## **State of Florida**



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COMMISSION CLERK

-M-E-M-O-R-A-N-D-U-M-

DATE:

June 2, 2008

TO:

Ann Cole, Commission Clerk - PSC, Office of Commission Clerk

PRIR

FROM:

Richard P. Redemann, Professional Engineer III, Division of Economic Regulation

RE:

Docket No. 080213-WS; Application for amendment of Certificate No. 636-W to

extend water service in Highlands County by Silver Lake Utilities, Inc.

Attached is letter dated May 27, 2008 from the Department of Community Affairs, which should be placed in the docket file.

cc: Katherine E. Fleming, Office of the General Counsel



## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

CHARLIE CRIST Governor THOMAS G. PELHAM Secretary

May 27, 2008

Ms. Patti Daniel Division of Commission Clerk and Administration Services 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

RE: Docket No. 080213-WS

Application for Extension of Water Service Area in Highlands County, Florida

Applicant: Silver Lake Utilities, Inc.

## Dear Ms Daniel:

The Department of Community Affairs has reviewed the application by Silver Lake Utilities, Inc. to extend its water service area, for consistency with the Highlands County Comprehensive Plan. The Department finds that the expansion is not consistent with the Highlands County Comprehensive Plan.

The proposed service area is located in the central section of the County along State Roads 27 and 17, northwest of the Town of Lake Placid. An aerial photo of the area revealed that very little development has taken place between the proposed site and the Town of Lake Placid. The area is still under agricultural use. The utility has proposed to encompass approximately 2,072 acres in Highlands County. The application indicated that the Utility anticipates providing potable water, for approximately 100 water equivalent residential connections.

This area of the County is currently designated as Agriculture on the County's Future Land Use Map that allows residential development at a density standard or 1 dwelling unit per five acres. The County has commented that it is not aware of this utility providing water service within the County. The County's position is that new central water and wastewater services be provided by a public entity. They have consistently conditioned plan amendments over the past three years with that requirement. In addition, the Southwest Florida Water Management District indicated that the Silver Lake Utilities is currently permitted for citrus processing and not for residential development. The District has indicated that the Utility would need to modify its consumptive use permit to indicate it intends to be a public supplier. Therefore, the applicant should contact the staff at the Highlands County Planning Department and coordinate with the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

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Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Thomas J Tumminia, Planner. You can reach Mr. Tumminia at 850-922-1824.

Sincerely,

Mike Mc Daniel, Chief

Office of Comprehensive Planning

MMD/tjt

cc: Mr. Jim Polatty, Highlands County Planning Department

Ms. Patricia Steed, Executive Director, Central Florida Regional Planning Council