

Dear Friends and Supporters,

First and foremost, thank you.

We saw an incredible response from the community during the public comment period. Many of you took the time to research the issues, write thoughtful comments, submit technical concerns, and encourage others to participate. Your efforts mattered!

SWFWMD is still posting and adding public comments to the permit record, and we continue to see comments submitted by community members appearing in the file. Many of you also shared copies of your comments with us. We have read them, and we are grateful for the time, effort, and care that went into them.

We genuinely believe your comments made a difference.

The concerns raised by citizens repeatedly focused on groundwater protection, karst conditions, springs, wetlands, dewatering assumptions, groundwater separation, and the overall environmental review of the project. These are many of the same issues now being raised in the **administrative challenge**.

**While SWFWMD approved the Eastern Borrow Site permit, that approval is not necessarily the end of the process.**

We are pleased to report that a **Petition for Administrative Hearing challenging** the permit approval was timely filed. We also had a strong response from community members willing to participate as petitioners. Because of the short filing deadline, there was not enough time to include everyone who expressed interest.

### **What happens next?**

SWFWMD will review the petition and determine the next procedural steps. If the petition moves forward, the matter could proceed into Florida's administrative hearing process, where disputed issues may receive additional review.

In the meantime, we continue to evaluate technical, scientific, legal, and procedural issues associated with the permit approval.

We are also actively seeking additional assistance from individuals with relevant experience or expertise.

**If you have a background in hydrogeology, geology, engineering, environmental science, environmental permitting, water resources, wetlands, stormwater management, administrative law, or have professional experience with SWFWMD, FDOT, FDEP, or similar agencies, we would welcome the opportunity to speak with you.**

If you know someone with relevant expertise, please reach out or encourage them to contact us. Independent technical review and professional insight remain extremely valuable as we evaluate next steps.

If you believe you may be affected by this project or would like to stay involved, please send us your name, contact information, and a brief description of your connection to the project. We are continuing to evaluate next steps and possible opportunities for participation as the process moves forward.

**Thank you to everyone who submitted comments. Your concerns helped shape the issues now being challenged and remain part of the administrative record.**

Thank you again for standing up for our groundwater, springs, wetlands, and community. The level of citizen participation has been remarkable, and we are grateful for every person who took the time to get involved.

Sincerely,

Colleen Farmer Chair & Tony Ayo Co-Chair

Stop the Sand Mine

