter

Signature:

Orville Hunter

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

105 ST Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Richard Clark

Signature: Richard Clark

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 89 BK

LDCU-2025-29

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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.

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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

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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: Mary Clark

Signature: Mary Clark

Date: Jan. 26, 2026

Address 33898: 89BK

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: TIMOTHY P YOUNG

Signature: Timothy P. Young

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: SADDLEBAG TRAIL NORTH 27
PO Box 5560

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Gary Barnhart

Signature: Gary L. Barnhart

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 14 ST South

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: FRANCIS TODOSCIUK

Signature: Francis Todosciuk

Date: 1-26-20

Address 33898: 23 GF

LDCU-2025-29

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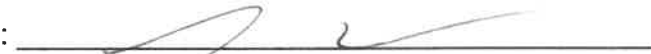
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Sincerely,

Name: BARRY COFFMAN

Signature: 

Date: 01-26-2026

Address 33898: 3 RED BULL CIRCLE

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

KEITH HOCKER

Signature:

Keith Hocker

Date:

1-26-2026

Address 33898:

1 SILVER DOCTOR

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Carol Martin

Signature: Carol Martin

Date: Jan 26/20

Address 33898: 33 Silverside 33898
Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Sharon Martin

Signature: Sharon Martin

Date: Jan 26 2026

Address 33898: 33 Silverside
Saddle Bag Resort

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: HELENA M. NEFF

Signature: Helena M. Neff

Date: 1-26-24

Address 33898: 1 SILVER DOCTOR

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: RANDAL S. LOGAN

Signature: Randal S. Logan

Date: 01/26/2026

Address 33898: 48 QUEEN OF WATERS ST

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Dorothy A. Logan

Signature: Dorothy A. Logan

Date: Jan. 26, 2020

Address 33898: 48 Queen of Waters St. Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Terence Ruf

Signature:

Terence Ruf

Date:

Jan. 26/26

Address 33898:

13 Ginger Quill Circle
Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Deb Woodward

Signature:

Deb Woodward

Date:

4/26/26

Address 33898:

65 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

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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.

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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 the conditional-use application for the Mammoth Grove wet-sand mine.

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: Deb Woodard

Signature: Deb Woodard

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 7 Stonefly Circle

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

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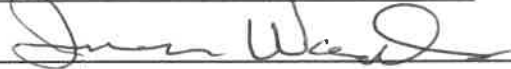
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Sincerely,

Name:

Ivan Woodard

Signature:



Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

65 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

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Signature:

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Date:

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Sincerely,

Name:

Molly S. O'Connell

Signature:

Molly S. O'Connell

Date:

1/26/2026

Address 33898:

5 Blue Quilt Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Helen Wilson

Signature:

Helen Wilson

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

25TS

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Jeff Sreed

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 1/26/27

Address 33898: 67 BK

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

William Sreed

Signature:

William Sreed

Date:

1/24/24

Address 33898:

67 BK

LDCU-2025-29

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January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: William Sredl

Signature: William Sredl

Date: 11/24/24

Address 33898: 1011 BK

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Penny Sredl

Signature: Penny Sredl

Date: 11/26/26

Address 33898: 101 BK

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Chris Bowch

Signature: Chris Bowch

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 31 SBLT

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address 33898:

JOHN O'DOM
1-26-24
5 GRAY ACKLE

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Kathleen J. O'Dom

Signature: Kathleen J. O'Dom

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 5 Grayhackle St.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Kathy Pratt

Signature: Kathy Pratt

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 6 Saddlebag Trail South
Lake Wales, Florida

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely, _____

Name: Janice Michlig

Signature: Janice Michlig

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 53 Saddledog Lake Rd.

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

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Sincerely,

Name: Elaine J. Fry

Signature: Elaine J. Fry

Date: Jan 26, 2020

Address 33898: RC 25

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Jill L. Wilke

Signature: Jill L. Wilke

Date: 1.26.26

Address 33898: 27 Blue Quill Creek

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Jane E. Hein

Signature:

Jane E. Hein

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

13 Saddlebag Trail S

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Steven Pawley

Signature: Steven R. Pawley

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 36 Saddlebag Trail North
Lake Wales, FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Debra Buchanan

Signature: Debra Buchanan

Date: 1-26-24

Address 33898: 27 Grey Fox Lane

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Julie Hoy

Signature: Julie Hoy

Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 78 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Michael W. Mayberry

Signature: M.W. Mayberry

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 4 woodcrest way
Saddle bag lake

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: BRENDA GRIMM

Signature: Brenda Grimm

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: #6 W W Lakemadco, FL.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Tom G. Ginn

Signature: Thomas Ginn

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: #6 WW Lake Wales FL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Arlene E. Ireland

Signature:

Arlene E. Ireland

Date:

Jan. 26, 2026

Address 33898:

Saddlebag Ln. Rd.

Lake Wales, FL 33898

7 Woodruff Way

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Jamie Wright

Signature:

Jamie Wright

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

5558 Saddlebag Lk Rd

#29 Saddlebag Trl. N

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Marsha Pawley

Signature: Marsha Pawley

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 26 Saddlebag Trail North

LDCU-2025-29

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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:

Cheryl Roberts

Signature:

Cheryl Roberts

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

26 STN

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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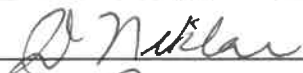
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Sincerely,

Name: IRMA NIKLAS

Signature: 

Date: January 26, 2026

Address 33898: 79 Saddlebag Tr.
Lake, Wales, FL
33898

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: ROBERT BEAHON

Signature: Robert Beahon

Date: 01-26-2026

Address 33898: 49 BEAVERKILL

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Karen Beahon

Signature: Karen Beahon

Date: Jan. 26, 2026

Address 33898: 49 Beaverkill Dr.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: MICHAEL NABALIXSKI

Signature: Michael Nabalixski

Date: 1-24-22

Address 33898: 5781 SADDLEBAY LAKE RD
LAKE WALES FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Nancy Kabacinski

Signature: Nancy Kabacinski

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 5181 Saddlebag Lake Rd.
Lake Wales, FL.

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

Gary Paquette

Signature:

Gary Paquette

Date:

1/26/26

Address 33898:

5443 Saddlebag Lake Rd

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Michele M Parquette

Signature: Michele M. Parquette

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 5443 Saddlebag Lake Rd

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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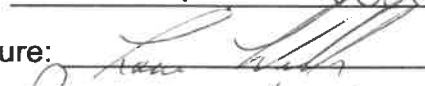
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Sincerely,

Name: Laurie Welch

Signature: 

Date: Jan 26 / 26

Address 33898: 27 Beaverkill Dr.

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Shawne Wright

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-20

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

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Marvin Morey

Signature: Marvin Morey

Date: January 26, 2026

Address 33898: 65 Beaverkill Drive

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Kelly Wright

Signature: Kelly Wright

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898:

29 Saddlebag Trl. S. North
Lake Wales, FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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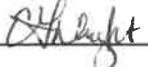
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Sincerely,

Name: Christopher Wright

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 17 Saddlebag Trail N

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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.

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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.

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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

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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: Lisa Schell

Signature: Lisa Schell

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 81. Saddlebag trail

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Name: JAMES FUBAY

Signature: James Fubay

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 87 RC

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Carolyn Shoup

Signature: Carolyn Shoup

Date: Jan 26, 2026

Address 33898: 49 Silversides St

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Steve Larson

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 5 Catskill

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: SANDRA OSBORNE

Signature: Sandra Osborne

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 61 SS

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: William GOSTARSON

Signature: [Signature]

Date: 1-23-26

Address 33898: 29 STONE FLY CIRCLE

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Larry Prickett

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: Jan 26 2026

Address 33898: 8 Queen of Waters

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Kathy Reef -

Signature:

Date:

Jan. 26 / 2026 -

Address 33898:

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Patricia Goodwin

Signature: Patricia Goodwin

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 43 Silverside St.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

John Javornik

Signature:

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

1/26/2026

Address 33898:

20 Beaverkill Drive

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Dale Igaasen

Signature: Dale Igaasen

Date: 1-26-24

Address 33898: 5304 Soddlebag LK Rd
33 Red Oak Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Karen Jensen

Signature: Karen Jensen

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 5304 Sedley Dr
Lake Wales, FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Lynne Baker

Signature: Lynne Baker

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 67 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

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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: Karen Billings

Signature: Karen Billings

Date: 11/26/26

Address 33898: 60 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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Sincerely,

Name: ELIZABETH A STRIPP

Signature: Elizabeth A Stripp

Date: 1/26/24

Address 33898: 61 WOODRUFF WAY
LAKE WALES, FL.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: RICHARD S. STRIPP

Signature: Richard Stripp

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 61 WOODRUFF WAY
LAKE WALES, FL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: DEBORAH LAMB

Signature: Deborah Lamb

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 57 WOODRUFF WAY
LAKE WALES, FL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: ALICE KNITTER

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 5357 SADDLEBAG LAKE RD
80 SADDLEBAG TRAIL
LAKE WALES, FL

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name:

DONNA Z WINSOR

Signature:

Donna Z Winsor

Date:

1-26-26

Address 33898:

118 S. S. SLR

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name:

Sandra Tavormina

Signature:

Sandra Tavormina

Date:

January 26, 2026

Address 33898:

20 BK

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Lynette Larson

Signature: Lynette Larson

Date: 1/26/2026

Address 33898: 3 Catskill Circle

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: JAMES P COOK

Signature: James P. Cook

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 48 BK, Lake Wales, FL.
33898

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Karen M Vanderhaar

Signature: Karen M Vanderhaar

Date: Jan 26, 2021

Address 33898: 18 Grey Fox Lane Lake Wales FL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Karen Boettger

Signature: Karen Boettger

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 42 SBT

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: _____

BRYAN S BETTGER

Signature: _____

Date: _____

11/26/2026

Address 33898: _____

42 SADDLEBAG TRAIL

LDCU-2025-29

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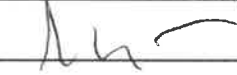
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Sincerely,

Name: Sheila Montanti

Signature: 

Date: 1/26/26

Address 33898: 23 Woodruff Way.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Shirley Beron

Signature: Shirley Beron

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 6 Parson Tom Circle

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

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Sincerely,

Name: MIKE SCHAUB

Signature: Mike Schaub

Date: 26 Jan 2026

Address 33898: 3 Beaver Kill Lake Water

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name:

Shirley Beron

Signature:

Shirley Beron

Date:

1-26-2024

Address 33898:

34 Queen of Waters

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: David Hounshell

Signature: David Hounshell

Date: Jan 26, 2026

Address 33898: 19 Silver Sides St.
Lake Wales, FL.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Marianna Title

Signature: Marianna Title

Date: 1/26/2026

Address 33898: 65 Silversides St. Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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7601 US HIGHWAY 301 NORTH

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Sincerely,

Name: TOD DAVIS

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 65 Silverdale St.

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: TERESA ESPERSEN

Signature: Teresa Espersen

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 91 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Kathleen West

Signature: Kathleen West as

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 15 Parson Tom Circle

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Cheryl Brady

Signature: Cheryl Brady

Date: Jan 26 2020

Address 33898: 4 Silver Sides Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Name: Craig Brady

Signature: 

Date: Jan 26 2020

Address 33898: 4 Silver Side Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Jack West

Signature: Jack West *SB*

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 10 Pink Lady

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Brayden Shinn

Signature: Brayden Shinn

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 12 Pink Lady

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Shirley Beron

Signature: Shirley M Beron

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 34 Queen of Waters

LDCU-2025-29

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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.

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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

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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: Norann Beron

Signature: Norann Beron

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 13 Saddlebag Trail

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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Sincerely,

Name: Truet S. Cook

Signature: Truet S. Cook

Date: 1/26/24

Address 33898: 48 Beacon Hill Dr.
Lake Wales, FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Terry DeRay-Gustafson

Signature: 

Date: 1-26-26

Address 33898: 29 Stonefly Circle, LAKE WALES

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Rick Humber

Signature: R. Humber

Date: JAN 26 '26

Address 33898: 51 Red Quill

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: CHRISTINE HUMBER

Signature: 

Date: JAN 26 '24

Address 33898: 51 RED QUILL

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Dannell Easson.

Signature:

2 Blue Quill

Date:

Jan 26 / 26

Address 33898:

2 Blue Quill Circle.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Address 33898:

Deb Moody
Deb Moody
1-26-26
2 Blue Quill, Lake Wales
FL 33898

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name: Jim Arneson

Signature: Jim Arneson

Date: 1/26/20

Address 33898: 20 Woodroff Way

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

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Sincerely,

Name: Susan Eubank

Signature: Susan Eubank

Date: 1-26-2026

Address 33898: 28 Saddlebag Trail South

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.
- **Noise and Light Pollution:** Increased industrial activity introduces noise and artificial lighting, which can disrupt animal behavior, migration patterns, and breeding cycles.
- **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: Elaine Snell

Signature: Elaine Snell

Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 25 Blue Quill

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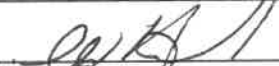
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Sincerely,

Name: William Hind

Signature: 

Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 25 Blue Quill

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

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Sincerely,

Name: Deborah Neumeister

Signature: Deborah Neumeister

Date: 1/20/2026

Address 33898: 43 Queen of Waters

LDCU-2025-29

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Date: Jan 26/26

Address 33898: 25 Blue Quill Circle
Lake Wales

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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 the conditional-use application for the Mammoth Grove wet-sand mine.

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:

William Bind

Signature:

W Bind

Date:

Jan 26/26

Address 33898:

25 Blue Quill Circle
Lake Wales

LDCU-2025-29

Concerns Regarding Sand Mine Appeal in Lake Wales

January 26, 2026

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

Dear County Commissioners and Lead Planner Ivan Nance,

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

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Sincerely,

Name: Barbara M. Marksbury

Signature: Barbara M. Marksbury

Date: 1/26/2026

Address 33898: 34 Beaverkill Dr.

LDCU-2025-29

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Sincerely,

Name: Robert Lapsley

Signature: R Lapsley

Date: 1/26/2026

Address 33898: 23 Blue Quill Circle