



Sabal Trail and Falmouth Cathedral Cave System

Wwals Watershed Coalition <wwalswatershed@gmail.com>

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To: Noah Valenstein <NDV@srwmd.org>, Tim Sagul <TJS@srwmd.org>, Tom Reeves <tomreeves@earthlink.net>, Tom Mirti <THM@srwmd.org>

Cc: Wwals Watershed Coalition <wwalswatershed@gmail.com>, Chris Mericle <cjmericle@gmail.com>, Shannon Larsen <ancienttrees@hotmail.com>

Dear Executive Director Valenstein and staff,

Probably you have received invitations from the City of Valdosta to its ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning at its new Withlacoochee River Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). I'm sure we all hope that WWTP, in conjunction with the new Valdosta force main which is also online and working, will prevent further wastewater spills into the Withlacoochee, Alapaha, and Suwannee Rivers.

<http://www.wwals.net/2016/07/08/ribbon-cutting-ceremony-2016-07-12/>

I have a prior commitment to attend that celebration, so I cannot be at this morning's meeting of the SRWMD Governing Board and Public Hearing. However, WWALS board member Chris Mericle will endeavor to be in Live Oak this morning about several of your related agenda items, for which I am attaching some materials.

<http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us/Archive/ViewFile/Item/963>

7.a) Presentation of Hydrologic Conditions by Tom Mirti, Director, Water Resource Division

8.a) Sabal Trail Transmission, LLC vs. SRWMD, by GOVERNING BOARD LEGAL COUNSEL Tom Reeves

16) Falmouth-Cathedral Cave System Exploration Presentation, by Tom Mirti

Please find attached a letter WWALS sent Friday July 8th 2016 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with two new reasons for the Corps to open a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) about the proposed Sabal Trail pipeline and for FERC to cease issuing permits for it.

The two reasons are a new hydrogeological report by Peter J. Schreuder P.G., commissioned by Bobby C. Billie and Shannon Larsen, from whom you have already received a copy, and an unlisted pipe yard north of Lake City in Columbia County, of which WWALS has already informed SRWMD.

This is in addition to the previous geological report by Dennis J. Price P.G., of which you are aware.

Mr. Valenstein saw personally at Suwannee River State Park many sinkholes where Sabal Trail proposes to cross the Suwannee River, and he heard from Chris Mericle and Dennis Price about issues concerning Sabal Trail crossing the Falmouth Cathedral Cave System. You can see much of what was said there on May 15th 2016 in these videos by WWALS:

<http://www.wwals.net/?p=20285>

These new materials add to what was seen and said at that hike. These new documents were filed with FERC as follows:

- Letter from WWALS to USACE and FERC about two new reasons, July 8th 2016, FERC accession number 20160708-5096, http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?document_id=14476452
- "Directional Horizontal Drilling (HDD) under the Suwannee River State Park: Hydrogeologic Issues of Concern," by Peter J. Schreuder, Hydrogeologist, Schreuder, Inc. WaterResources & Environmental Consultants, Tampa, Florida, June 23rd 2016, <http://www.wwals.net/?p=20976>, FERC accession number 201607085089, http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?document_id=14476442
- "Re: Lake City Pipe Yard in jurisdictional wetlands," WWALS to USACE, July 5th 2016, <http://www.wwals.net/?p=21093>, FERC accession number 201607085088, http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/file_list.asp?document_id=14476441

As you are aware, Sabal Trail does not have all the state or federal permits it needs, since the Georgia legislature has denied it river-drilling easements, neither Georgia nor Alabama has issued Clean Water Act Section 401 permits, and USACE has not issued any permits, nor has FERC given Sabal Trail permission to proceed with construction.

I ask SRWMD to defer any easements for Sabal Trail until after USACE opens and performs a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Perhaps you could also ask USACE to open a SEIS.

Thank you for your consideration.

For the rivers and the aquifer,

-jsq

John S. Quarterman, President

WWALS Watershed Coalition, Inc.,

the WATERKEEPER® Affiliate for the upper Suwannee River
including its tributaries the Withlacoochee and Alapaha Rivers.

Member, Georgia River Network, Georgia Water Coalition,

Florida Springs Council, Floridians Against Fracking,

and national River Network.

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3 attachments



2016-07-08--WWALS-to-USACE.pdf

311K



2016-06-23--Schreuder-STF-101.pdf

1993K



2016-07-05--WWALS-to-USACE-re-Lake-City-Pipe-Yard.pdf

1159K