

Department of Environmental Protection

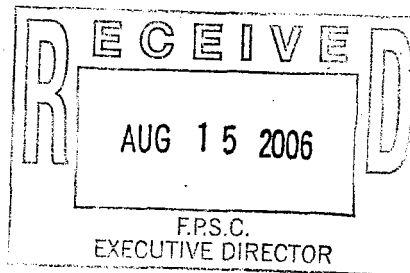
Jeb Bush
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

August 10, 2006

Ms. Lisa Polak Edgar, Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850



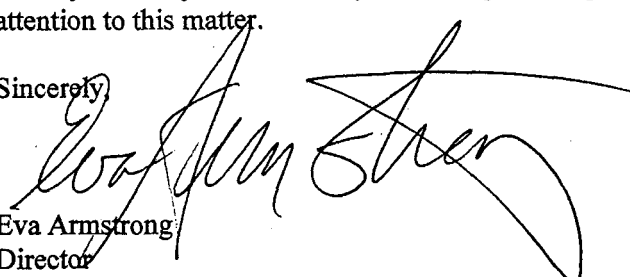
Re: Docket No. 060536-WU
Town and Country Utilities Company
Application for Transfer of Facilities to Governmental Authority

Dear Chairman Edgar:

I am writing on behalf of the State of Florida to express our interest and support in the Commission's review and approval of the above referenced application. As you may know, in November, 2005 the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund along with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and Lee County entered into an Agreement for Sale and Purchase of approximately 73,400 acres of the Babcock Ranch, one of the single largest undeveloped tracts of land remaining in Florida. That sale and purchase closed on July 31, 2006. This acquisition represents the single largest expenditure of State funds for the acquisition of preservation of lands in the history of our State. A requirement of that Agreement includes the conveyance of water facilities within the acquired property to the State and cancellation of Town and Country's service rights as they apply to this property. The above-referenced application fulfills that requirement. We therefore support the Commission's considered review and approval of the pending transfer application.

If I may be of any assistance to you in this process, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Eva Armstrong
Director
Division of State Lands

EA/

cc: Mr. J. Terry Deason, Commissioner
Mr. Isilio R. Arriaga, Commissioner
Mr. Matthew M. Carter, II, Commissioner
Ms. Katrina J. Tew, Commissioner
Ms. Mary Andrews Bane, Executive Director ✓
Michael Cooke, Esquire, General Counsel

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

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