From: Patrick Trevisani
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Surface Water Assessment and Fee Increase

Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 12:02:58 PM

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Report Suspicious

Dear Pinellas County Commissioners,

Parcel ID: 153015644580000520

Address: 11175 109th Way, Largo, FL, 33778

September 4, 2025 Public Hearing

I am writing as a property owner and taxpayer in Pinellas County to register my strong objection to the proposed Surface Water Assessment and Fee, as outlined in your recent notice.

First and foremost, this proposal represents yet another hidden tax increase disguised as a "fee." Homeowners are already burdened with escalating property insurance, rising utility costs, and record-high property taxes. Adding another layered assessment—without providing clear, measurable outcomes for how these funds will be used—shows a disregard for fiscal responsibility and transparency.

The notice cites "impervious area" and "equivalent residential units" as justification for this charge, but it fails to explain in plain terms how these calculations are made, whether they are audited, and what oversight will exist to ensure that funds collected are not mismanaged. Simply put: taxpayers deserve detailed accountability before being forced to pay into yet another recurring fee structure.

It is unacceptable that the County is proposing to increase the maximum assessment rate from \$133.65 with an annual 5% increase until it gets to \$179.11 per ERU. This represents a 34.01% hike, which far exceeds normal cost-of-living adjustments and well beyond what hardworking residents should be expected to absorb. Where is the evidence that such a drastic increase is necessary? Where is the performance audit that demonstrates prior collected fees were used efficiently and effectively?

Pinellas County must prioritize budget discipline and eliminate waste before reaching into the pockets of its residents yet again. Until these concerns are addressed, and until a full public accounting of current surface water management spending is provided, I strongly oppose this proposed assessment and urge you to vote **NO**.

Taxpayers are not an unlimited ATM. We expect transparency, accountability, and respect for the people who actually fund this County.

--

Best, Patrick Trevisani 407-446-0558 From: Sierra Shipley

To: <u>Patrick Trevisani</u>; <u>BCC Agenda Comments</u>

Subject: Formal Objection to Proposed Surface Water Assessment and Fee Increase

Date: Monday, August 25, 2025 3:17:22 PM

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--Best, Sierra Shipley 407-446-0558

From: PAULA CHIATELLO
To: BCC Agenda Comments

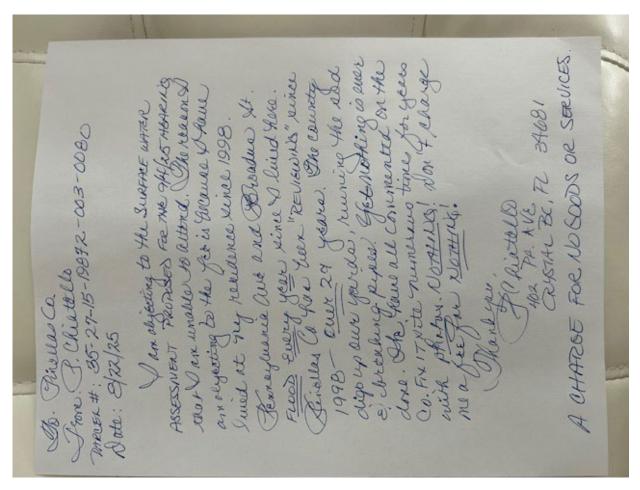
Subject: Objection to surface water assessment fee **Date:** Friday, August 22, 2025 1:38:44 PM

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The County's been talking about this for over 27 years. I'll be dead before I ever see Broadus St drainage fixed.



Sent from my iPhone

From: <u>cindy cahill</u>

To: <u>BCC Agenda Comments</u>

Cc: <u>cindy cahill</u>

Subject: Objection to surface water assessment fee **Date:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 2:32:37 PM

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Greetings,

I received in mail today, 8/21/25, tax assessment and notice of water assessment fee. This notice states objections must be sent 20 days prior to the 9/4/25 meeting. 20 days from today is 9/10/25, making the 20 day requirement impossible to meet.

I want it noted I object to this additional fee, it is too much money , an unreasonable increase. It will force many long time residents financial hardship.

Cindy cahill 1071 persimmon dr Palm harbor From: <u>Diane Carney</u>

To: <u>BCC Agenda Comments</u>

 Subject:
 Parcel 35-27-15-19872-017-0090

 Date:
 Thursday, August 28, 2025 3:03:04 PM

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From Diane M Carney September 4, 2025 re: objection to surface water assessment or fee.

I am objecting to this increased fee because I have spoken to the county several times about all the water that drains on my property from Vincent Street. I was told it was because my property is low and there are "plans" to address these issues. Well so far nothing has been done. My family has owned this property since 1982 and it was never this way. I live on the corner and every time the county paves or on the south side applies gravel, they are literally building a dam around half of my property. The drainage ditch is inadequate to take the water. Half the time it stays plugged up and stands water for toads and mosquitoes to breed in.

Every time we get a big rain, the back of my house floods from the water running off of Vincent Street and the front of the house floods from the bad ditch design. Why should I be expected to pay more when nothing is done to address the water running onto my property? Additionally now that I'm retired my monthly income has been cut in half. I can't afford more expenses.

Thank you, Diane M Carney From: <u>Curt Norman</u>

To: <u>BCC Agenda Comments</u>

Subject: rate increase for H. C. Norman" parcel # 24-29-15-55584-000-0300;

Date: Sunday, August 31, 2025 2:26:24 PM

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Sep 4 2025 public hearing

Dear Sir,

I strenuously object to both the magnitude of the assessment at \$22.9M for surface water management for a county the size of Pinellas, AND that you're proposing a 7% increase for next year, but capping it at 5% going forward---if you can live with 5%/yr in the future, you can live with 5% in 2026.

The Board needs a reality check on the difficult, inflationary times that Pinellas residents are currently dealing with, many of whom are on modest fixed incomes, I've had to deal with financial hard times in the corporate world, and I can tell you where there's a will, there's a way. With a budget of \$22'9M

I can say with confidence,there's 10-20% of fat included, and the Board needs to do the necessary trimming. $\$

H.C.Norman

From: brianbkelly@wowway.com
To: BCC Agenda Comments
Cc: Peters, Kathleen; Scott, Brian

Subject: September 4, 2025 Public Hearing on Surface Water Assessment Fee

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:48:19 PM

Importance: High

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I can't make the public hearing on Surface Water Assessment, so I'm emailing my objection.

Here is my objection: Why am I charged one ERU when the only impervious area on the property is a driveway that doesn't come close to 2,339 square feet? My driveway might be half that size, so I should be charged one-half ERU.

I don't quibble with charging a fee for impervious area runoff. I object to the laziness of slapping every residence with a supersized driveway area.

I have no other impervious areas on my property. I have grass in the front next to the driveway and grass in the backyard.

Please revisit this. Easily 90 to 95 percent of homes in unincorporated Pinellas have driveways similar to mine. In essence we're subsidizing people with long or fat driveways.

Brian Kelly Parcel 19-30-15-62739-001-0080 From: <u>Tara Webster</u>

To: <u>BCC Agenda Comments</u>

Subject: Surface Water Assessment Objection, Sept 4th,2025 hearing

Date: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 11:35:37 AM

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My name is <u>Tara Webster</u> and I am unable to make it to the <u>Sept 4th, 2025</u> hearing. My parcel number is <u>04-31-16-32994-000-0230</u>.

My objection is that the 7% is too high. The people of Pinellas county are hurting in this economy. And they're still recovering from last years storms. I object to this increase.

Respectfully,

Tara Webster



Virus-free.www.avg.com

Agenda Item 22 / 2025-9-4 Public Hearing

Proposed Change to Mitigation Credit Calculations

The stormwater tax ordinance includes the following option:

"Mitigation credits may be offered for properties that reduce the burden to the County system, including redevelopment proposals that reduce impervious services"

Our firm routinely prepares stormwater mitigation credit reports for property owners that have installed retention facilities which serve to decrease stormwater flows leaving the site to pre-development levels

The credit process uses a 100 year design as the standard instead of a 25 year design.

<u>This needs to be changed to a 25 year design</u> for all properties in an "open" basin since that was the regulatory standard (Pinellas County and SWFWMD) that the properties were originally told to design to.

This change will encourage more property owners to apply for an exemption and encourage the maintenance of pre-1984 facilities which are currently unregulated and not routinely inspected.

John C. Landon, P.E.

Landon, Moree & Associates, Inc.

From: John C. Landon
To: BCC Agenda Comments

Subject: BCC meeting 9-4-2025 -- Agenda item 22

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 12:14:41 PM

Attachments: image001.png

Proposed Stormwater Tax Exemption Change.docx

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John C. Landon, P.E.



Civil & Environmental Engineers - Planners - Surveyors

31622 US Highway 19 North Palm Harbor, Florida 34684

Phone: (727) 789-5010, ext. 203, Cell: (727) 560-0100

Email: LANDON@LMAENGR.COM Web: WWW.LMAENGR.COM

From: D W Robinson

To: BCC Agenda Comments

Subject: Surface Water Assessment

Date: Thursday, September 4, 2025 10:05:02 AM

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David W Robinson

PArcel Number: 08-28-16-48770-010-0170

September 4, 2025

RE: Objection to Surface Water Assessment Given the egregious level of property tax in

Pinellas County - as an example, below is a comparison of two properties (for FL and MA) in 2024* - *ANY* further increase to property taxes for *ANY* reason is 100% unjustified, as further increases continue to negate homestead and other assessment reductions, and, appears as an "administrator/'politeer' money grab".

At the VERY least this assessment should be tied only to those households which use in excess of 10,000 gallons of water per billing period.

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* FL: bought 3/2024: 1983 built, single level, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, small kitchen, living room, approximately 985 s.f. bungalow, on a cement slab "foundation" (barely 6 in. above ground) with a very small 1 car garage, with large back yard with unenclosed brick patio and above it a detached unenclosed brick fire pit (useless due to large oaks overhanging and nearby and county ordinances), and large front yard, with trash collection having to be paid by the property owner at \$30/month minimum, in the Lake St. George sub-suburban neighborhood of Palm Harbor, Pinellas county. Interior newly "renovated" (corners cut, work needed) and *quite* plain, vaulted ceilings in K and BA.

MA: sold 3/2024: Historically Designated, 1909, 4-square colonial, approximately 1950 s.f., single family, 3 level, 4 bedroom, study/den, dining room, pantry, Kitchen, front Hall, front Foyer, back hall, livable finished 3rd floor, walk-in attic storage space,1 bath, full basement with cement floor and huge granite block foundation (rising 4 ft above ground) and covered front porch walled with same granite blocks, pea stone (short however) 2 car driveway, with very small South side yard with common walkway (shared by neighbor to back, small back yard, medium North side yard, little frontage as the house sits just back from the walkway, with trash collection at no charge to the owner, in the Historic Hawthorn St. neighborhood of New Bedford MA.

The interior had things such as: leaded glass windows, hardwood (oak and maple) floors, crown mouldings, all wood staircase (maple treads, oak spindles & railings), 2 fireplaces (rare yellow brick), yellow brick pillars support front porch roof, 2 sets of triple bow windows, all

windows and doors framed by 6 inch oak boards and "king topped" crown moulding.

For 2024, both properties were taxed at close to the same amount for the year: ~\$4900.! Keep in mind, Massachusetts is ranked as having the SECOND HIGHEST cost of living in the U.S. behind only Hawaii.

Now include the *VAST* difference in hurricane risk, quality of construction, ornate beauty of the exteriors and interiors of the two houses, and it appears that this level of taxation in Pinellas County FL is far beyond ridiculous and arrogant; it is an *obscene middle finger to private, noncorporate, middle, working income and retired homeowners*.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

From: Nick081769

To: BCC Agenda Comments

Subject: Real Estate Tax Increase - Property Tax ID #: 133014811650000643

Date: Saturday, September 6, 2025 1:04:54 PM

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I absolutely object to the 2025 proposed tax increase based on the water assessment fee you wish to impose for the following reasons.

- First, this is a 5.7% increase at a time when CPI is quite low (approximately 2.7% as of this email based on the US Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers).
- Second, property values have risen in a "bubble" like manner over the past five years and now these inflated values are dropping.
 - I purchased my condo back in April 2024 for \$389,000. Today, it is valued at \$355,652 per Realtor.com which is a more than a \$33k drop in value in 16 months, or 8.6%.
- Since the "COVID bubble" started impacting pricing in Pinellas County and across Florida, the total assessment of my condo has increased by nearly 40% since 2020, purely driven by increased property values that are now dropping.

 Year 1	Taxes	Total	YOY	Comments
	Taxes	assessment	Increase	Comments
2024	\$6,009	\$309,813	10.00%	This is nearly a 40% increase since 2020!
2023	\$5,674	\$281,648	10.00%	
2022	\$4,782	\$256,044	10.00%	
2021	\$4,388	\$232,767	4.98%	
2020	\$4,259	\$221,722	1.28%	
2019	\$4,249	\$218,928	7.41%	
2018	\$3,976	\$203,816	-2.35%	Actually a DROP in assessed value!
2017	\$3,813	\$208,720	n/a	

• Using the 2024 hurricanes as an excuse to increase this is unwarranted as assessed values have already been increased by nearly 40% in the past five years and 10% year over year since 2022. If the county was being fiscally responsible with our money, this should be enough to ensure readiness to provide the services the county is responsible for in the event of an emergency.

In my opinion, this is clearly government taking advantage of its real estate owners at a time when a recession is looming and our property values continue to drop.

Nick Constantino

216.469.1514 Nick081769@Gmail.com

11590 Shipwatch Dr, 643

Largo, FL 33774

Property Tax ID #: 133014811650000643