

# LAKE APPROVES EXCAVATION IN WEKIVA BASIN

[LAKE Edition]

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Author: Kevin Spear of The Sentinel Staff  
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## Document Text

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CORRECTION PUBLISHED MAY 18, 1989 Commissioner Richard Swartz voted Tuesday to oppose plans by developer Maury Carter to create a 120-acre lake on his property in the Wekiva River Basin. Because of a reporter's error, an incorrect vote was reported in Wednesday's Lake Sentinel.

The owner of more than 6,000 acres in the Wekiva River Basin will be allowed to excavate a 120-acre lake and sell the sand and soil.

Maury Carter, owner of one of the largest tracts in the environmentally sensitive river basin, was given permission Tuesday by Lake County commissioners.

The Orlando developer, who has built large subdivisions in Florida and Virginia, has plans to develop the 6,680-tract just north of State Road 46 into a subdivision of mostly 5-acre tracts.

Even so, Carter said Tuesday he still would prefer that the state or other conservation groups buy the property for preservation. His tract is considered a primary link in a wildlife corridor between Wekiwa Springs in Seminole County and the Ocala National Forest.

In 1987, Carter obtained permission from the county to strip several dozen feet of sand and fill from a 44-acre tract. His goal was twofold: to sell the sand to pay for upkeep of the 6,680 acres, and to build a lake as a centerpiece for a future subdivision.

Lake County commissioners voted unanimously to permit Carter to expand the excavation site from 44 acres to 120 acres. Carter said excavation would begin within two years.

Carter, who has excavated more than a dozen such lakes in Florida, said once work begins, as many as 125 loaded trucks will leave the property daily, bound for construction sites in Lake and Seminole counties.

The 6,680-acre site is part of a larger tract called Seminole Springs, which ranks second on the priority list of the state's Conservation and Recreation Lands program. Carter said he began negotiating with state officials earlier this year.

Carter said the site was bought in several parcels in the early 1980s for more than \$10 million. He said his opening price in negotiations with the state is \$4,000 per acre, or \$26 million for the entire tract.

In a 6 to 3 vote last month, the county Planning and Zoning Board approved Carter's request for expansion of the excavation site. Objections raised by neighbors concerned environmental destruction, noise and potential groundwater contamination.

Carter's representatives argued the excavation will not be deep enough to damage the Floridan Aquifer, which is about

100 feet from the surface on his property.

The permit approved Tuesday will allow Carter to excavate no more than 20 acres at any one time, and no more than 50 acres per year.

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### **Abstract** (Document Summary)

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