



Memo

To: Brad Cornelius, AICP, CFM, CPM, Vice President

From: Nancy Scott, Principal Scientist

Date: March 16, 2023

Re: Village at Laurel and Jacaranda
Response to Kimley-Horn Letter dated March 14, 2023

OS 1.3.1 – Wetland and Aquifer Recharge Areas Protection

Kimley-Horn Response, March 14, 2023:

In addition, the functions of the wetland proposed to be impacted by the commercial project have been significantly diminished by historical impacts from the construction of Laurel Road, the development to the north, and the FPL patrol road to the south. These functions will continue to be diminished when wetland impacts are required for the future Laurel Road widening project. As a result, it is our opinion that the long-term viability of the wetland is low and the functions of the wetland are better served in the Myakka Mitigation Bank, which will be maintained and monitored in perpetuity.

Based on the information above, it is our opinion that the applicant has demonstrated compliance with Strategy OS 1.3.1.

Earth Resources Response: The quality of a wetland is not appropriate justification for wetland impacts nor does it alleviate the need for demonstrating avoidance and minimization of wetland impacts through design modifications and/or alternative site analysis. Wetland quality is taken into consideration when determining the amount of mitigation required to offset the impact.