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Memo

Date: January 18, 2023
To: Osvaldo E. Núñez, Design Engineer, osvaldo.nunez@lakecountyfl.gov
Organization: Lake County Public Works, Engineering Division
From: Corey Moore, Environmental Scientist
Re: Jalarmy Road and Minneola Shores Roundabout
Gopher Tortoise Survey Results
CPH Job No.: L3609

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the results of the 100% Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) Survey for the Jalarmy Road and Minneola Shores Roundabout Project (Project). The Project is located in Sections 11 and 12, Township 22 South, Range 25 East, in Lake County, Florida (**Figure 1**), along Jalarmy Road and Lake Minneola Shores. The gopher tortoise is listed as a “Threatened” species by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) and is protected by state law under Chapter 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code. If the gopher tortoise is observed, or signs of the tortoise such as burrows are observed, their presence must be addressed prior to on-site construction activities. Gopher tortoise surveys are valid for 90 days pursuant to current FFWCC regulations.

CPH conducted a gopher tortoise survey of suitable gopher tortoise habitat within the proposed project area in accordance with the established procedures in the FFWCC’s *Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines* (April 2008/revised July 2020). Gopher tortoise and their signs (burrows and scat) were not observed during the December 21, 2022 field investigation. The pedestrian survey transects conducted on December 21, 2022 are depicted on the attached **Figure 2**.

The FFWCC is the state agency responsible for overseeing the management of this species including permitting. According to the FFWCC there are several options to address sites slated for development with active gopher tortoise populations. These options include avoidance, on-site relocation and off-site relocation. All FFWCC permit scenarios will require local government approval of the development prior to tortoise relocation activities.



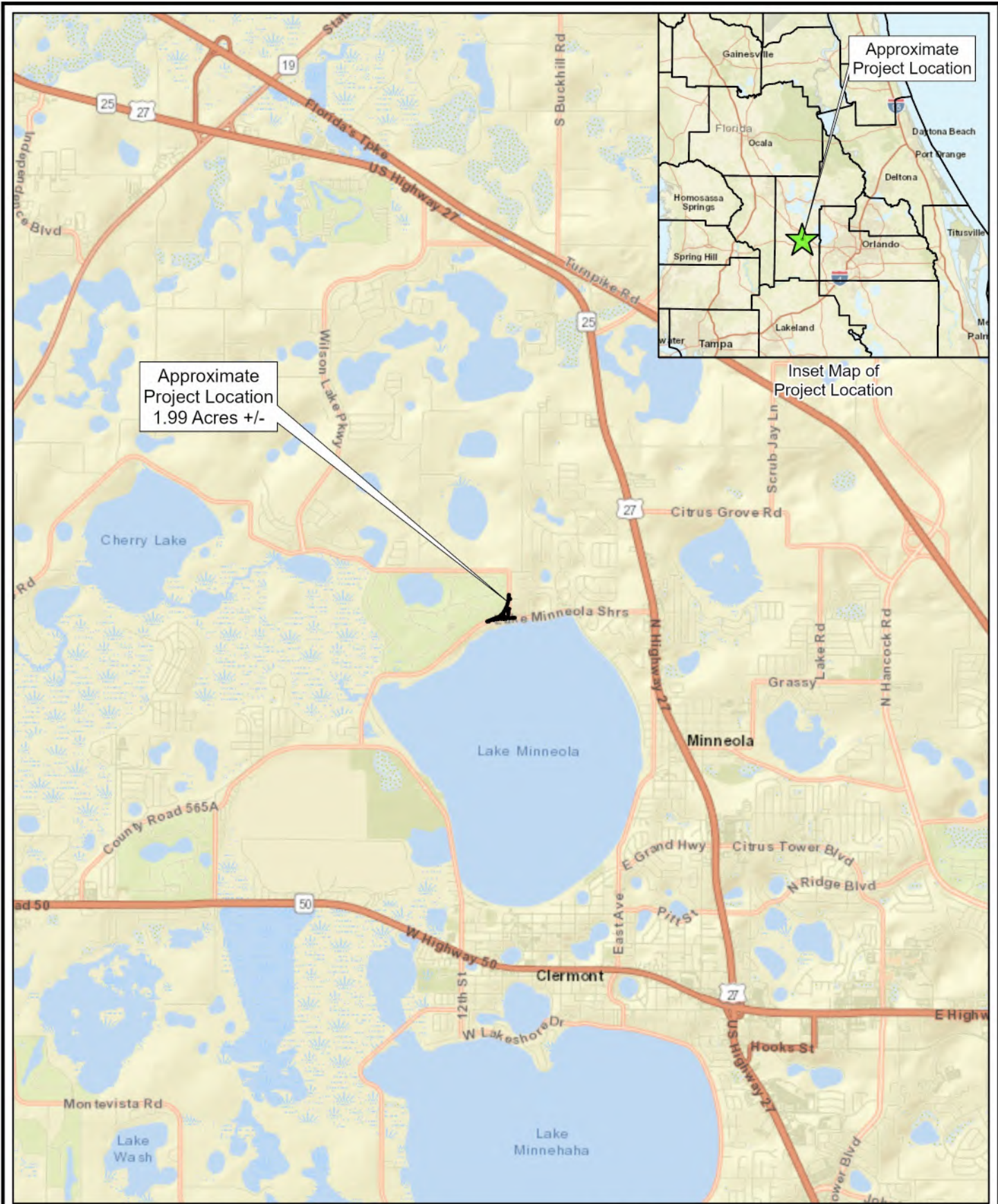
Recommendations

According to FFWCC regulations, gopher tortoise surveys are valid for 90 days. The current 100% survey is valid until March 22, 2023. CPH recommends conducting a tortoise survey to ascertain the full extent of the tortoise population at least 90 days prior to site construction in order to apply and process a permit with FFWCC, as appropriate, and if necessary.

The above information has been provided to assist with project planning. Failure to detect a listed species does not necessarily infer species absence as wildlife are mobile, exhibit seasonality of occurrence and generally have low population levels. Further, nothing in this report regarding environmental laws, rules and regulations is intended to be a legal interpretation or opinion, thus readers of this report should contact an attorney concerning any matters of law.

Attachments: Figure 1 - Location Map
 Figure 2 - Gopher Tortoise Survey Map

Cc: Joe Lofaso, CPH
 Amy Daly, CPH



Approximate Project Location
1.99 Acres +/-

Approximate Project Location

Inset Map of Project Location



Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile
 Date: 1/19/2023
 Photo Date: N/A
 Project No. L3609
 Biologist: CM GIS: ERR



LOCATION MAP
 JALARMY ROAD AND LAKE MINNEOLA SHORES ROUNDABOUT
 SECTIONS 11 & 12, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST
 LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

FIGURE 1



Scale: 1 inch = 175 feet
 Date: 1/19/2023
 Photo Date: 2020
 Project No. L3609
 Biologist: CM GIS: ERR



GOPHER TORTOISE SURVEY MAP
 JALARMY ROAD AND LAKE MINNEOLA SHORES ROUNDABOUT
 SECTIONS 11 & 12, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 25 EAST
 LAKE COUNTY, FLORIDA

FIGURE 2