

# Board of County Commissioners Executive Office

110 N. Apopka Ave., New Courthouse, Inverness, Florida 34450  
(352) 341-6560 • Toll Free From Citrus Springs/Dunnellon • (352) 489-2120  
Fax (352) 341-6584 • Website: [www.bocc.citrus.fl.us](http://www.bocc.citrus.fl.us)

## Our Vision

*"We are a user-friendly and common sense organization dedicated to responsive citizen services."*

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January 10, 2013

The Honorable Jimmie T. Smith  
Florida House Representative, District 34  
319 The Capital  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

RE: **Preservation of State Funding for the Homosassa Wastewater Collection System Project – Phase 5**  
FDEP Grant Number – LP6041

Dear Representative Smith:

Citrus County recently received notification from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that undisbursed funds on grants provided before fiscal year 2009-2010 will not be certified forward by the Legislature past June 30, 2013. The County has a grant for expansion of the Homosassa Wastewater Collection System that falls into this category and we are requesting your assistance in preserving the funding.

The grant in question (LP6041) was requested to help fund expansion of the sanitary sewer system in the Homosassa area. This program is intended to improve water quality on the Homosassa River by providing central sewer service to existing residential development adjacent to the Homosassa River and eliminating septic systems from environmentally sensitive areas.

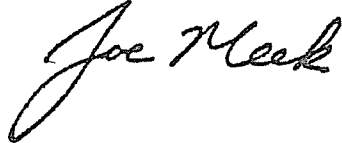
A portion of the grant funds were used to prepare a feasibility study to determine the most cost effective method of providing sewer service to an isolated residential area off of Fishbowl Drive next to the Homosassa Springs State Wildlife Park. This area is directly adjacent to the main springs and contains 91 individual septic systems. The remainder of the grant funds (\$827,096) are targeted for use to design and construct the wastewater collection system.

The County has not proceeded with design and construction of the project previously due to the unfavorable economic conditions that we are currently experiencing. However, we have recently received inquiries about the project from concerned citizens and are scheduling a townhall meeting with the affected property owners in January 2013. At the townhall meeting, we will discuss the project and determine if there is a desire from the community to move forward. If we receive an affirmative response from the residents, we will be expediting the design and construction process, but it is unlikely

that we would be able to complete the project within the June 2013 timeframe indicated by FDEP. Thus, we request your assistance to get the funds certified forward through October 2014, so that we can utilize them to complete the project and minimize the costs to the affected residents.

Your efforts in this important matter would be greatly appreciated and I look forward to working with you to serve the needs of the citizens of Citrus County. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss this issue in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Joe Meek  
Chairman  
Citrus County Board of County Commissioners