



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District

News Release

Release No. 05109
For Release: 7 December 2005
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS DENIES MIRASOL PERMIT

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced today that it has denied a permit to impact 587 acres of wetlands in Collier County. The applicant, J.D. Nicewonder, Jr., submitted a permit application for the project known as “Mirasol” to construct a residential development and two 18-hole golf courses east of Interstate 75 and north of Immokalee Road in the Cocohatchee watershed. The project site is approximately 1,713 acres total and consists of approximately 227.5 acres of uplands and 1,486 acres of freshwater wetlands. Included in the applicant’s proposal is a mitigation component which includes the construction of a three-mile long 200-foot wide regional flow way.

The Corps denied the permit because it determined that the proposed project did not comply with the Clean Water Act, specifically the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. The Corps views the regional flow way as being nonessential to fulfill the purpose of the project, and has determined that there are less damaging on-site methods available and practicable to the applicant to minimize impacts.

“The applicant failed to provide sufficient, conclusive documentation that would convince me that a flow way was necessary for this project,” said Col. Robert M. Carpenter, Jacksonville District commander.

The Corps reviews permit applications and reaches decisions on an individual,

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case-by-case basis, considering public interest and carefully balancing protection of the aquatic environment with the needs of development.

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