

Public Works Department

**HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION AND ENGINEERING DIVISION**


1 N. University Drive, Box B300, Plantation, Florida 33324-2038 • 954-577-4555 • FAX 954-357-5715

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: March 17, 2014

TO: Henry Snizek, Director  
Development and Environmental Regulation Division

FROM: Richard Tornese, P.E., Director   
Highway Construction and Engineering Division

SUBJECT: Sabal Palm Traffic Noise Study

The Highway Construction and Engineering Division staff has reviewed the Sabal Palm Traffic Noise Study submitted by KB Environmental Sciences as supporting documentation. The applicant wishes to delete "of the same height as those constructed by the Florida Department of Transportation immediately to the north and south of those constructed by Declarant" and replace with "at a height of twelve (12) feet, consisting of a nine (9) foot wall on top of a three (3) foot berm".

The amendment as proposed by the developer revises the voluntary commitment for construction of a sound barrier wall between the planned residences within the Sabal Palm project and the Florida Turnpike based on their noise study. The amendment also includes a new voluntary commitment by the developer to install impact glass as a standard feature for all residences located within the Sabal Palm development.

The study evaluated the noise barrier that was previously constructed by FDOT adjacent to the subdivision to the north (Pompano Park) and compared the expected benefits of a noise barrier adjacent to the proposed Sabal Palm development. The study concluded that a 12-foot, effective-height wall at Sabal Palm would provide a slightly greater noise reduction at ground level, on average, than the existing 20-foot wall along Pompano Park. Staff did not perform an independent noise study to verify the results of the applicant's study. However, based on our understanding of the study methodology and noise attenuation in general, staff believes that this conclusion is reasonable as the Turnpike pavement elevation is considerably higher at Pompano Park than at Sabal Palm; hence making the effective height of the 20-foot wall at Pompano Park, lower on average, than the 12-foot wall at Sabal Palm relative to the Turnpike roadway.

According to the study, the proposed shorter walls would improve airflow, increase the hours of sun exposure to the adjacent properties, and improve the view while providing the same, or better, level of noise reduction as the 20-foot walls at Pompano Park.