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City Manager Rick Johnson

February 21, 2017

The Honorable Howard Wiggs, Mayor
City of Lakeland
228 S. Massachusetts Avenue
Lakeland, Florida 33801

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF LAKE LAND'S SE7EN WETLANDS PARK

Dear Mayor Wiggs,

I understand the City of Lakeland wishes to enhance their existing wastewater wetland treatment system by adding the necessary infrastructure to allow for public access to the property, creating a public park. On behalf of the City of Mulberry, I fully support this endeavor.

Both the City of Mulberry and the City of Lakeland have established and currently maintain excellent relationships. The City of Mulberry is adjacent to the Lakeland's wetland system and we envision Se7en Wetlands Park adding visitors to the regional area, clearly having a positive economic impact on Mulberry and surrounding locales. Furthermore, adding Se7en Wetlands Park to the regional trail system opens the possibility of further trail expansion through Mulberry and points south and west. Se7en Wetlands offers that connectivity.

As Mulberry is also a contributing member of the Regional Reclaimed Water Partnership Initiative with the Tampa Electric Company and the Southwest Water Management District, having public access to Se7en Wetland's will allow Lakeland to tell this story of regional water reuse, public/private partnerships on a regional scale, and the reduction of pollutants to waters of the state. This is not just Lakeland's story, but Mulberry's as well and we support Lakeland's grant funding request for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Johnson".

Rick Johnson
City Manager