

## Urgent Call to Action

### RCH Mine Hearing

#### We Need You to Attend and Testify

#### (If you don't testify at this Hearing you Cannot testify before the Board of County Commissioners when the final decision is made)

This Public Hearing is scheduled to continue at 9 AM on Wednesday, August 19th, 2009 in the second floor hearing room in the DCD Building, 1500 Monroe Street in downtown Ft. Myers. It is also scheduled for the following two days, August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. You can reach the Hearing by taking the last right off of US41 before the bridge over the Caloosahatchee, stay left and turn left at the second corner...then turn right into the parking lot behind the building. The Hearing Examiner has set aside time each day for public testimony starting about 4 p.m.

During the first 5 days of the hearing 42 Estero residents testified against the mine...we need to get that number up to at least 60...all of whom can then testify before the Board of County Commissioners when they make the final zoning decision later this year. If you haven't testified or you can encourage some in your community to also appear please come up and testify on one of the afternoons. Some talking points have been attached for your consideration and use.

The RCH Mine request is to rezone 1,365 acres on Corkscrew Road to mine lime rock to a depth of 110 feet with blasting for decades to come. In addition the applicants are seeking General Mining Permit that will allow it to operate a concrete batch plant and an asphalt batch plant on the site with their associated trucks as well. Ownership of the RCH Mine project includes Ascot Development, which has sought to build a "big box" store on the southwest corner of Three Oaks and Corkscrew, and Youngquist Brothers Excavating which operates an active rock mine on Alico Road.

The site is located on Corkscrew Road east of Flint Pen Strand and is immediately adjacent to the SWF International Airport Mitigation Park, the SFWMD Corkscrew mitigation bank, and an established rural residential cluster on Burgundy Farms Road. The recent Dover Kohl DR/GR planning study identified the project site as environmentally sensitive and categorized it as Priority 1 and Priority 2 Restoration area. The site is outside of the Primary and Secondary Preferred Mining Area as identified by the Dover Kohl and the DR/GR Steering Committee.

If this latest attempt to industrialize Corkscrew Road is approved, the decision would:

- establish a new development pattern and set a precedent for seven other rock mine applications pending on Corkscrew Road
- result in permanent adverse impacts to hydrology, surface water flow, and natural systems function of wetland and aquatic resources of regional importance
- according to the staff report the mine increase the number of dump trucks heading west each day on Corkscrew Road from 500 to 1,500 (2007 data)

- adversely impact endangered and threatened species including the Florida Panther and Woodstork

In a parallel but separate action, the County has begun a legal challenge of the proposed mine's consumptive water use permit on grounds that it would adversely affect the recent Corkscrew municipal well field expansion. Several wells installed as part of that expansion last year are immediately adjacent to the RCH Mine project site.

Tom Hart has agreed to represent us and will work with us to reduce costs and accommodate deferred payment to coincide with HOA budget cycles.

**Acres actually mined in the DR/GR:**

1980-2006: 3,597 acres

**Projected need for additional mining:**

2007-2030: 4,397 acres

**Mining already approved:**

3,576 acres

**Additional acres needed through 2030:**

821 acres

**Acres currently applying to mine:**

17,287 acres

(from Dover Kohl final report)