



AS WE SEE IT. two of the most significant challenges for our city relate to water quality and traffic congestion. It is unfortunate that our City Commission must again consider an application for a borrow pit adjacent to SR44 as this single project involves both issues.

The original borrow pit application was heard by the Commission on [Feb. 11, 2020](#). After much debate, the Commission rejected granting the applicant a special exception. The applicant successfully sued the city on a procedural error and was granted the opportunity for a rehearing.

The original application, perhaps with changes, will be reheard by the Commission on February 9th, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Brannon Center.

- **TRAFFIC IMPACT:** Fully loaded, heavy duty trucks will be leaving and returning to the site every six minutes accessing I-95 from SR 44. The latest State traffic study for SR44 between I-95 and Sugar Mill Dr. showed an average of 34,500 vehicles a day. Approximately 1,000 new residences have been added to the area since that study, so the local traffic is even higher today and will continue to increase as [significant new construction](#), both residential and commercial, is completed. The Advent Health Medical Plaza, 125 Florida Memorial Parkway and SR44, is located on the same side of SR 44 and close to the borrow pit site. The Plaza has seven doctors, 50 employees and sees 260 patients daily. A new Advent Health Hospital is scheduled to be built soon on the parcel bounded by SR44, I-95 and Sugar Mill Drive.
- **WATER QUALITY:** The mining of soil next to wetlands produces unique problems. When the Commission debated this issue in 2020, one Commissioner remarked that the projected “five years of work on this area will significantly change the water table.” The applicant’s paid expert states that the wetlands will recover eventually.

One condition for receiving a special exception reads: “The requested use will not impair the character of the surrounding or adjoining districts, nor be detrimental to the public health, morals, or welfare.”

It seems to us that the condition above cannot be met given the certain impacts on traffic and water quality. We urge you to correspond with our City Commission to communicate your opinion on the consideration of this SPECIAL EXCEPTION.

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