

BDA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

**ENVIRONMENTAL
REPORT OF THE
ICI RURAL VILLAGE
DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA**

BREEDLOVE, DENNIS & ASSOCIATES, INC.
330 W. CANTON AVENUE / WINTER PARK, FL 32789
PHONE: 407-677-1882 / FAX 407-657-7008

FCRU 000423
5/29/2020 POD to JEA

BDA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

July 7, 2006
File: 2005130-10.1

Mr. David Haas
Interwest Construction, Inc.
2379 Beville Road
Daytona Beach, FL 32119
Phone: 386-236-4170
Fax: 386-763-7870

RE: Environmental Report of the
ICI Rural Village
Duval County, Florida

Breedlove, Dennis & Associates, Inc. (BDA) has conducted an ecological review of the 2,267-acre ICI Rural Village. The subject parcel is located in Sections 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 20 and 21, Township 3 South and Range 23 East, Duval County, Florida (Exhibit 1). Included in this review is an assessment of the approximate extent of wetlands that may be considered jurisdictional by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) pursuant to Chapter 62-340 Florida Administrative Code, the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to the 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual, and Duval County. Also, the site was assessed for the occurrence and potential for occurrence of wildlife species listed as Threatened or Endangered (T&E) species or Species of Special Concern (SSC) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and plant species listed as T&E by the USFWS. Site evaluations of the subject property have been conducted in 2005 and 2006. Selective areas were groundtruthed and potential for T&E or SSC wildlife evaluated. A number of materials were reviewed to complete this review, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soils map for the project site, U.S. Geological Survey topographic map, Digital Ortho Quarter Quadrangle color-infrared aerial photography, and the BDA database of listed (protected) wildlife and plant species for Duval County.

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Ecological Conditions

Vegetative Communities and Land Use

The project site is in active timber land management for short rotation pine (*Pinus* sp.) timber. The site is planted with pine in tightly spaced bedded rows. The understory species vary in density and composition based on the age of the timber stand. Interspersed within the planted pine are isolated cypress (*Taxodium* sp.) and mixed forested wetlands and portions of wetland sloughs. A relatively large forested wetland occurs in the north central portion of the site.

Soils

According to the Florida Geographic Data Library, which utilized data from the NRCS (Exhibit 2), the project site is underlain by the following soils map units:

Soil Map Unit	Number	Soil Classification
Leon fine sand, 0 to 2% slopes	32	Non-Hydric with Hydric Inclusions
Mascotte fine sand, 0 to 2% slopes	38	Non-Hydric with Hydric Inclusions
Mascotte-Pelham complex, 0 to 2% slopes	51	Non-Hydric with Hydric Inclusions
Sapelo fine sand, 0 to 2% slopes	63	Non-Hydric with Hydric Inclusions
Surrency loamy fine sand, depressional, 0 to 2% slopes	66	Hydric
Pelham fine sand, depressional, 0 to 2% slopes	82	Non-Hydric

According to the Hydric Soils of Florida Handbook (Third Edition, Florida Association of Environmental Soil Scientists, 2000), soil map units are either classified as hydric, have hydric components and/or inclusions, or are not listed. Those soil map units not listed are classified as non-hydric.

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Listed Animals and Plants

Pedestrian and vehicular transects were conducted within representative vegetative cover and land use types to determine occurrence or potential occurrence of listed (protected) animal and plant species. Based on the results of the on-site reconnaissance in 2005 and 2006 and a review of maps and databases, the project site provides limited habitat for listed species of wildlife. The primary contributory factor to this is the altered site conditions and intensive use for short rotation pine plantation.

Review of existing FWC databases indicates the following:

1. Florida Black Bear (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) — Threatened (FWC)
 - The project site contains habitat types typically used by the Florida black bear, and it is likely that black bears may be found on site at least occasionally. This finding is based on a review of data available from the FWC. The following information supports this conclusion:
 - Approximately 90% of the site was modeled as Florida black bear habitat (FWC 1994 report, *Closing the Gaps in Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation System*).
 - Nuisance records show black bears 1.5 miles north of the site in 1984, 2.0 miles southeast of the site in 1980, and 4.2 miles west of the site in 2002.
 - Roadkill records show that an adult male black bear was killed by a motor vehicle on US 90 2.8 miles northeast of the site in 1989, and a juvenile male was killed on CR 218 3.8 miles south of the site in 1991.
 - Telemetry studies of radio-collared black bears show regular use of habitats 6.5 miles southwest of the site in 1984.
2. Database review shows **no records** for the following species or from the following databases on or near the site:
 - FWC wildlife observation database (2002)
 - Florida Natural Areas Inventory element occurrence database (2004)
 - FWC wading bird rookeries database (1999)
 - FWC red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) database (1994)
 - FWC bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) nests (2002)

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3. FWC habitat models indicate that the habitats on site probably are not suitable for the gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) (SSC, FWC); however, a small population of gopher tortoises may occur on the property.
4. The habitat models in the FWC database of Priority Wetlands for Wetland-Dependent Listed Species indicate that the wetlands on the project site are important to the wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) (Endangered, FWC and USFWS), Florida black bear, and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) (SSC, FWC).
5. FWC data show that there are no Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas (FWC 1994 report, *Closing the Gaps in Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation System*) associated with the site.
6. FWC Biodiversity Hot Spots (FWC 1994 report, *Closing the Gaps in Florida's Wildlife Habitat Conservation System*) models show that almost the entire site is rated as being of moderate importance to biodiversity (5-6 species).
7. FWC habitat models for rare and imperiled wildlife or wildlife indicators of quality habitats show that the site may be used by the following species:
 - Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) (Threatened, FWC and USFWS)
 - Spotted turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) [Rare, Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals (FCREPA)]
 - Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) (Game animal, FWC)
 - Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*) (SSC, FCREPA)
 - Bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) (Furbearer, FWC)
8. FWC models of species richness for 124 species of rare and imperiled wildlife show that portions of the site is habitat for 4-6 species with some habitat for 7-9 species (range of 1-26 species). These ranges would be considered in the medium-low to medium category in terms of species richness.
9. The FWC Integrated Wildlife Habitat System database, which ranked the entire state for relative importance to wildlife and biodiversity conservation, ranked about most of the site as 5 (on a scale of 1 [low] to 10 [high]).

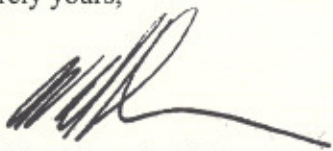
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In summary, the site contains Florida black bear habitat, but there are no data indicating that the site is regularly occupied by black bears. The project site contains no records of occurrence of endangered or threatened species, including bald eagle nests, red-cockaded woodpecker clans, or wading bird rookeries. The site has low potential for supporting gopher tortoises. FWC habitat models indicate that the site probably is of moderate value to biodiversity conservation.

Wetland Regulatory Jurisdiction and Permitting

Based on the site review, potentially regulated wetlands or surface waters are located throughout the site. A site inspection with the SJRWMD would be needed to confirm the exact limits of their jurisdiction. The wetland/surface waters which are isolated should not be within ACOE jurisdiction or require ACOE permitting under current agency policy. On-site wetland/surface waters should be reviewed with the ACOE to determine jurisdiction and any permitting requirements. An Environmental Resource Permit would be required for development of the property through the SJRWMD.

Sincerely yours,

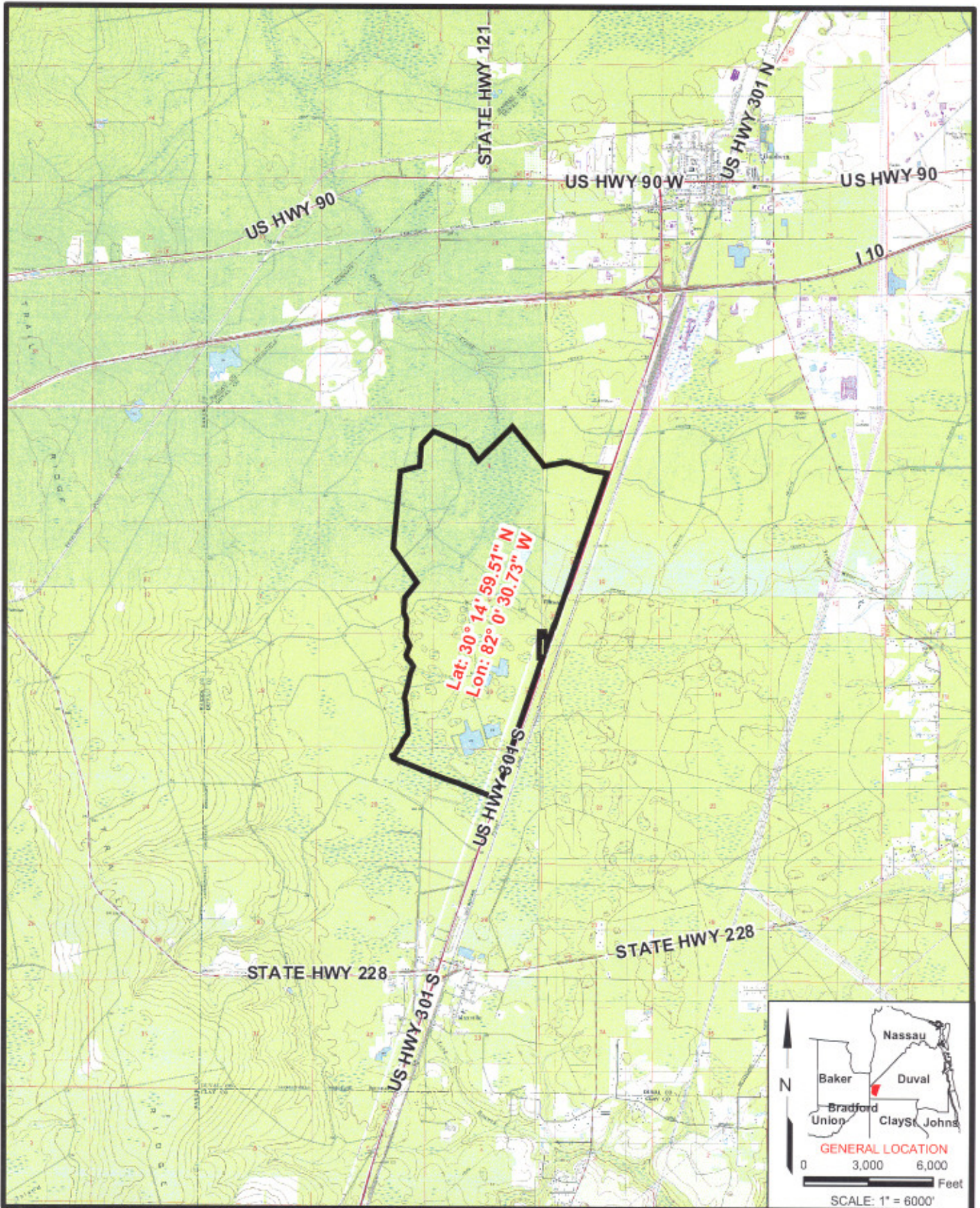


W. Michael Dennis, Ph.D.
President

WMD/sk

Enclosures

The ecological constraints documented in this report such as environmental regulatory matters, wetland jurisdiction, wetland permitting, wetland mitigation requirements, water quality, and threatened and/or endangered species, are provided based on data, site conditions, and information available on the date of our site review. This information is for general planning purposes only, and should not be used as a final determinant of regulatory agency position, final development potential, or appraisal purposes. The extent of agency wetland jurisdiction can be determined through field location of the wetland limits and on-site agency review of those limits.



Source: Sure!MAPS RASTER digital quads, ©1997.
 Project boundary approximated by BDA, 05-2005.

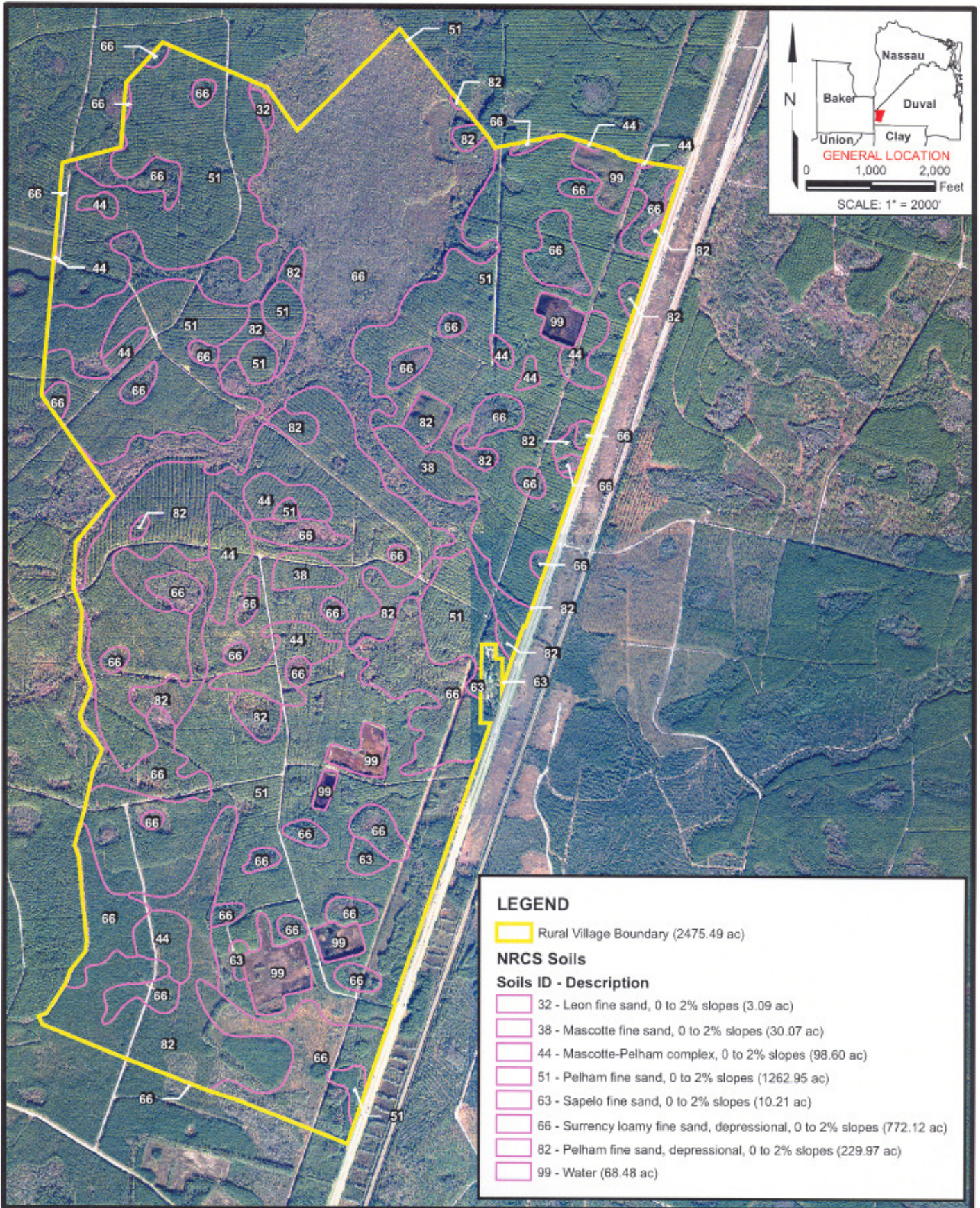
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 Plots\...\Loc.A.pdf

330 W. Canton Ave., Winter Park, FL 32789 P: 407-677-1882 F: 407-657-7008

EXHIBIT 1

LOCATION OF THE ICI RURAL VILLAGES PROJECT SITE, DUVAL AND BAKER COUNTIES, FLORIDA.



Source: Florida Geographic Data Library (FGDL), Version 3.0, July 2000; USDA NRCS; SSURGO data, 1995.

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EXHIBIT 2

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE SOILS MAP OF THE ICI RURAL VILLAGES PROJECT SITE, DUVAL AND BAKER COUNTIES, FLORIDA.

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