



MARTIN COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

Telephone: 772-221-2359
Fax: 772-288-5432
Email: dsmith@martin.fl.us

DOUG SMITH
Commissioner, District 1

ED FIELDING
Commissioner, District 2

HAROLD E. JENKINS II
Commissioner, District 3

SARAH HEARD
Commissioner, District 4

EDWARD V. CIAMPI
Commissioner, District 5

TARYN KRYZDA, CPM
County Administrator

SARAH W. WOODS
County Attorney

November 14, 2017

Dear Mr. Lindemann, Mr. Laird, and Mr. Rusbridge:

We, the current Board of County Commissioners, sincerely apologize to Lake Point, its principals, and its employees for the harsh words and inappropriate deeds of certain commissioners that unnecessarily tarnished the reputation of Lake Point and denigrated the benefits of the Public Works Project. It was entirely foreseeable that such words and deeds would lead to Lake Point initiating litigation against the County that would result in everyone spending entirely too much time, effort, and money addressing an unjustified and unsupportable rush to judgment rather than important environmental and water supply issues.

During the course of the litigation, Martin County learned it needed to improve its policies and practices concerning the creation, preservation, and provision of public records, particularly those that are created and maintained on personal devices. We now know that the use of private e-mail accounts by certain County commissioners had become too commonplace, resulting in a lack of the transparency and accountability that the public rightly expects from its government and that is required by law. We have addressed these public records problems through new policy and practices, by which we hope to, restore the public's trust in how Martin County transacts its public affairs.

We appreciate the very meaningful economic contribution that the Lake Point aggregate mining business currently provides to Martin County and will continue to provide for many years to come. Furthermore, we believe that Lake Point's continued participation in a public-private partnership with Martin County and the South Florida Water Management District is an important and integral part of environmental restoration and regional water supply in South Florida. We hope to strengthen that relationship through the revisions to the underlying agreements that are being made as a result of our settlement of the litigation. We look forward to moving forward together toward completion of the Public Works Project and eventually reaping the benefits it offers to the environmental challenges and water supply needs confronting everyone in South Florida.

Sincerely,



Doug Smith, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

TELEPHONE
772-288-5400

WEB ADDRESS
<http://www.martin.fl.us>