

Dear Pine Ridge Residents,

**Please consider helping support Pine Ridge residents whose homes are located within approximately 75 feet of this proposed sand mine excavation.**

We are now at a **critical stage in the permit review process for FDOT's proposed Eastern Borrow Site** ("FDOT Sand Mine") connected to Suncoast Parkway Phase 3A.

The permit review process is rapidly moving forward and **public comments** are still **urgently needed** RIGHT NOW.

We have updated the Stop the Sand Mine website again to make the public comment process easier and faster for any Citrus County resident.

**Please take just 10 minutes to help protect our neighbors and our water:**

**<https://www.stopthesandmine.com>**

**Then go to the "How 2 Help" page for:**

- updated comment instructions,
- sample email language,
- agency email contacts,
- and key project concerns directly from the ERP record.

We are now seeing batches of **public comments appearing within the ERP file**, and this is **GREAT** news. This is exactly the kind of public participation that can make a difference when SWFWMD is hearing from many residents across Citrus County.

Recent FDOT records now confirm:

- approximately 894 acres of combined disturbance associated with roadway and borrow excavation activities,

- direct infiltration into groundwater,
- shallow groundwater conditions,
- karst and sinkhole-prone geology,
- high infiltration soils,
- routing stormwater toward low-lying karst areas within the excavation site,
- and approximately 342 potentially occupied gopher tortoise burrows, including approximately 258 active burrows.

**Hydrogeologic expert evaluations for this same site also acknowledged hydraulic communication between groundwater systems connected to the Kings Bay / Crystal River springshed.**

Stop the Sand Mine has also posted our recent public comments on our website [stopthesandmine.com](http://stopthesandmine.com) explaining where the project stands today and why many residents now believe the permit should be denied based on the current record.

**Public Comment #3 (Request for Denial – 5/18/26) is our strongest and most comprehensive summary so far. It addresses:**

- the evolving project framing,
- the later SEIR reframing,
- concerns involving roadway ROW characterization,
- groundwater vulnerability,
- direct infiltration concerns,
- continuity with the earlier Southworth / Crystal River Borrow Pit proposal,
- and why this project deserves far greater scrutiny before any approval occurs.

Public Comments #1 and #2 are already available on the website, and Public Comment #3 will be posted shortly on the Home Page for everyone to review and share.

**Please continue sharing our website, forwarding this email to friends and neighbors, and encouraging others to comment while there is still time.**

**Every voice matters.**

Thank you for continuing to stand together to help protect Citrus County's aquifer, springs, wetlands, wildlife, and quality of life.

Respectfully,

Colleen Farmer Chair, & Ton Ayo Co-Chair  
Stop the Sand Mine Committee