ITEM XX:

Consider whether an approximately 0.142-acre public utility easement within Coupon Bight/Key Deer in the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge, is consistent with the Board of Trustees' Linear Facilities Policy.

LOCATION:

Monroe County – Section 18, Township 66 South, Range 30 East Parcel Identification No: 00108050-000104

APPLICANT:

Utility Board of the City of Key West, Florida d/b/a Keys Energy Services (Applicant)

DSL STAFF REMARKS:

The Applicant is requesting a 20-foot easement for the installation of a utility line extension along Cat Lane on No Name Key, located on a portion of Coupon Bight/Key Deer within the National Key Deer Refuge. Public access to the parcel is available, however public use is very infrequent as it is a thick forest. The parcel abuts a right of way to a single-family home and the ingress/egress route serves only that home. The conservation land is currently managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under lease 4144. The parcel under consideration was acquired, and is comprised of, donations from The Nature Conservancy (December 27, 2000) and Monroe County (September 20, 2001). The USFWS expressed support for the project in a letter dated September 1, 2020. In a letter dated May 6, 2020, The Division of Historical Resources (DHR) stated that a cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) would not be required.

Avoidance:

The proposed utility easement is the most direct route that allows for minimal disturbance of habitat. It abuts an already existing right of way to a private home.

Minimizing Impacts:

Given the limited scope of this project it is the USFWS opinion that it will not impact larger areas of conservation lands that the parcel is located within. Efforts should be made to site the utility poles as close to the existing scarified roadway as possible and to minimize tree trimming to the extent possible due to the existence of federally and state listed species that may occupy the specific forested area. The Applicant will engage a qualified biologist to visually survey the staked pole location work area and adjacent work area immediately prior to proposed installation, to ensure no listed species exist. If they (listed species) do exist, the Applicant will either relocate the work or coordinate with USFWS and the qualified biologist to determine a suitable solution to avoid impacts to listed species.

Compensation:

No fee for public easements. Pursuant to F.S. 253.02(4), replacement lands shall be sought by the Applicant at 1.5 times the appraised value of the easement area. If replacement lands are not available or are un-obtainable, the Applicant will pay to USFWS, an amount equaling two times the appraised value of the Easement area. The applicant will satisfy the additional compensation prior to final execution of the easement by the Board of Trustees.

DSL STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

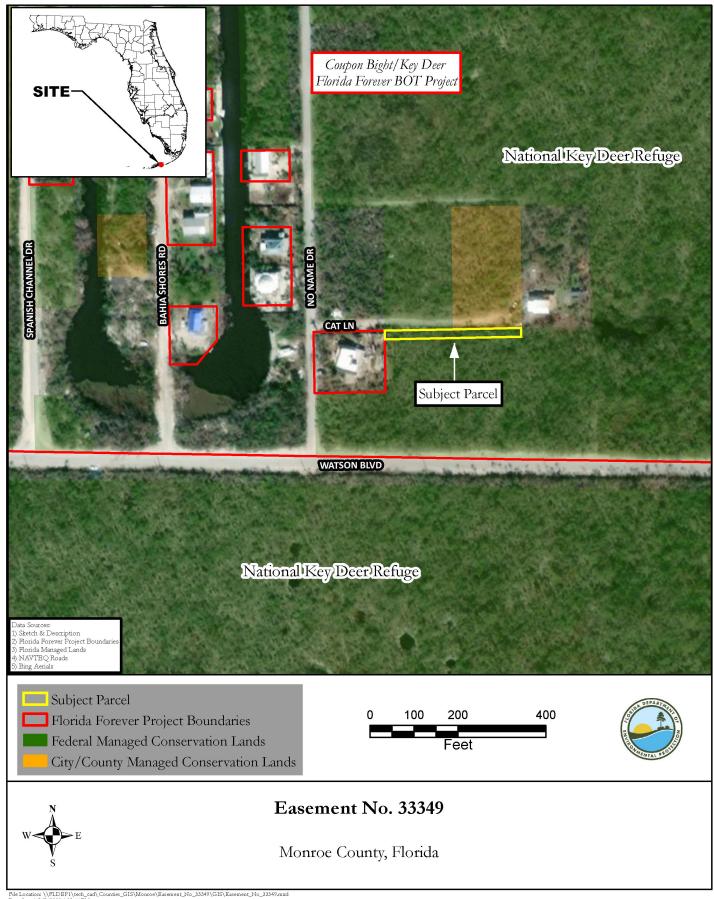
Approve

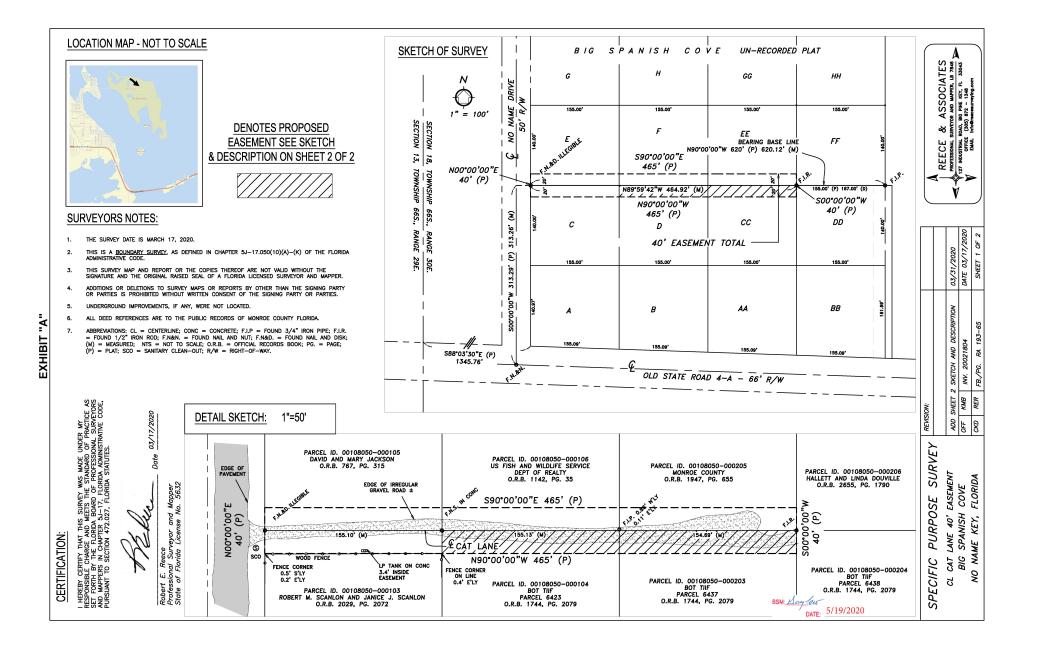
ARC RECOMMENDATION:

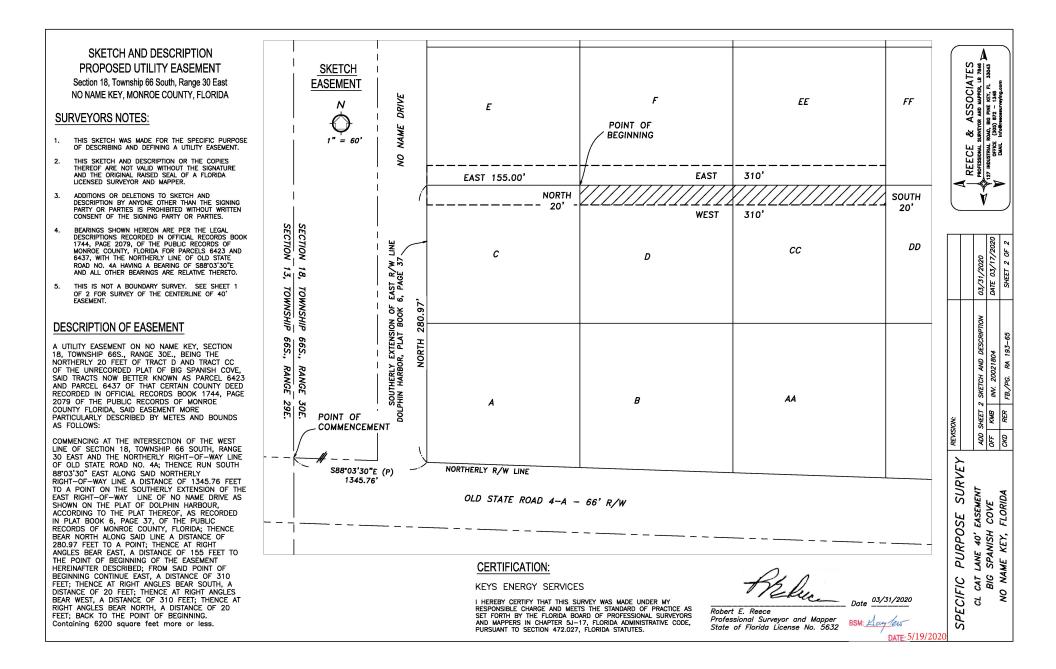
() APPROVE

- () APPROVE WITH MODIFICATIONS:
- () DEFER
- () WITHDRAW
- () NOT APPROVE
- Ó Ó OTHER:_____

THIS PAGE AND ANY FOLLOWING PAGES ARE ATTACHED ONLY FOR STATE OF FLORIDA TRACKING PURPOSES AND FORM NO PART OF THE INSTRUMENT AND ARE NOT TO BE RELIED ON BY ANY PARTY.







Coupon Bight/Key Deer Easement no. 33349 City of Key West



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges 30587 Watson Blvd Big Pine Key, Florida 33043 (305) 872-2239, (305) 872-3675 FAX

Brad Richardson, Chief Bureau of Public Land Administration Division of State Lands 3800 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 125 Tallahassee, FL 32399 September 1, 2020

Mr. Richardson:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) reviewed Hallett Douville's proposal regarding the proposed easement located on a portion of National Key Deer Refuge in Monroe County, Florida. The USFWS has no objection to this request, and recommends approval of the proposal. Although, as the managing agency of the lease, we would require that Keys Energy Service provide our office with the proposed dates of any work to erect power transmission poles on the easement.

The USFWS will look to the Bureau of Public Land Administration to negotiate the terms and conditions of the easement and an agreeable net positive or neutral benefit for the National Key Deer Refuge. USFWS staff will provide input regarding impacted resources and if necessary, mitigation to ensure the success of this transaction.

Please keep us apprised of the progress. Should you need further assistance please contact Justin Dewey, Realty Specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 404/679-7200.

Sincerely,

Greg Boling

Deputy Project Leader

Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, FL 32399 Ron DeSantis Governor

Jeanette Nuñez Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein Secretary

USFWS ARC Memo Response

ARC Questionnaire (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

1. Description of when and under what program or fund the parcel under consideration was acquired (EEL, LATF, CARL, P-2000, Florida Forever, etc.) or donated.

Based on DEP Title and Lands Records , the Parcel was donated to the State of Florida by Monroe County, FL.

2. Description of the purpose for the parcel's acquisition (P-2000 or Florida Forever goals and criteria or similar purpose descriptions) or donation and any restrictions or conditions of use that apply to the parcel, if any.

Based on FL DEP Title and Lands records, the property was donated. Based on correspondence with FL DEP, there are no reverters, restrictions or special conditions associated with the property. The FL DEP document associated with the parcel does allow for utility ingress/egress easements.

3. Description of the current level of public recreational use or public access of the parcel.

Parcel is managed by USFWS as part of the National Key Deer Refuge. Public access to the parcel is available, however public use is very infrequent as it is a thick forest. The parcel abuts a right of way to a single family home and the ingress/egress route serves only that home.

4. Description of the natural resources, land cover, vegetation, habitat or natural community, if any, that are currently present on the parcel.

Parcel is primarily comprised of hardwood hammock habitat, and the plant and wildlife community that comprises this particular habitat. It is undeveloped.

 Description and list of the imperiled and other wildlife species, if any, that occur on or use the parcel.
 Federally listed: Endangered Key deer, Endangered Lower Keys marsh rabbit, Threatened Stock Island tree snail, Threatened Eastern Indigo Snake.

State listed: Threatened White-crowned pigeon.

A variety of native wildlife use this habitat, including American alligator, FL box turtle, striped mud turtle, black racer snakes, rosy rat snakes and an abundance of resident and migratory birds.

Florida tree snail and other tree snails.



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6. Description and list of historical or archaeological resources, if any, that occur or have the potential of occurring on the site.

USFWS is recommending that the utility company follow the guidance outlined by the State in a letter from Dr. Timothy Parsons, Director, Florida Division of Historical Resources & State Historic Preservation Officer to Ms. Angel Granger May 6, 2020, Bureau of Public Land Administration—

"It is the opinion of this office that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect historic properties, provided that the applicant makes contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the easement area: If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the easement area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850) 245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

7. Formal alternative siting analysis that includes a description and assessment of other potential alternative sites and why they are not feasible or practicable alternatives.

The proposed utility easement is the most direct route that allows for minimal disturbance of habitat. It abuts an already existing right of way to a private home.

8. Assessment of the impacts the proposed alternative use will have on the natural/historical/archaeological/recreational resources, if any, as well as on the current public use and purpose for the site or parcel.

There is no proposed alternative.

9. Assessment of the potential impacts on the larger area of conservation lands the parcel is located within (park, wildlife management area, forest trail, etc.) and on any surrounding conservation lands, if any.

Given the limited scope of this project it is the USFWS opinion that it will not impact larger areas of conservation lands that the parcel is located within.



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10. Assessment of how the proposed package of consideration and net positive

benefit for the requested alternative use of the parcel, such as the generally standard requirement for replacement land (depending on the parcel's size), will offset the impacts and benefit the larger area of conservation lands (park, forest, wildlife management area, trail system, etc.) the parcel is within and particularly how it will offset the impacts or benefit the natural/historical/archaeological resources, habitat and public recreational uses of the public conservation area the parcel is located within.

Due to the limited scope of the project, there is no request by USFWS for replacement lands. Efforts should be made to site the utility poles as close to the existing scarified roadway as possible and to minimize tree trimming to the extent possible due to the existence of federally and state listed species that may occupy the specific forested area.

Please return completed questionnaire to:

Angel Granger, Government Operations Consultant III Florida Department of Environmental Protection State Lands/Bureau of Public Land Administration 3800 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 130 Tallahassee, Florida 32399 <u>Angel.Granger@FloridaDEP.gov</u> Office: 850-245-2696



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT Of STATE

RON DESANTIS

Governor

LAUREL M. LEE Secretary of State

Ms. Angel Granger Bureau of Public Land Administration, MS 130 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000 May 6, 2020

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2020-2357 G-42038-NDB Easement 33349 – Douville-Keys Energy Service Parcel ID Numbers: 108050-000104 & 108050-000203 No Name Key, Monroe County

Dear Ms. Granger:

In accordance with this agency's responsibilities under Section 267.061, *Florida Statutes*, we reviewed the referenced easement request.

It is the opinion of this office that the proposed undertaking is unlikely to affect historic properties, provided that the applicant makes contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the easement area:

If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal
implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native
American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the easement area,
the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the
discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources,
Compliance Review Section at (850) 245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or
written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted
activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section
872.05, *Florida Statutes*.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at <u>robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com</u>, or at 850.245.6496, or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D. Director, Division of Historical Resources & State Historic Preservation Officer

Division of Historical Resources R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street• Tallahassee, Florida 32399 850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) • FLHeritage.com



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