

May 5, 2022

M.P.O. Meeting
All Lee County Commissioners

RE: DESTROYING PRAIRIE PINES PRESERVE WITH NEW ROAD DEVELOPMENT

To Whom It May Concern:

It has again come to my attention that the issue of using part of Prairie Pines wildlife preserve and horse park is still being considered as an evacuation route for Cape Coral. This issue has been an ongoing concern for all of the citizens bordering the park and to the horse community who use the park for recreation and enjoyment. For approximately the last 20 years, this has greatly distressed the neighbors bordering Prairie Pines and all of North Fort Myers. Most of us thought this was deleted from the plans years ago because it does not meet federal guidelines but most of all because we as taxpayers voted to spend our tax dollars to purchase Prairie Pines as a preserve. It is really unconscionable to destroy any part of it.

There are several routes already in place to evacuate via I-75 and we do not need to frivolously spend millions of dollars to pave over more of our wildlife habitat. The protected gopher turtles have multiple nests along the same area where this interchange is being planned. All of those nests would be destroyed along with many of the wild animals living in Prairie Pines. We need to preserve this park for all the citizens of Lee county but especially for generations to come. Lee county is being developed at a rapid rate and soon there will be nowhere to experience nature in its natural state.

For all of these reasons: we do not need the extra expense of this interchange, it is against the federal guidelines, it would destroy a whole neighborhood, but most of all it would ruin protected wildlife habitat. For all of these reasons and many more, I am against any road construction through Prairie Pines "PRESERVE".

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