

From: Gabrielle Jablon <gabrielleleejablon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Bernard Cox
Subject: Opposition of Anderson-Columbia Sand Mine on State RD 24

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Date: December 8, 2025

Board of County Commissioners
Levy County, Florida
310 School Street
Suite 112
Bronson, FL 32621

RE: Strong opposition to the proposed Anderson Columbia sand mine (Special Exception / 99 acres adjacent to NE State Road 24)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a resident of University Oaks directly across from the site proposed for the Anderson Columbia sand mine (approximately 99 acres abutting NE State Road 24). I vehemently oppose approval of this sand mine. The proposed operation presents significant and avoidable risks to our public health, safety, environment, water supply, and property values. While I recognize that the process for approval has been in the works for the past several years, this issue has been recently brought to the public forefront within the past year and I believe that the approval process has been surreptitiously moved forward without due process.

The concerns that I have are as follows –

I am concerned about my property value. My husband and I are not rich, wealthy, or well off. We have worked very hard to support our family and purchase our first home. We are deeply concerned about the re-sale value of our home and the potentially negative impact this will have on potential buyers in the future. Realtors stress “location, location, location!” and I can tell you with absolute certainty that I would absolutely not purchase a home close to a sand mine or where any substantial amount of work was being done to the local area. Should this have negative impacts on our home’s value, we stand to lose everything. I implore you to ask yourself – how would you feel in my situation? How would you feel knowing you could potentially lose everything you have worked so hard for? We have a significant amount of money tied up in this home, and in the current economy, we are unable to move (believe me, I have considered this option many times) and purchase a home elsewhere. Large extractive operations adjacent to residential neighborhoods commonly produce community disruption — noise, dust, truck traffic, and the perception (often supported by local experience) of greater risk to wells and water supplies. Those factors can depress property desirability and values, harm community cohesion, and lower the overall livability of our neighborhood. While studies vary

by region and quarry type, the community-level impacts and loss of quiet enjoyment are real and should be weighed heavily in your decision-making.

The proposed sand mine poses a threat to our drinking water and the regional aquifer. My understanding is that the land in question is an aquifer recharge area. Have studies been done to determine the risks to drinking water? With known problems to the water system that delivers water to University Oaks residents and the Levy County Water Department, I am concerned for the availability of potable water. In the past several years that I have lived in my home, there have been planned and unplanned maintenance issues where I am without suitable drinking water for a significant amount of time or under a boil water notice.

My next concern is noise pollution and worker/operational noise impacting residential life. Surface sand mines create continuous operational noise from heavy equipment, screening, and truck traffic. National assessments document measurable, often persistent noise at surface stone, sand, and gravel operations — noise that intrudes into nearby residential areas and diminishes quality of life. The immediate distance of the sand mine in relation to my home creates a concern to where this noise would be audible throughout the day. Please see the attached article by Azman, Camargo, and Kim (2022) at <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35836427/>.

Additionally, I am concerned for the numerous respiratory disorders and health disorders that come with sand mining due to polluted air with fine dust and other chemicals that are released into the air either directly from the land or the machinery used in the sand mining process. There are many articles found via easy google searches that demonstrate the negative health impacts of living near a quarry which are stroke, cardiac-related diseases, infertility, pregnancy complications, and potentially leukemia, dysrhythmias, cognitive disorders, and atherosclerosis among others. Here are several articles:

<https://communitylandandwater.org/sand-mining-and-sand-dust-potential-health-impacts-for-people-living-next-to-sand-mines-in-southeastern-ma/>

<https://mobilehomerepairtips.com/live-near-quarry/>

My next area of concern is the increased traffic that a large sand operation necessarily produces due to many daily heavy-truck trips. Freight and large-truck traffic increase crash risk, especially on rural roads not designed for high percentages of heavy vehicles or for the turning movements associated with mine entrances. Our segment of NE State Road 24 is low-lying and lacks adequate acceleration or turning lanes for the volume and type of truck traffic a 99-acre mine will generate. An independent traffic and safety analysis is essential; without it, current conditions threaten residents, school buses, bicyclists, and people entering or exiting our neighborhood.

My final area of concern is the environmental impact. Sand extraction changes surface drainage, increases sedimentation risk, and fragments habitat. Reviews of sand-mining impacts document reductions in water quality, channel instability, and negative effects on local ecosystems. This proposed site is close enough to sensitive natural areas that incremental loss of habitat, increased sediment/runoff, and long-term landscape changes are very likely.

In conclusion, the concerns that I have are the negative impact on property values, the aquifer, noise pollution, health risks, and the potential for increase of traffic-incidents. I must also ask a

few very simple questions in closing – how will this sand mine benefit Levy County in any way? Does Anderson-Columbia plan to use this sand to benefit Levy County, or will it go to future projects in Alachua County. This sand mine is a classic example of the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer. Please do not support this sand mine and protect our homes, health, and safety. This proposal is too close to our homes and water supply to proceed on assumptions or inadequate data. The public benefit of a 99-acre mine that will export most of its product out of the county does not outweigh the significant and long-term risks to residents. I respectfully ask the Board to either deny the special exception or require the robust, independent studies and mitigation measures above — and to hold any final vote with significant public input only after those studies are complete, publicly posted, and vetted in a public hearing.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be in attendance at the December 16th meeting.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Jablon, BSN, RN

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