



January 7, 2020

Robert Clemens, Director, County Lands
Conservation Land Acquisition & Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC)
1500 Monroe St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Conservation 20/20 Nomination #605

Sent via email

Dear Mr. Clemens:

Please accept this letter as reassurance that the City is committed to environmental stewardship and protecting natural resources. Element G of the City's current strategic plan calls on the City to "strive for a holistic approach that protects and conserves natural resources, while promoting environmental awareness and sustainability in the community".

Late last year the City began a project to eliminate invasive exotics from the shoreline of the Coral Pointe Canal to improve our stormwater conveyance system and waterway navigation. This project was initiated by a citizen complaint for navigational purposes. City crews were assigned the work and began their normal practice of removing the invasive exotics. During the process of performing this work concerned citizens called media outlets. As a result, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) contacted our staff to perform a site inspection of the shoreline restoration activities being performed. The City's work removing invasive exotics from the property, and along the shoreline, involved **less than a half-acre on the 194-acre parcel**.

Upon inspection the DEP informed the City that a permit should have been obtained due to the length of the shoreline work undertaken. Approximately 10% of the shoreline was impacted by our maintenance activities, approximately 800 linear feet of 8,100 total linear feet, when calculated using GIS. As a result of the DEP site inspection, a stop work order was issued to the city and we were notified we would have to enter into a consent order to complete the planned work.

After receipt of the stop work order the City hired an environmental consultant to prepare a restoration plan for the shoreline and the wetland impacts resulting from our project. We have been working closely with the property owner's representatives and the DEP, to finalize a plan that will become the consent order. The consent order will enable the City to complete its necessary maintenance activity, restore the valuable natural resources impacted, and improve stormwater drainage and navigation. The City is fully committed to this environmental stewardship.

Robert Clemens,
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We ask the committee to accept this letter as assurance the City of Cape Coral is committed to restoring this property to a condition better than when our maintenance work started. We support the committee's review of this parcel for long term conservation in Cape Coral and ask to be notified if you need additional information or assurance from the city.

Should the committee choose to acquire the parcel under consideration then the City and Lee 20/20 would embark upon a new partnership similar to that at Yellow Fever Creek Preserve. This has been a successful partnership and we look forward to partnering with Lee 20/20 again.

With Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Coviello", written over a horizontal line.

Joe Coviello, Mayor

cc: Cape Coral City Council
Alise Flanjack, Interim Lands Conservation Manager
Paul Clinghan, Director of Public Works, Cape Coral
John Szerlag, City Manager, Cape Coral
Dolores Menendez, City Attorney Cape Coral