

February 16, 2022

5303 Tropical Point
Weeki Wachee, FL 34607

Dawn Velsor
Hernando Co Planning Dept.
Brooksville, FL 34601

Re: Hardship
RPO Variance for Pavers in 15 ft Setback
5303 Tropical Point, Weeki Wachee

Dear Ms. Velsor:

Thank you for working with me and my contractor on the dock for my house. It's been a long process, but I think we are almost there.

I recently learned the pavers are now an issue. The pavers have been in place for many, many years, albeit not prior to the RPO.

It is my understanding that I can't have the pavers within 15 ft of the wetland line without a variance. George Foster of Creative Environmental tells me there are ZERO wetlands on this property. He says the land goes from upland to a concrete seawall and to open water, and that open water is not considered wetland by the Corp, SWFWMD or the DEP. If this is true, it would seem the RPO does not apply to this site.

However, if the County views it differently, I would like to explain why I would like to keep the pavers. First, many of the homes in the area have pavers and decks and other structures within 15 ft of the canal and the river, and I don't know if they did this with or without variances. Second, if I pull the pavers out and replace with grass, I will have to fertilize and use chemicals to control cinch bugs, both of which would run off into the canal—this has to be worse for water quality than pavers. Third, I'm not as young as I once was, and mowing grass isn't as easy on my body as sweeping the pavers every now and then.

So, I respectfully request that you support my request for a variance to keep the pavers.

Sincerely,

John Vinciguerra
Owner