

External Affairs Committee March 2011

On Monday, February 14th Fred Forbes, Don Simpson and Don Huprich, General Manager had a one hour teleconference with Mariano Berrios, FDOT Headquarters Environmental Programs Administrator and Jim Mykyeka of RSH in Tampa, to discuss how Hunters Ridge would be reevaluated for a sound barrier. Both Mr. Berrios, FDOT and Mr. Mykyeka, RSH indicated although there was no guarantee our community would meet the criteria necessary to get a sound wall, that Hunters Ridge was going to be given every consideration possible. For example, the traffic count used in 2007, which was higher, creating more noise than the one used in our original evaluation, will be used instead of the latest traffic count which is lower. They will analyze our community in several ways, first as a mixed residential/recreational use, again for residential use for the South Villas and also for recreational use for the Clubhouse and the Activity Center. There will be some actual on site sound verification tests done at Hunters Ridge to verify the computer generated noise levels are reasonably accurate of what the noise level is in our community. Mr. Mykyeka did appear to be very knowledgeable about the effects of winds from the west and southwest, increased noise from sound waves hitting hard surfaces including greens and fairways, and sounds bouncing off water or ponds. RSH should have their contract and notice to proceed by the first week in March. RSH has agreed to keep us involved in every step and we will usually have a 2-3 day notice of when RSH personnel or FDOT will be coming to Hunters Ridge. FDOT anticipates our reevaluation will be completed by mid-May. It is critically important for us to keep an accurate data usage chart for the community, which is currently being done. For example, remember many of us play 18 holes of golf in the morning and then late in the day play holes 1-4 sometimes without checking in. Please let the golf shop know when you do this so that our usage count is as accurate as possible. More is better and may make the difference in getting a sound barrier.