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9/24/01

December McSherry
15212 SW 79 Avenue
Archer, Fl 32618

September 24, 2001

To: The City of Gainesville Commissioners
Re: Public Hearing of Conservation, Open Space and Groundwater Recharge Element

There has not been a compelling argument given to justify mitigating wetlands in the City of Gainesville.
Replace language in Policy 1.1.1 to:

b. **Wetlands:**
Preserve all wetlands and wetland function.

The compelling argument for preservation of wetland function is clearly stated in a fact sheet written by William F. DeBusk, assistant professor and extension specialist with the Soil and Water Science Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Published: July 1999

Wetland functions give rise to a number of societal benefits, or values. Among the most widely cited values of wetlands is their potential for maintaining or improving water quality in downstream areas of the watershed. Wetlands perform a variety of biogeochemical functions, including sediment deposition, nitrogen and phosphorus removal, and transformation of inorganic nutrients to organic forms. The overall functioning of wetlands with respect to water quality is governed by several factors related to climate, geomorphology and the source of water to the wetland. The landscape position of wetlands, and their interaction with surrounding surface- and groundwater, is of particular significance to regional water quality. Riparian wetlands are generally considered to have the most important water quality role in watersheds, due to their strategic location between upland and aquatic ecosystems. Nutrient removal and storage capacity in wetlands is controlled by the interaction of a number of physical, chemical and biological processes in the soil and biota. The net result of these processes determines the potential of a wetland to serve as a filter or sink for nutrients.

1. This is quoted from document SL169, a fact sheet of the Soil and Water Science Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Published: July 1999. Please visit the EDIS Web site at **http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu**.

2. William F. DeBusk, assistant professor and extension specialist, Soil and Water Science Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611-0510.