

## **Vote NO on Lakewood Ranch amendments CPA 2022B**

**Dear Commissioners,**

**To respect the Sarasota 2050 plan, moving the Old Miakka Countryside line is not acceptable. This proposal occurs nearly at the end of Sarasota County, on top of High Hat ranch, which will soon be another high density village development. The amendment also would not include a town center, which is central to any neighborhood. 17% of the site occurs in a flood plain, including Gum Slough, Myakka River headwaters and Donna Bay. These sensitive areas should not be built upon.**

**If the land were developed at the highest density of 1,600 houses then this would create 12,768 daily trips impacting our roadways. What LWR developers are proposing instead is 5,000 houses, which would create 39,900 daily trips. Therefore, this amendment proposes classic urban sprawl and is the exact opposite of what the 2050 Plan was created to end.**

**Developers are also proposing a reduction of the required 500' buffer to only 50' and also to limit the Open Space requirement to as little as 43%. This is completely inadequate for natural spaces. The 4,100 acres is within the boundaries as defined in the Old Miakka Neighborhood Plan. These are historic rural and agricultural lands that were guaranteed protection under the 2050 Plan and the county approved, Countryside Line.**

**Although the proposal does not include wildlife corridor locations and appears to be planned with home sites from district line to line, protected species need to be identified and wildlife underpasses planned amongst all new roads. These details need to be addressed during the construction plan review and before building occurs. It is important that ribbons of green space throughout the site be provided, as threatened wildlife and protected species are already present on current land parcels in the area, having been forced to migrate from areas which are already built upon in the county. The amendment should provide and state how many acres of ribbons of green space will be provided and how wide the ribbons will be. The public needs the interconnected corridors to be of sufficient size in order to protect the yards of new residents and animals that inhabit the area, so that there will be sufficient quality of life for new residents. Even now, there are coyotes, alligators, and bobcats roaming the area, having been displaced by Sarasota County overdevelopment.**

**The Sarasota County Democratic Environmental Caucus urges the board to vote NO on this ill conceived proposal.**

**Lisa Stortstrom, M.Ed  
Activist Chair,  
Environmental Caucus of Sarasota County Democrats.**