SE ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY
DENNIS J. PRICE, P.G.
P.O. BOX 45
WHITE SPRINGS, FL 32096
Cell 362-8189, den1@windstream.net

9/15/2022

To: Hilda Gilchrist

From: Dennis Price, P.G.,
SE Environmental Geology, LLC

Subject: Wetland determination; Columbia Co. Parcel No. 00841-004
Conducted on 08/28/2022 by Louis Mantini, PWS, for SE Environmental Geology, LLC

This property is located at 285 SW Riverside Ave, Fort White, FL 32038-6637, in the Three River Estates neighborhood. **Please see separate location map.** During this assessment a survey was conducted to determine if the site conformed to criteria that would qualify any portion if the property as wetlands, per Rule 62-340, Florida Administrative Code. To qualify as wetlands under this rule, the site would need to exhibit various proportions and combinations of hydrologic indicators, hydric soil conditions, and wetland vegetation.

Although the property is in a floodplain, as indicated in the **separate Suwannee River Water Management District flood report**, there was no sign of recent flooding on the property. Frequent and prolonged inundation creates hydrologic indicators listed in the rule, and none were present.

The soils on this parcel are mapped by the US Department of Agriculture as Mascotte fine sand, occasionally flooded. This soil has a water table at a depth of 1-10 inches for one to four months most years. The water table is at a depth of 10-40 inches for up to six months, and a depth of greater than 40 inches for the remainder of the year. A description of the soils may be found in the Columbia County Soil Survey by following this link: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MANUSCRIPTS/florida/FL023/0/

columbia.pdf. During the visit, there was evidence of well-drained soils and no indication that hydric soils which are described by the USDA in ***A Guide for Identifying and Delineating Hydric Soils, Version 8.2,* 2018**, accessed by following this link: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_053171.pdf. Hydric soils exhibit characteristics that result from repeated periods of saturation or inundation that last more than a few days. These characteristics are not found throughout soils mapped as occasionally flooded but are found more often in frequently flooded soils. Furthermore, most hydric soil indicators occur within the upper six inches of the soil surface, and there was no indication that the soils at this location reached their maximum water table elevations (1-10 inches). This property is well-drained, because it is located on top of a slope in a very karstic environment.

A vegetative community may be determined to be a wetland community by the presence, combination, and percentages of specific plant species listed in the rule. **The vegetative community on this parcel did not qualify as a wetland community** by this *vegetative index*. The community exhibited a unique assemblage of canopy vegetation that characterizes the hammocks located in the river floodplains of the area. A brief list includes Bluff oak (*Quercus austrina*), American hophornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Florida maple (*Acer saccharum* subsp. Floridanum), and Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*). Dominant subcanpy trees included Boxelder (*Acer negundo*), Redbay (*Persea borbonia*), and Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*). Groundcover included woods grass (*Oplismenus* sp.), a small knotgrass (*Polygonum* sp. or *Persicaria* sp.), Mikania vine (*Mikania* sp.), Wild cucumber (*Echinocystis* sp.), Violets (*Viola* spp.); and American beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*) was prevalent in the shrub layer.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Price, P.G.
SE Environmental Geology