

StoptheSandMine.com Here's the reality:

If you mine here, you will change the water table. If you change the water table, you change the springs. If you change the springs, you change Crystal River, Kings Bay, and the manatee habitat — forever

This is not just about one parcel of land.

This is about whether Citrus County and the State will follow its own laws, protect its water resources, and defend the long-term public interest — or allow an irreversible excavation in one of the most sensitive aquifer recharge areas in Florida. Once the damage is done to our water, springs, and aquifer — there is no going back.

The borrow pit site is located in an;

Outstanding Florida Water - Priority Focus Area, Outstanding Florida Spring in the Crystal River King's Bay Area, Citrus County Board of Commissioners/LDC, SWFWMD reviewers, CES consultants, and other responsible entities have all failed or refused to acknowledge the borrow pit site is in an Outstanding Florida Water/Priority Focus Area. This violates Citrus County Policy 17.9.3.

“The County shall establish additional standards as needed to protect springs and their springsheds, spring run creeks, aquifer recharge, and Outstanding Florida Waters.”

The Environmental Resource Permit application and affidavit claim “**No**” when asked is this an **Outstanding Florida Water** and “**Not named**” for waterbodies in another area. **These answers are not correct.** The County's GIS tool and State maps show the truth in seconds. This isn't a rookie applicant. It appears **this application was prepared by Creative Environmental Solutions a professional environmental consulting firm.** The idea that they “didn't know” strains credibility.

The expert witness's Geotechnical-Hydrogeological report shows connection of our aquifer to the borrow pit location. “This suggests the two aquifers are in hydraulic communication. This notion is supported by the borings that penetrated sand and then limestone, with no intervening clay or low permeability soils.”

The Special Master's ruling on June 27, 2025, found the borrow pit project violated Policy 17.13.4 based on the applicant's expert witness and his testimony that the land could not be restored to the type, nature and function of the ecosystem in existence prior to mining without putting all the sand back.

In Florida, an action **directly violating local restoration policy can undermine an Environmental Resource Permit's compliance with F.A.C. 62-330.301**

FDOT indicated to the Citrus County BOCC the public hearing/meeting requirements were in the way of FDOT meeting their deadlines. They suggested No Permitting be required for the duration of the Suncaost Hwy project. This reflects a troubling disregard for statutory due process and public participation. In our opinion FDOT applied influence to bypass local regulatory hurdles. This raises concerns that similar pressure could extend to the state level, potentially overriding SWFWMD or DEP oversight.

GO TO: StoptheSandMine.com for more information & how you can help!