



April 4, 2019

Mr. Richard Brownscombe
President, Broward Chapter
Florida Native Plant Society
1704 SW 10th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312

Dear Mr. Brownscombe:

This letter serves as notification that the City of Fort Lauderdale is in receipt of your correspondences regarding the conservation status for properties located at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport (FXE). In 1947, the 1200-acre site was deeded to the City from the federal government with the assurance of developing a nationwide aviation infrastructure program. The City has been able to accomplish this initiative through the development of the non-aviation properties, which in turn resulted in the Airport becoming a self-sustaining economic engine in Broward County.

As you are aware, the Airport and its non-aviation related properties are owned and operated by the City of Fort Lauderdale. We have consistently worked with representatives from the County to ensure compliance and good standings with both Airport and non-aviation properties. A few of these properties have a conservation status on a portion, or in some cases, the entirety of the site. For example, the Local Area of Particular Concern (LAPC) which is located under the approach of the crosswind runway, was identified by the County and has been maintained by the City for almost 40 years with no intention to develop in the future.

Parcels B, C, and D were part of a larger development plan with other adjacent properties dating back to the 1990's, which was approved by the County for development and establishment of designated Natural Resource Areas (NRA). Due to the downturn in the economy, the tenant failed to develop the remaining sites, so the Lease was terminated. However, the Airport was still responsible for establishing the designated NRA's on Parcel B and D, and the enhancement of 11.8 acres of wetlands offsite at the City's Mills Pond Park.

During the mitigation of these properties, the City contracted with an environmental consulting firm, Miller Legg and Associates, to ensure constant oversight and supervision of the mitigation work being performed by JMS Construction Services. Since the completion of this project five years ago, the City has been responsible for the required mitigation monitoring and have achieved full compliance throughout the entire five years. Despite the proposed development that has been scheduled for Parcels B, C, and D, the NRA's are not part of the construction development that has been proposed. The City will be responsible to continue maintaining the mitigation monitoring compliance for invasive exotic and nuisance species in perpetuity as we have done in the LAPC for the past 40 years.

Office of the City Manager

100 North Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Telephone (954) 828-5013, Fax (954) 828-5599

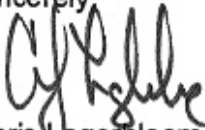
www.fortlauderdale.gov



By reference of the attached documents provided, you will see that all the necessary Licenses and Permits were issued in accordance with the Broward County Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department (County) requirements. Additionally, the City has provided an overview of the associated challenges that have been mitigated, such as undesirable vegetation, homeless camps, and excessive trash from illegal dumping that occurred on Parcels B, C, and D. In total, the City has spent more than \$1 million dollars since 2013 and will continue to expend the necessary resources to maintain these conservation easement sites.

Given the concerns brought forward, the City is working with the County to make sure that any action is appropriate. At this time, we will continue to review your concerns with Miller Legg and Associates, specifically related to the status of Parcels 12A, 12B, Lot 20, and Lot 21.

Sincerely,



Chris Lagerbloom, ICMA-CM
City Manager

- c: Alain E. Boileau, City Attorney
- Rhoda Mae Kerr, Interim Assistant City Manager
- Ben Rogers, Interim Transportation and Mobility Director
- Paul A. Berg, Public Works Director
- Rufus A. James, Transportation and Mobility, Airport Manager
- Nancy J. Gassman, Ph.D., Assistant Public Works Director