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WOMEN FOR WISE GROWTH

June 10, 2002

To: Gainesville City Commissioners

My name is Doris Bardon. I am speaking on behalf of Women for Wise Growth.

Women for Wise Growth is dedicated to the preservation of a quality of life that enhances the environmental fabric of our community. Since our founding, our members have been actively involved with issues of growth and environmental protection in Gainesville and Alachua County.

All the members of our Board of Directors serve on various city and county advisory boards.

We currently serve on the Water Management Committee, the Environmental Protection Advisory Board, the Land Acquisition Committee, the MTPO, among others. Members have chaired the Air Quality Committee, the Charter Review Committee, the Campaign Finance Reform Committee, the Forever Alachua Committee.

We have participated in the Comprehensive Plan Review and development of Wetland Policy over the last few years during meetings and hearings of the Commission, the Water Management Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Wetland and Creek Regulations.

We are not newcomers. We have been a part of the process for many years.

I We believe that the improvements in the current conservation, open space and groundwater recharge elements are many and significant, and provide a noticeable increase in environmental protection and conservation measures.

II We respect and appreciate the city staff and the blue ribbon consultants who have worked hard to develop the updated comprehensive plans. They have done the research, studied the issues, and listened to their advisory committees and to the public.

The time has come to move forward. Women for Wise Growth support the adoption of this element with the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. We advocate development of Basin Management Plans in cooperation with local, regional and state agencies. The Management Plans will strengthen our protection of wetlands while encouraging responsible development.

The public has had numerous opportunities to participate and will continue to have a voice as the land development regulations are designed.

We look forward to continued participation in the Land Development Regulation revisions and supporting your efforts toward preservation of a quality of life that enhances the social, economic and environmental fabric of our community.