

March 18, 2025

Kayla Becerra
Grant Writer/Manager
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard – MS 3602
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

RE: Equity Lifestyle – Foxwood Farms Water Quality Improvement Project

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Grant - LPS0025

Jones Edmunds Project No.: 05715-005-01

## Dear Ms. Becerra:

This letter requests a formal extension of FDEP Grant LPS0025 for the Foxwood Farms Water Quality Improvement Project. The final Bid Documents/Construction Contract is being reviewed by the City of Ocala, and the project is expected to be advertised in April 2025. This letter requests an extension of time through June 30, 2026, 1 year of the cost-share agreement based on the following Contract Procurement and Construction Contract time frames:

Advertise Contract for Bidding: April 2025Contract Award: June 2025

Preconstruction Meeting/Notice To Proceed (NTP): Late June/July 2025
 Estimated Start of Construction: July/August 2025

Substantial Completion (10 Months from NTP): May 2026
 Final Completion (11 Months from NTP): June 2026

The request for the time extension results from several factors that have negatively impacted the project schedule.

- 1. An easement was disputed by an adjacent property owner that resulted in realigning, redesigning, and re-permitting the project. Additional field investigation and survey work were needed to support the alternate force main alignment.
- 2. The City requested a late change to the design package to include their new standard design components, and Ocala Electric Utility requested that the lift station be redesigned for a different voltage. Subsequently, FDEP's Construction and Environmental Resource Permits for the redesigned project were approved on January 28, 2025, and March 4, 2025, respectively.
- 3. The legal documents, Developer's Agreement, easement documents, and Construction Contract between the City, Equity Lifestyle Properties, Inc., and Jones Edmunds needed to be updated to prepare for initiating the construction bidding process in April 2025.

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We greatly appreciate FDEP's assistance and funding programs, which allow water-quality projects such as this to progress. These projects would not become a reality if not for your funding assistance. If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this request for a schedule extension to the Grant Agreement, please contact me at (386) 518-3995 or <a href="tillo@jonesedmunds.com">tillo@jonesedmunds.com</a>.

Sincerely,

TJ Lillo, PE

Department Manager 13545 Progress Boulevard, Suite 100

Alachua, Florida 32615

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XC: Henry Lue, Equity Lifestyle

Rusella Bowes-Johnson, City of Ocala Jamila Morrison, Jones Edmunds Jamie Bell, PE, Jones Edmunds