

Gus Olmos

Subject: FW: EPD survey

From: Christine Housel []
Sent: Thursday, June 07, 2012 11:13 PM
To: Gus Olmos
Cc: Ramesh Buch
Subject: EPD survey

Hi Gus,

Here are my answers to the EPD survey (in blue font):

(1) Is EPD effective and efficient?

YES, EPD is both effective and efficient. See all comments below for details.

(2) Do any of its services duplicate services provided by other agencies?

NO. Alachua County EPD provides distinct, unique services. I know that agencies often work together on issues, as well they should--but there is no evidence of any duplication, by EPD, of those other agencies' services.

(3) Does EPD act appropriately in carrying out Commission policies in the enforcement of environmental and land development regulations and in other areas?

YES. The EPD team knows what is it doing in terms of regulation enforcement. I am all for enforcing these regulations fully and consistently, as they should be--with the goal of environmental protection. That is one of the many important things EPD is tasked to do, and it's vital that they take it seriously. I commend them for the good job they do with this.

(4) Should EPD's roles be changing given diminished budgets in other agencies (e.g. water management districts)?

Absolutely NOT. EPD's current roles in the protection of our county's natural resources and environment are critically important and should NOT be changed or affected in any way by diminished budgets in other agencies.

(5) What should EPD's future priorities be?

(1) Conservation lands:

- * Continued acquisition of land (for conservation) deemed to be significant from an environmental/natural resources/wildlife protection standpoint
- * Continued management of county-owned conservation properties (exotic plant removal, prescribed burns, habitat restoration, creation of public access, etc.)

(2) Water resources: Protection of springs, creeks, rivers, and lakes

(3) Any and all priorities determined by EPD: I fully trust the exceedingly capable, professional, hard-working EPD employees to set the agency's future priorities in accordance with what is truly needed to protect Alachua County's irreplaceable natural resources. This is a great team of folks who know what they're doing when it comes to protecting our environment and local natural resources, and they are all extremely dedicated to that mission. All county residents ultimately benefit from the services EPD provides--protecting our water, air, and forests, which we all need for good health and good quality of life (and future generations are counting on having too). It is up to us,

as citizens and decision-makers, to support agencies that provide these valuable services. Alachua County EPD has my full admiration and support, and I know of many others who share these same sentiments.

Thank you for soliciting citizen feedback!