

STOP THE SAND MINE COMMITTEE, CALL-TO-ACTION

Stop FDOT from wasting taxpayer money to buy, build, or operate a sand mine in Citrus County.

Protect Kings Bay, our aquifer, and our homes.

**We Need Everyone to Call Representative J.J. Grow
Thursday • Friday • Monday • Tuesday**

District Office: (352) 654-0490

Email: JJ.Grow@FLHouse.gov

106 East Dampier Street, Inverness, FL

Dear Friends,

We urgently need your voices.

Today I stopped into Representative Grow's GIS office, and his aide encouraged us to send this information directly to them. Now they need to hear from YOU.

Our job is to make sure Rep. Grow understands:

FDOT should not be using taxpayer money to buy, build, or operate a sand mine in Citrus County.

This is a serious springs, aquifer, and public-safety issue — not a minor construction mishap.

The October 24 excavator collapse was a groundwater disaster, only a few hundred feet from the Southworth sand mine site FDOT wants to purchase.

We cannot stay silent — not when Kings Bay, our drinking water, and our homes are at stake.

1. What Happened — and Why It's a Red Alert for Our Aquifer

The excavator collapse on October 24 happened 230–400 feet from planned sand mine Boring B-15.

FDOT wants to buy this same land to run a sand mine using our tax dollars.

The accident showed:

- The ground collapsed without warning
- The pit filled from the bottom up
- Water stayed for more than 3 weeks
- Light-colored limestone appeared to be exposed
- The site behaved exactly like a direct aquifer breach
- FDOT used a “No Permit Required” letter instead of the federally required §404 water permit

Representative Grow has publicly repeated FDOT's claim that this was just “stormwater pond construction.”

But:

Stormwater does NOT:

- Fill a pit from the bottom up
- Sit in porous sand for 23 days
- Stay at a stable waterline
- Cause vertical wall collapses
- Expose limestone
- Match FDOT's own groundwater data

Aquifer water DOES.

2. Why FDOT Must NOT Purchase This Sand Mine Site

And Why a Federal §404 Permit Is Mandatory

FDOT drilled 35 borings across the Southworth property.

B-15, B-16, B-17, and B-18 are all in the area where the collapse occurred.

These borings — plus TestLab HA-1 through HA-4 and CES's hydrogeologic report — reveal extremely dangerous conditions:

Groundwater

- Seasonal high groundwater table: 1.5–10 ft
- Typical groundwater: 5–14 ft below ground
- No confining clay layer

CES states:

“The two aquifers are in hydraulic communication... with no intervening clay.”

Meaning:

Sand sits directly on limestone. Nothing protects the aquifer.

Direct connection to the Floridan Aquifer and the Sand and limestone behave as one connected system.

GNA — Loss of Drilling Fluids was noted on 63% of the borings indicating voids or fractures meaning the area is unstable, directly connected to underlying limestone pathways, capable of sudden groundwater breakthrough like what occurred during the excavator incident.

TestLab's March 3, 2025 warning:

“The site is underlain by limestone susceptible to dissolution... voids and sinkholes... internal soil erosion and ground subsidence... The Owner must accept this risk.”

And the collapse already happened. This is exactly the situation the federal §404 permit is designed to prevent.

FDOT bypassed it.

3. New Groundwater Pumping Near the Flooded Pit

Last week, residents observed Corbin Well Pump & Supply installed a new well and it was noted that large tanks were being filled from the well immediately east of the flooded excavation pit.

We do not yet know why this well is being used.

But in this geology — no clay layer, sand sitting on limestone, direct aquifer connection — pumping can:

- Lower the water table
- Change groundwater flow direction
- Affect private residential wells nearby
- Increase instability in the collapsed excavation pit

This activity needs immediate agency review.

4. What We Are Asking Rep. Grow to Do

Your message is simple and powerful:

Ask him to:

1. Request an immediate federal Clean Water Act §404 review

2. Stop FDOT from buying or operating a sand mine with taxpayer funds
3. Require a new environmental review before any further excavation
4. Protect Kings Bay, our aquifer, and the safety of nearby homes

5. Call Scripts (Choose One)

Use whichever one fits your comfort level.



15-Second Script

“Hi, my name is ____ and I live in Citrus County. Please stop FDOT from buying a sand mine with taxpayer money and request a federal §404 review. The excavator collapse shows this site is unsafe — shallow groundwater, no clay layer, and the pit filled from the aquifer, not stormwater.”



30-Second Script (Most Popular)

“Hi, my name is ____ and I live in Citrus County. FDOT is trying to use taxpayer money to buy and operate a sand mine right next to where the excavator collapsed on October 24. FDOT’s own data shows shallow groundwater, no clay layer, and direct connection to the Floridan aquifer. The pit filled from the bottom up for more than three weeks — that is aquifer water, not stormwater. Please request a full federal §404 review and stop FDOT from purchasing or operating a sand mine in this sensitive area.”



Full Technical Script

“Hi, my name is ____ and I’m calling because FDOT is attempting to buy and operate a sand mine with taxpayer money in one of the most sensitive groundwater areas in Citrus County. The excavator collapse is only a few hundred feet from the planned sand mine pit. FDOT’s borings show groundwater 3–14 feet deep, no confining clay, and loss of drilling fluid indicating voids. CES confirms the surficial sands and Floridan aquifer are directly connected. The pit filled from the aquifer, not rainwater. FDOT used a No Permit Required letter instead of the required federal §404 permit. I’m asking Rep. Grow to request a federal §404 review and stop FDOT’s sand mine purchase.”

6. Contact Information

Rep. J.J. Grow — District Office: (352) 654-0490
Email: JJ.Grow@FLHouse.gov
106 East Dampier Street, Inverness, FL

7. Final Message to the Group

We started this committee because FDOT should not be buying a sand mine with public money — especially not on a site where groundwater, springs, and homes are at risk.

The excavator collapse proves everything we have warned about.

This is the moment we need every voice.

Five minutes. One phone call.

It can change the course of this entire project.

Let’s protect our springs, our water, our property, and our tax dollars.

Together — we stop the sand mine. Thank you! Colleen Farmer
Chair, Tony Ayo Co-Chair and David Bishop Vice Chair

