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MARTIN S. FRIEDMAN, P.A. VALERIE L. LORD

### November 8, 2004 VIA HAND DELIVERY

Blanca S. Bayo, Director Division of the Commission Clerk and Administrative Services Florida Public Service Commission 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

Re:

CMP

Paradise Lakes Utility; PSC Docket No. 030948-WS **Application for Transfer of Majority Organizational Control** Our File No. 37098.01

Dear Ms. Bayo:

Pursuant to the request from Patti Daniel dated September 28, 2004, I am attaching hereto an additional memo outlining the specifics concerning the transfer of additional water plant land to Paradise Lakes Utility, LLC and concerning the transfer back of sewage treatment land no longer utilized by the Utility.

In addition, I will be forwarding an executed deed to the Commission as soon as it is executed and recorded, to reflect the correction of the additional water treatment plant land being transferred. We are also working on an easement for the sewer force main as well.

COM _	Should you or any men	mbers of the staff have any questions in this regard,
CTR _	please do not nesitate to conta	ict me.
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# Paradise Lakes Utilities, LLC Exchange of Wastewater Property for Additional Water Property

Paradise Lakes Utility, Ltd. received ownership of the original water and wastewater plant site (0.014 acres for water plant site and .91 acres for the old sewage treatment plant site) in 1985. A copy of these original deeds with legal descriptions is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A."** While these parcels of land have been utilized as utility sites for years they were not transferred into the Utility's ownership until 1985 by Quit Claim Deed from the parent developer.

Originally, it was reported to the staff that the size of the water plant site transferred in 1985 was .12 or .13 acres. This is incorrect. From a review of the deed, it clearly indicates that the parcel is approximately 1/10 that size at 0.014 or 14/1000 of an acre.

In approximately 1998, Paradise Lakes Utility, LLC discontinued use of its sewage treatment plant and ponds and instead interconnected its system with the County in order to receive all sewage service through a bulk service arrangement with the County. At this point, the sewage treatment plant land was no longer needed for Utility treatment purposes and was deeded back to the developer in 1999, subject to the existence of a 6" force main along its west and north property lines within the parcel.

As part of the transfer of the Utility's water and wastewater systems owned by Paradise Lakes Utility, LLC to new ownership, unrelated to the developer, beginning in 2002 the buyer requested that an additional parcel of property be transferred to the Utility for water plant purposes because portions of the existing facilities were not contained within the small existing site owned by the Utility and to allow proper access, storage, and fencing on the Utility land. The existing parcel transferred in 1985 (0.014 acres or an area of approximately 20 X 25 feet) was not sufficient for these purposes. This required the transfer of approximately .12 (12/100 of an acre) acres of land to the water utility, which subsumed the original 14/1000 of an acre. Attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"** is a legal description of the property being transferred to the Utility by the developer to provide this additional .12 acres of land for the water plant site.

Rather than argue about the value of the two parcels of land and any potential gain or loss or other issues relative to the transfer of the sewage treatment plant land back to the developer or transfer of the additional land to the Utility from the developer for the water plant land, the buyer and seller decided that they would just consider the tradeoff of one parcel for the other a reasonable exchange, because of their relative values. Because the Public Service Commission has noted that one parcel received by the Utility is only .12 additional acres and the parcel transferred back to the developer was .91 acres, there have been some questions raised about the relative value. The purpose of this memo is to outline the reasons why the sewage treatment site was worth substantially less than the additional water plant land now being transferred to the Utility and why the Utility is receiving a reasonable, if not very favorable, exchange under this arrangement.

We have outlined below some of the factors that have played into the value of the water plant land being substantially higher than that for the sewer plant land transferred between the developer and Paradise Lakes Utility, LLC.

### Facts Concerning Water Plant Land

- 1. While the additional land being transferred (.12 acres), for a total water plant land of .12 acres, is a relatively small parcel, it is located on one of the very few waterfront lots in the Paradise Lakes Resort Community. The property adjacent to this new water plant land is currently being prepared for development into multi-family housing and will probably be some of the most, if not the most, sought after and valuable property within the entire resort.
- 2. But for the agreement of the developer to transfer this water plant property to the Utility, the Utility would have a significant problem in that the needed fencing would not fit on the existing water plant land around the water facilities. Some of the existing facilities are too close to the edge of the property. In fact, the electrical panel and equipment was actually located outside the edge of the existing water plant site before the agreement of the developer to transfer this additional .12 acres to the Utility entity as indicated by the sketch attached as **Exhibit "C."**
- 3. We previously provided a copy of a letter from a local realtor who operates extensively within the Paradise Lakes area, suggesting that the water plant land transferred to the Utility was of very high value. A copy of that letter previously provided is attached.

#### Wastewater Treatment Plant Site

- 1. The wastewater treatment plant site was retired in 1998. The land was then transferred back to the developer in 1999 without any rehabilitation of the land or restoration expense to the Utility and without demolition of the old sewage treatment facilities or ponds performed by the Utility in advance of such transfer back to the developer. Therefore, the developer had to incur substantial costs for rehabilitation of that property and had to deal with environmental concerns of the various regulatory agencies that were overseeing the further use of that land. While the developer does not keep separate records of the costs which it expended in that rehabilitation and demolition. These costs were substantial. In addition, while some costs were incurred immediately, some other costs were incurred years after the initial cleanup, demolition and rehabilitation, Mr. Lettelleir has noted that the developer spent an additional \$5,000 just on an environmental study long after the rehabilitation had occurred and also incurred additional cleanup costs that were required by the regulators as a precondition of future utilization of that land.
- 2. While the new water plant land would have been otherwise used for development, the wastewater treatment plant land did not even have paved road or legal access at the time of transfer back to the developer. After transfer back to the developer, it was converted to use as a roadway and a guardhouse rather than being suitable for use for any valuable development purpose by the related party developer.

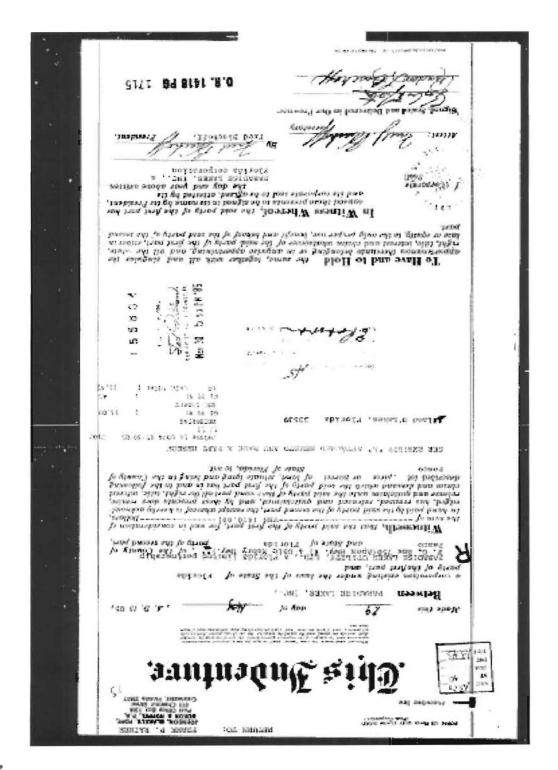
#### Correction of Previous Deed

1. The staff previously brought to our attention that the first Quit Claim Deed transferring the .12 acres of additional water plant land was incorrectly described and suggested a parcel of .65 acres. This was an error. Once brought to the attention of the transferor and transferee of stock within the Transfer of Majority Organizational Control proceeding (currently pending at the PSC) the parties agreed that there was an error and that it needed to be corrected. We will be providing a revised deed which will be recorded to replace that originally submitted to the Commission, in order to correct the description of the property actually being transferred.

## Sewage Force Main

1. While there is no clear document conclusively showing who owns the sewage force main that was constructed (such as a title) in order to interconnect Paradise Lakes Utility's sewage system to the County's bulk service, that line was constructed by the developer of Paradise Lakes, Ltd. and that entity believes it is owned by the Utility since there was no transfer of those facilities to the County. It should be noted that the line also runs through the old sewage treatment plant site and the Utility is in the process of obtaining an appropriate easement for that line to allow for continuing use and access to that force main.

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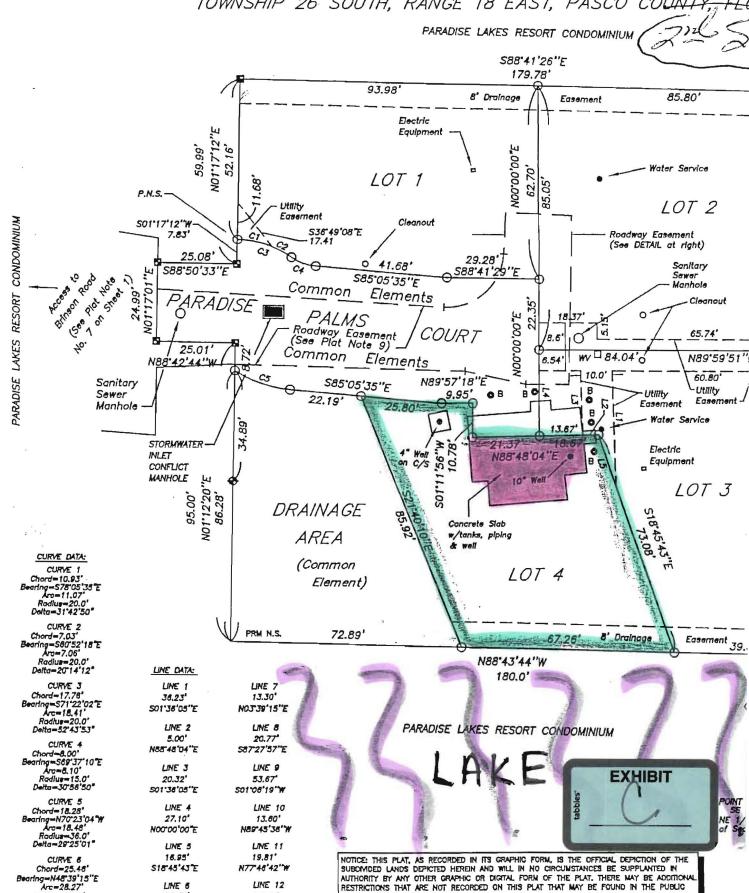
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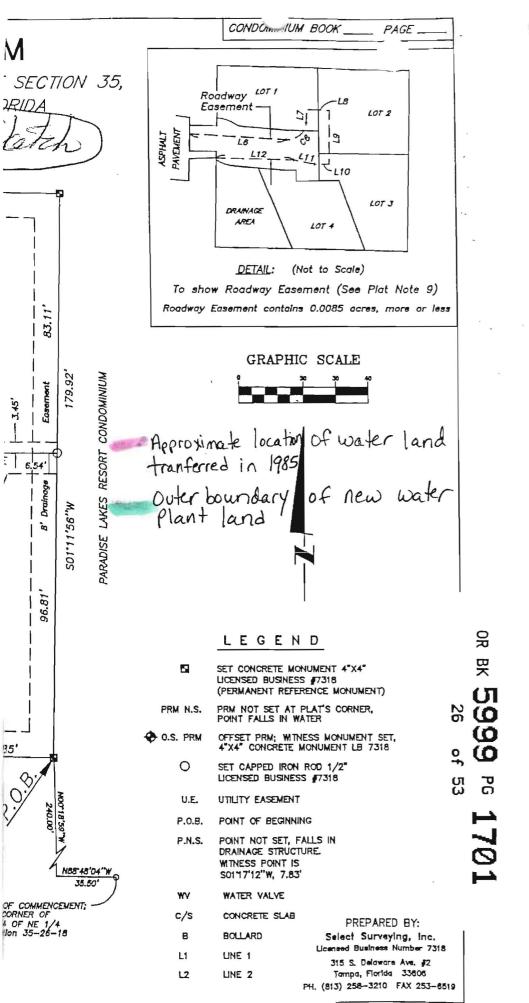
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