

## Don Kraher

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**From:** Bruce Woody <Bruce.Woody@ecua.fl.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 30, 2020 2:00 PM  
**To:** Grover C. Robinson, IV  
**Cc:** Keith Wilkins; Don Kraher; Jewel Cannada-Wynn; Lois H Benson; Dale Perkins - AOL; Don Palmer; Stacy Hayden  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: ECUA 70' storage tank

THIS EMAIL IS FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL ACCOUNT

Dear Mayor Robinson,

Thank you for your letter and suggestions regarding a proposed storage tank near 1810 Barrancas. The ECUA is an important community partner with the City of Pensacola and Escambia County so we appreciate you sharing information about the Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) urban design overlay district and some of its objectives for this area. We see how the CRA overlay district promotes further redevelopment of the region that includes the subject property.

Important partnerships in the past led to the relocation of the downtown treatment plant on Government Street. That project started a significant redevelopment trend and has raised property values in the area. It also served the ECUA's needs by providing increased treatment capacity and the ability to support continued growth of the community. However, a lingering problem in the older sewer infrastructure in the same area is inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the collection system which creates an increased potential for sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) events. Similar, we know that the City continues to make improvements to abate storm water flooding in the same area. Part of the ECUA's Consent Order with the FDEP calls for the construction of a six-million-gallon storage tank (ten million preferred) in the downtown area in order to provide excess storage capacity during rain events. To be effective, it needs to be located close enough to the Government Street Pumping Station to capture a wide variety of the watersheds that are tributary to that facility. Of equal concern, it needs to be at a location near existing force mains that can pump into the tank, and near gravity sewers where it can discharge when it is ready to be emptied.

As you are aware, we both are working to serve the public good although we have somewhat different purposes. This tank would be an asset to help deal with issues that might arise with the sewer system and prevent sewage overflows in the downtown area. Therefore it is of mutual benefit to both of us. When we started the process of looking for property we reviewed multiple sites with the criteria of finding areas that would minimize the impact to the neighborhood. This site is a brownfield site adjacent to a superfund site, and next to an industrial site. The zoning was correct, but the overlay district is a new item for us to address. The existing tree canopy was an attractive feature of this site due to the screening it provides. We believe the tank can be constructed so it is a relatively pleasing structure such as the ground storage tanks at the entrance to Pensacola Beach. Seventy feet tall is the most extreme option for this tank and the height is not finalized. Further, we would happily add features like sidewalks, landscaping, special painting (mural?) or other features to be as aesthetically pleasing as practical.

As we look at other site such as you've suggest, we would request that we concurrently meet with your staff and discuss the requirement of the CRA overlay and determine if those conditions can be met at the current site. In the end, we will objectively review everything that is available that best meets our mutual needs, but that can also meet the needs of our Consent Order with the FDEP. I would encourage you to have Keith Wilkins contact Deputy Executive Director Don Palmer and set up meetings to talk over alternatives, as well as the conditions of the CRA overlay district.

If you have any follow-up questions or concerns, please contact me.

J. Bruce Woody, P.E., MPA | Executive Director | Emerald Coast Utilities Authority |  
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-----Original Message-----

From: Grover C. Robinson, IV <GRobinson@cityofpensacola.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2020 5:35 PM

To: Bruce Woody <Bruce.Woody@ecua.fl.gov>; Lois H Benson <loishbenson@gmail.com>; Dale Perkins - AOL <daleperk@aol.com>

Cc: Keith Wilkins <KWilkins@cityofpensacola.com>; Don Kraher <DKraher@cityofpensacola.com>; Jewel Cannada-Wynn <jcannada-wynn@cityofpensacola.com>

Subject: ECUA 70' storage tank

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Dear ECUA City Board Members,

It has recently come to the city's attention that you are currently in due diligence on a property at the intersection of Main and Barrancas to construct a 70' storage tank. While we are very sympathetic to the needs of our public water and sewer provider, the city does not believe this is the right location for your intended use.

This is a Gateway into downtown Pensacola that has seen considerable new commercial and residential investment. We believe your intended use would not only be inconsistent with the current development, but it also could potentially reverse the improvement trend we have seen and invested so much to create. We have a new overlay for the area that would be hard for your intended use to comply with, as well as many other permitting challenges. While you can still terminate the contract without consequence to you, we would advise this action.

We have been looking at parcels on Pace that would be consistent with your more industrial use. We would love to work with you on the endeavor to help you find the right location. If you have questions or concerns, please contact either myself or Keith.

Thank you again for your time and consideration. Again, we would like to work with you to find a suitable site to achieve your mission while at the same time achieving the goals of our citizens.

Grover

Sent from my iPhone

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