

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lee County plans educational open-house meeting on mining amendments

Fort Myers, FL, April 4, 2019 – In order to broaden public understanding of the Lee County Commissioners' upcoming meeting on limerock mining and proposed changes to the Lee County Comprehensive Plan, Lee County staff is hosting an open-house style informational meeting on the topic from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, at the county's Public Works building, 1500 Monroe St, Fort Myers, 33901.

The informational meeting will be drop-in style with staff from Lee County Community Development, Lee County Natural Resources, the Lee County Attorney's Office and Lee County Administration available to answer questions. The purpose is to explain the proposed Limerock Mining amendments (CPA2018-10014) that the Lee Board of County Commissioners is slated to vote on at its April 17 meeting, which is a regularly scheduled Zoning and Comprehensive Plan Amendment Hearing. The Board meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. in Commission Chambers at the Old Courthouse, 2120 Main St., Fort Myers, 33901.

The proposed mining amendments will eliminate the requirement of a demand-study and utilization of Map 14; however, all other mine-related requirements remain in effect to protect public safety, water quality and habitat.

Specifically, the proposed amendments remove an "economic necessity" component currently contained in the mining section of the Lee County Comprehensive Plan, which is contrary to a free-market economy. This "economic necessity" requirement is a non-traditional regulation that has been historically applied. The comp plan amendments being considered would eliminate the existing system, which triggers potential legal challenges and liability based on the market interference.

Lee County has created a landing page devoted to providing clear, accurate information about the limerock mining issue and proposed changes to the Lee County Comprehensive Plan. The landing page provides an overview, an FAQ and a link to join a county mailing list for future updates. There is also a link people can click on to ask staff questions. The landing page URL is <https://www.leegov.com/dcd/planning/miningamendments>.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate in this meeting, contact David Wagley, 239-533-8502, Florida Relay Service 711, or DWagley@leegov.com. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Requests should be made five business days in advance.