

Help Stop Corkscrew Road Mining

Since we last communicated about the Community Defense Fund several positive things have happened:

1...The Board of County Commissioners approved transmitting the DR/GR Comprehensive that keeps all the mining up by Alico Road to the State for their approval. Approval of this part of the plan is expected in about 6 months. Once this plan change becomes effective 7 of the 8 mine applications along Corkscrew Road would not be allowed to apply for a mining zoning change and would need to go to court for relief.

2...the RCH mine hearings have been completed after 22 days of testimony. The Hearing Examiner is expected to file his report in early 2010 at which time it will go to the County Board for their consideration.

3...Five communities and a variety of individual and personal contributions have provided about \$21,000 for payment of the legal and expert fees necessary to protect the south Lee County community from the adverse effects of the RCH mine upon truck traffic, our water supply, downstream flooding and pollution of our rivers, streams and Estero Bay. The average community contribution has been over \$4 per household.

4...Two additional community boards have approved contributions of another \$4,700 toward payments into the Defense Fund prior to the end of 2009, raising the total to date to about \$25,500. A third community has budgeted \$5 per household in their 2010 Budget for such an effort.

On December 16th the Pelican Landing Board will consider a proposal to allocate \$3 per household up to a total of \$10,000 from the 2009 budget surplus in order to stop mining along Corkscrew Road and its negative impacts on our water supply, traffic conditions and the cleanliness of our streams, rivers and Estero Bay. The Pelican Landing Finance Committee and the Unit Owners Committee have both recently voted to support such a contribution.