

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board Members

FROM: Chip Merriam, Deputy Executive Director, Water Resources

DATE: July 20, 2007

SUBJECT: Approve Resolution Number 2007-xxx for a partial release of conservation easement for a project known as Tuscany Reserve; providing an effective date (Collier County).

Staff Recommendation:

Approve Resolution Number 2007-xxx for a partial release of conservation easement for a project known as Tuscany Reserve; providing an effective date (Collier County).

Background:

The District issued Permit No. 11-01821-P on May 11, 2000, for conceptual approval of a Surface Water Management System to serve a 462.72 acre golf course and residential subdivision project now known as Tuscany Reserve. A portion of the authorized impacts were mitigated on-site in wetland and upland preserves, which were dedicated to the District as a 61.08 acre conservation easement as a permit condition.

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) subsequently acquired title to a portion of this conservation easement area to provide surface water management for the widening of Interstate 75. Application No. 060818-4 (I-75 from Golden Gate Parkway to the Lee/Collier County Line), proposes impacts requiring the release of 4.67 acres of the conservation easement. This application includes proposed mitigation for the unavoidable impacts to the Tuscany Reserve mitigation area. Staff recommends approval of Application No. 060818-4 under consideration separately at this Governing Board meeting, including the proposed mitigation to offset impacts to the Tuscany Reserve mitigation area.

Application No. 070507-28 (Tuscany Reserve – Phase 1 Tracts E&J and Conservation Area #3) has been submitted under separate cover to modify the Tuscany Reserve permit to reflect the change in mitigation area and surface water management system design. Staff is reviewing that application and will forward to the Governing Board after that application is complete.

Staff Contact: Anita Bain, Director, Natural Resource Management Division
(561) 682-6866