

PROJECT MEMORANDUM

Project: Suncoast Parkway 2 – Demolitions on Parcel P110
(4781 W. Ziggy Street)

To: Casey Mattox, Project Manager
SFB Turnpike Joint Venture

CC: Tiffany Crosby, Atkins Permit Coordinator
Atkins / FDOT Turnpike Authority

From: Andrew Holland, Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent # GTA-09-00101F
MICHAEL G. CZERWINSKI, P.A., ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Date: April 18, 2019

Subject: Results of Project Gopher Tortoise Relocations (FFWCC Permit GTT-19-00337B)

SFB Turnpike Joint Venture contracted with **MICHAEL G. CZERWINSKI, P.A., ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS (MGC)** to perform gopher tortoise permitting and relocation activities on the Suncoast Parkway 2 (SP2) proposed demolition parcel P110 at address 4781 W. Ziggy Street (subject site). SFB Turnpike Joint Venture notified **MGC** in January, 2019 that tortoise burrows had been identified in close proximity to the proposed work area and that a gopher tortoise burrow survey would be required to determine permitting / relocation actions required. A gopher tortoise burrow survey was conducted on the property on January 30th, 2019. The burrow survey identified a total of nine (9) potentially occupied (active or inactive, legally protected) tortoise burrows on the subject site; of these, three (3) were identified as occurring within 25' of proposed demolition and ground disturbance activities, and therefore would require relocation in advance of demolition work. **MGC** staff coordinated with FFWCC permitting biologists and Turnpike Authority environmental permitting staff on relocation options; because the parcel is proposed for future expansion of the Suncoast Parkway 2 project (SR 44 to County Road 486 section), on-site relocation was determined to not be suitable long-term relocation option, and it was determined the tortoises would need to be relocated off-site to a permitted recipient site. The off-site gopher tortoise relocation permit was issued by the FFWCC on April 15, 2019. Florida one call utility locates were processed, FFWCC was provided 24 hour notice of relocation start, and **MGC** monitored National Weather Service forecasts for a suitable three day weather forecast to proceed with relocation work. A suitable three day recipient site forecast was documented for April 17-19th, and tortoise relocation was scheduled with intent to release the tortoises to the recipient site on April 17th. Ultimately, a few changes to the number / activity status of burrows in the proposed demolition project area were noted just prior to relocation activities, resulting in the capture of four tortoises from four potentially occupied burrows in the project limits. A more detailed summary of relocation methodology and results is provided below, with map and photo documentation attached as a supplement to this report.

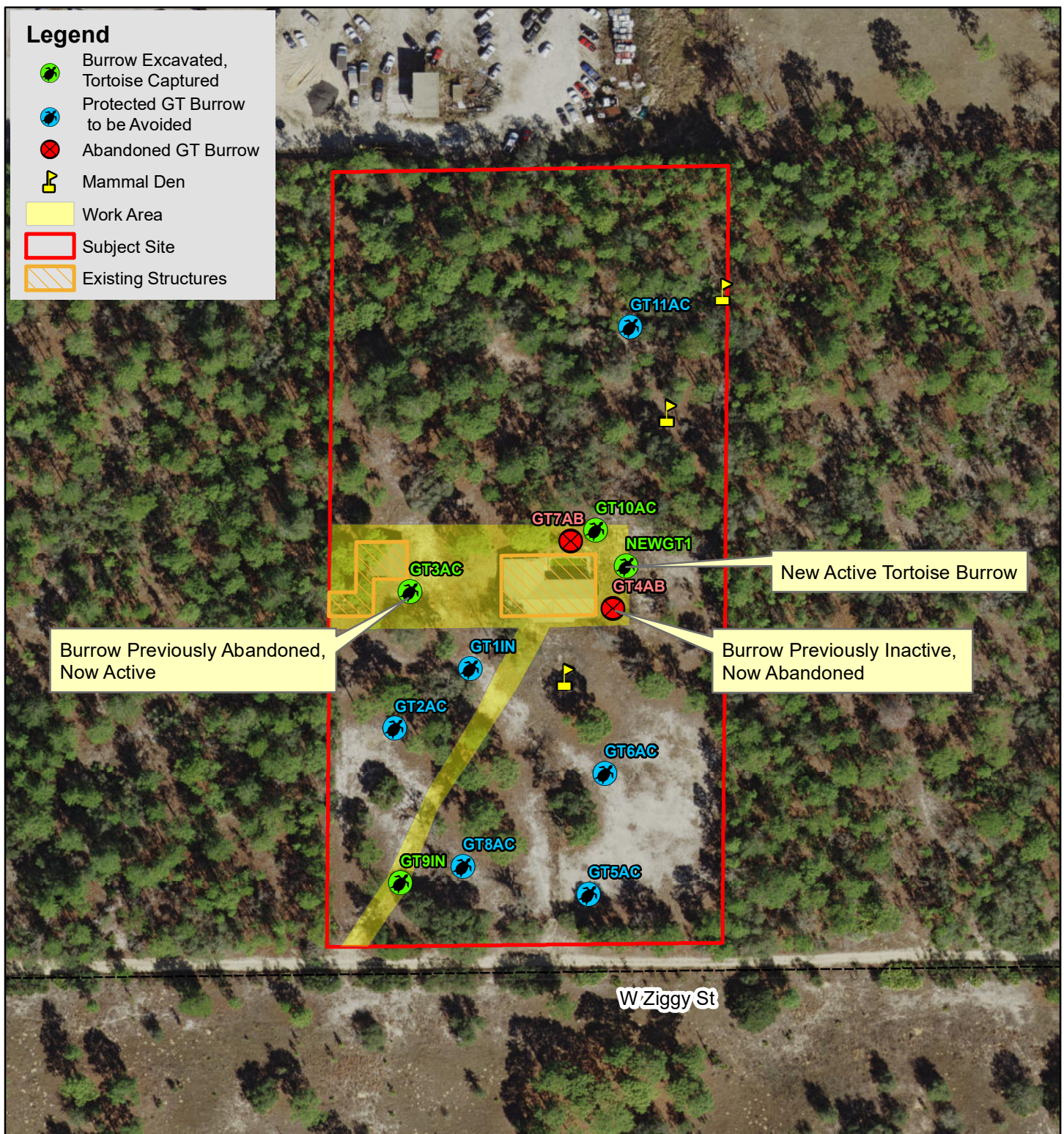
Although the 90 day burrow survey was still valid, MGC conducted a brief site inspection on April 15th to verify burrow conditions in advance of proposed relocations on April 17th. This inspection identified that one new juvenile burrow was present in the project area, one previously abandoned burrow in the project area was now active, and one previously inactive burrow in the project area was now abandoned. As a result, the total number of potentially occupied burrows to be impacted was increased from three to four. MGC coordinated with SFB Turnpike Joint Venture and FDOT Turnpike Authority on the additional burrow and coordinated to schedule relocations for April 16, 2019. On April 16, 2019 MGC coordinated with FFWCC to issue a permit amendment to increase the number of tortoises to be relocated off-site from 2 to 4, and met with a subcontracted back-hoe excavator on-site to excavate the four potentially occupied burrows within the proposed demolition project areas. FDOT Turnpike Authority Demolitions Project Manager Nicole Hannah and assistant staff were also on-site to observe the excavation and safe extraction of tortoises from the project area. Prior to excavation of the potentially occupied burrow on-site, pvc pipe “chasers” (long sections of flexible and non-flexible pvc pipe) were used to probe the burrow to determine the direction, and to maintain a marker of the burrows location during the excavation. The burrows were excavated to their end chambers to ensure tortoises or other potential wildlife were captured and removed from the burrows. Following inspection of the end chamber, the excavated burrows were backfilled and re-graded to pre-impact conditions. Two adult females, one adult male, and one juvenile tortoise were captured from the excavation of the four burrows within the proposed well abandonment sites. The burrow locations and relocation results are depicted in attached photo and map exhibits. No other state / federally listed commensal species were found within the excavated burrows.

National Weather Service forecasts reviewed prior to relocation activities commencing indicated that a suitable forecast was available to release the tortoises to the Highlands Phase I recipient site on 4/17/2019. Unfortunately, these conditions changed overnight from 4/16 to 4/17, with the forecasted low temperature for Friday (4/19/19) dropping to 50°F, and as a result there was no longer a three day window of suitable temperatures to allow the tortoises to be released on 4/17. MGC coordinated with the FFWCC to obtain a permit amendment authorizing the tortoises to be held until 4/22/19, which is the next forecasted suitable release window. The amendment was issued by the FFWCC on 4/17/19 and is attached for reference.

Numerous additional potentially occupied burrows were identified on the subject site; the locations are depicted in attached mapping exhibits. These burrows were marked with caution flagging on-site to identify their location and prevent incidental field impacts from vehicular movement through the area. Vehicular access to the demolition site should be maintained within the depicted yellow highlighted work area limits provided in attached relocation results map to minimize risk of incidental impacts to other tortoise burrows which remain on-site. Demolition staff should note there are also numerous additional tortoise burrows present within adjacent parcels, and be mindful of burrow locations and potential wandering tortoises when operating vehicles on and near the subject site. Demolition staff should contact MGC immediately if a wandering tortoise or new burrow is encountered within 25' of demolition activities.

Gopher tortoise relocation activities are complete for burrows within 25' of proposed demolition work areas on parcel P110 / 4781 W. Ziggy Street. Following authorization from the Turnpike Authority, an interim after action report will be filled out and submitted to the FFWCC in accordance with permit conditions; the permit can be left open for at least one year in the event that unforeseen additional work activities are later required on-site. Attached please find photo documentation and a map documenting the results of relocation activities.

Gopher Tortoise Relocation Results and Burrows Remaining On-Site to be Avoided



**4781 W Ziggy Street
for Simpson Environmental**

5.28 Acres (MOL) in Crystal River,
Citrus County, Florida

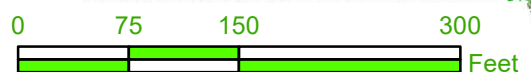
Data Source: ESRI, Citrus County Property Appraiser, Field Results

Compiled By: ABH



Michael G. Czerwinski, P.A.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS MGC



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April 18, 2019

This map is for informational purposes only. This is not a survey. Boundaries are approximate.



Photo 1. A photo of main home-site in center of parcel proposed for demolition



Photo 2. A photo of previously abandoned burrow GT3AB (now active) near detached shed structure and piping to be demolished to west of home-site



Photo 3. A photo of new juvenile burrow NEWGT1AC dug under burn pit structure to be removed / demolished.



Photo 4. A photo of pvc pipe chasers placed into burrows in advance of excavation in accordance with FFWCC guidelines.



Photo 5. A photo of back-hoe in process of excavating burrows on-site.



Photo 6. A photo of a fully excavated burrow and end chamber in advance of backfilling / regrading.



Photo 7. A photo of the four captured tortoises (3 adult, 1 juvenile) in temporary holding bins within a climate controlled office space. The tortoises will be held until 4/22/19, when they will be released to the Highlands Phase I recipient site.



Photo 8. A photo of typical caution flagging placed around potentially occupied (legally protected) gopher tortoise burrows to be avoided by more than 25' on-site near the proposed demo work / access routes.

2716 S. Lecanto Highway, Lecanto, Florida 34461

Phone (352) 249-1012 ♦ Fax (352) 249-1013 ♦ E mail: mczerwinski@mgcenvironmental.com

Tortoise #	Burrow #	Tortoise Health	Tortoise Sex	Capture Date	Release Date	Recipient Site	Carapace	Plastron	Weight	Commensals
1	9IN	Healthy	Male	4/16/19	4/22/19*	Highlands Phase I	305	292	4700	N/A
2	New1AC	Healthy	Juvenile	4/16/19	4/22/19*	Highlands Phase I	104	104	200	N/A
3	10AC	Healthy	Female	4/16/19	4/22/19*	Highlands Phase I	324	329	6800	N/A
4	3AC	Healthy	Female	4/16/19	4/22/19*	Highlands Phase I	274	266	3900	N/A

*Tortoises Captured on 4/16/19. Due to a sudden drop in projected forecast temperatures for Friday, 4/19/19, it was not possible to release the tortoises as planned on 4/17/19, and a permit amendment was obtained from the FFWCC to hold the tortoises beyond the typical 72 hour holding period. The tortoises will be released to the Highlands recipient site on 4/22/19 in accordance with permit modification GTT-19-00337B, condition 3.



Gopher Tortoise 10 or Fewer Burrows
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
Species Conservation Planning Section
620 South Meridian Street, Mail Station 2A
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
(850) 921-1031

Permittee Name: FDOT, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise
Permittee Address: P.O. Box 613069
OCOE, FLORIDA
34761 UNITED STATES

Permit Number: GTT-19-00337B
Effective Date: **April 17, 2019**
Expiration Date: April 15, 2020

Agent Name: Andrew Holland
Agent Address: Michael G. Czerwinski, P.A.
2716 S. Lecanto Highway
LECANTO, FLORIDA 34461
UNITED STATES

IS AUTHORIZED TO:

Capture by using bucket traps, hand shovel and backhoe excavation of tortoise burrows, transport and relocate all gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) hatchlings less than or equal to 60 mm carapace length (CL), and up to 4 gopher tortoises greater than 60 mm CL by non-harmful means, and to molest, damage or destroy gopher tortoise burrows while conducting these activities, subject to the following conditions and provisions, in association with development activities within the following site that contains 10 or fewer gopher tortoise burrows.

AUTHORIZED LOCATION(S): 5.28-acre FDOT demolition site located at 4781 W Ziggy St. (T18S,R18E,S29; with Latitude 28° 53' 15" N and Longitude 82° 30' 49" W), in Citrus Co., relocated to the 1,575.00-acre Highlands Ranch Phase 1 recipient site (T5S,R23E,S9,10,15,16,21 & 22; with Latitude 30° 3' 46"N and Longitude 81° 59' 57"W), in Clay Co., that is authorized to receive gopher tortoises under permit GTLR-17-00001.

Permittee Signature: Annemarie Hammond Date: 4/18/2019

Not valid unless signed. By signature, confirms that all information provided to issue the permit is accurate and complete, and indicates acceptance and understanding of the provisions and conditions listed below. **Any false statements or misrepresentations when applying for this permit may result in felony charges and will result in revocation of this permit.**

Authorized By: Eric Seckinger Authorized for: Eric Sutton, Executive Director

Authorizing Signature: Eric Seckinger Date: 04/17/2019
Species Conservation Planning Section

Is Authorized To (Continued)

This permit is in effect an amendment and supersedes all previous versions. All amended conditions and provisions of the previous permit (changed or new items) are indicated in bold text.

PERMIT CONDITIONS AND PROVISIONS:

- 1 Authorization to conduct the specified activities in association with the relocation of gopher tortoises in Florida is subject to Rules 68A-9.002 and 68A-27 Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (hereafter, "FWC") Gopher Tortoise Permitting Guidelines (April 2008 - revised January 2017) [hereafter, "Permitting Guidelines"], and the following provisions/conditions.

- 2 Authorized activities are also predicated and conditioned on the information and assurances provided in the Permittee's **04/17/2019 application**, the assurances of which are herein incorporated by reference.
- 3 During colder months, tortoises shall only be captured and relocated when the low temperature at the recipient site is forecasted by the National Weather Service (www.weather.gov) to be above 50° F for three consecutive days [72 hours] after release (including the day of relocation). This three-day window of milder temperatures is required to allow the relocated tortoises to settle into the recipient site and reduce the chance of cold-related stress or mortality. If capturing tortoises using bucket traps, the Permittee shall cover all traps on days forecasted to be below 50° F. The 28 consecutive day trapping period must restart at day 1 when a trap is closed for any reason. **The 4 gopher tortoises captured on 4/16/2019 may be held for up to 144 (an additional 72) hours after capture.**
- 4 Captured gopher tortoises that show signs of disease (i.e., nasal and ocular discharge, emaciation, etc.) shall not be relocated off-site to the authorized recipient site. At the Permittee's discretion, symptomatic tortoises may be: relocated on-site; transported to and quarantined at a FWC-licensed wildlife rehabilitation center (list available upon request) or licensed veterinary facility for treatment and subsequent relocation of recovered, non-symptomatic gopher tortoises along with others from the population; transported and donated to a FWC-permitted disease research program; or humanely euthanized by a licensed veterinarian when disease is advanced.
- 5 Gopher tortoise capture and relocation activities may be conducted only if written local government approvals have been obtained for land clearing, grading, or construction activities and provided to the Gopher Tortoise Program Coordinator (via the FWC [online permit system](#) or via email to GTPermits@MyFWC.com) prior to commencing relocation activities.
- 6 This permit can be suspended, revoked or not renewed for just cause pursuant to 68-1.010, F.A.C. and Chapter 120, Florida Statutes. It is non-transferable and must be readily available for inspection at all times while engaging in the permitted activities.
- 7 The activities authorized under this Permit must be carried out by the Authorized Gopher Tortoise Agent ("Authorized Agent") designated on this permit, or under the direct supervision and responsibility of that Authorized Agent. The Permittee and Authorized Agent shall be as fully responsible for any such activities to the same extent as if they had themselves carried out those activities under this Permit.
- 8 A gopher tortoise burrow survey covering 100% of the gopher tortoise habitat within the donor site must be conducted by the Authorized Agent and a burrow location map depicting the survey results shall be submitted to the FWC (via the FWC [online permit system](#) or via email to GTPermits@MyFWC.com) no more than 90 days and no fewer than 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) prior to commencing any gopher tortoise capture and relocation activities. Site preparation or development activities that disturb the vegetation or the ground which prevent the FWC from checking the accuracy of 100% gopher tortoise burrow surveys shall not be conducted until all gopher tortoises have been relocated from the area, and at least 72 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after the 100% burrow survey results and burrow location map have been received by FWC. If site clearing or construction does not begin within 90 days from the date of the most recent 100% gopher tortoise survey or capture activities, a new 100% gopher tortoise burrow survey must be completed to ensure that additional gopher tortoises have not moved onto the site.
- 9 The Permittee shall notify the Gopher Tortoise Program Coordinator by uploading the notice to the FWC [online permit system](#), by email at GTPermits@MyFWC.com, or by phone at (850)921-1031 at least 24 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before initiating the tortoise relocation effort.
- 10 Either this original permit, or a complete copy, must be clearly posted at the affected site at all times while engaged in the permitted tortoises relocation activities, and should remain posted until construction activities are completed.
- 11 Any gopher tortoise mortality or injury that occurs while conducting activities authorized under this permit shall be reported to the Gopher Tortoise Program Coordinator (by phone at 850-921-1031 or by email to GTPermits@MyFWC.com) within 48 hours of the occurrence. An injured gopher tortoise shall be promptly taken to either a licensed wildlife rehabilitation facility or a licensed veterinarian for evaluation and treatment. Contact information for the facility or veterinarian shall be included with the information reported.
- 12 The Permittee, by signing this permit, specifically agrees to allow authorized FWC personnel, upon presentation of credentials as may be required by law, access to the donor and recipient sites, at reasonable times, for the purpose of inspecting the capture/relocation activities authorized under this permit.
- 13 The Permittee shall submit a report detailing the capture and relocation activities via the FWC [online permit system](#) within 30 days of the release of the captured/relocated tortoises. An after action report checklist is attached for use in that regard. Any request for permit renewal or extension should be submitted at least 45 days

prior to the expiration date of this permit.

- 14 Nonnative wildlife that are members of the families Pythonidae, Boidae, Varanidae, Iguanidae and Teiidae captured during gopher tortoise relocation activities shall be euthanized in accordance with the requirements of the Permitting Guidelines. Authorized Agents are authorized to transport conditional species for purposes of euthanasia in accordance with the transport requirements in the Permitting Guidelines. All other non-native wildlife captured should be humanely euthanized or allowed to escape on-site. Sightings of Burmese python, Argentine tegu, or other nonnative wildlife species should be reported to the FWC within 48 hours by either calling the toll-free number 1-888-IVEGOT1 (1-888-483-4681) or online at www.IveGot1.org.
- 15 Gopher tortoise commensals listed in 68A-27 F.A.C. as either State-designated threatened species or species of special concern (this does not include the eastern indigo snake [*Drymarchon couperi*] and other Federally-designated Endangered and Threatened species) and encountered in the gopher tortoise capture operation should either be released on-site or allowed to escape unharmed, or be donated to an educational or research facility that possesses the appropriate FWC scientific collecting/educational use permit and is authorized to receive additional specimens of the captured species. Non-listed native commensals should either be allowed to escape unharmed or released on-site. Refer to Appendix 9 of the Permitting Guidelines for additional information on gopher tortoise commensals. If you have questions regarding handling/releasing gopher tortoise commensals encountered during capture operations, contact the Gopher Tortoise Program Coordinator's office by calling 850-921-1031.
- 16 This permit does not authorize the take of Federally-designated Endangered and Threatened species. Only individuals who are in possession of a valid permit or authorization issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to capture or possess an eastern indigo snake or other Federally-designated Endangered and Threatened species may physically handle those species. If individuals without a USFWS permit or authorization encounter an eastern indigo snake during attempts to capture gopher tortoises or during subsequent land alteration or development activities within the property, all movement of heavy equipment and land alteration or development activities within the vicinity of the snake shall cease to allow the snake to vacate the area. No movement of heavy equipment, or land alteration or development activities within the vicinity of the snake shall resume until the snake has vacated the work area.
- 17 This permit does not authorize Permittee access to any public or private properties. Permission to access the property must be secured from the appropriate landholders prior to undertaking any work on such properties.

A person whose substantial interests are affected by FWC's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57 of the Florida Statutes. A person seeking a hearing on FWC's action shall file a petition for hearing with the agency within 21 days of receipt of written notice of the decision. The petition must contain the information and otherwise comply with section 120.569, Florida Statutes, and the uniform rules of the Florida Division of Administration, chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code. If the FWC receives a petition, FWC will notify the Permittee. Upon such notification, the Permittee shall cease all work authorized by this permit until the petition is resolved. The enclosed Explanation of Rights statement provides additional information as to the rights of parties whose substantial interests are or may be affected by this action.