



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - Add-On

J.9.

1/13/2026

Subject:

BOCC Letter to the FDEP to Request Reconsideration of Venue and Format of Public Engagement Meeting re: Blue Origin Permit Renewal

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Dept/Office:

District 1

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize Chairman Altman to sign the attached letter to the FDEP on behalf of the board.

Summary Explanation and Background:

On December 2, 2025, the Board of Commissioners voted to request that the FDEP conduct a public meeting regarding Draft Permit FLOA00007-002-IW7A submitted by Blue Origin, LLC.

Subsequent to this meeting, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has scheduled a public meeting for January 30 regarding the proposed renewal of Blue Origin's industrial wastewater discharge permit. FDEP has indicated its intent to conduct the meeting in an open-house format at the UF/IFAS Extension Center in Cocoa at 3695 Lake Drive.

Given the significant level of public interest in this permit and its potential implications for the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding communities, commissioners have raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the proposed meeting format and venue. Specifically, concerns have been expressed about limited capacity, parking constraints, the lack of livestream capability, and the open-house format's ability to ensure consistent information sharing and meaningful public participation.

Individual commissioners and Senator Debbie Mayfield have communicated these concerns to FDEP and requested reconsideration of both the meeting format and location. FDEP has indicated that it has historically utilized an open-house format for regulatory meetings and has not committed to changes at this time.

The proposed letter before the commissioners formally requests that FDEP leadership reconsider the January 30 meeting logistics by relocating the meeting to a larger venue capable of accommodating anticipated attendance and livestreaming, and by utilizing a presentation-style format that includes a structured overview, questions and answers, and formal public comment. The letter is intended to elevate these concerns to FDEP leadership and state officials and to advocate for a public process that is accessible, transparent, and

responsive to community interest.

Additional information on the history of this agenda item is available from the December 2, 2025 meeting at the following link:

<https://brevardfl.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=7760628&GUID=B6F89E93-7619-47E7-B3D0-5C46D5A33B26&Options=&Search=>

Clerk to the Board Instructions:



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

January 14, 2026

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Commissioner Katie Delaney, District 1

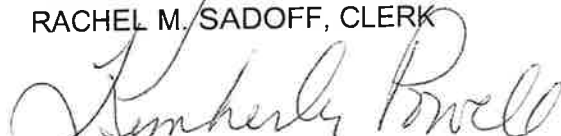
RE: Item J.9., Letter to Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to Request Reconsideration of Venue and Format of Public Engagement Meeting for Blue Origin Permit Renewal

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on January 13, 2026, authorized the Chair to execute a letter to FDEP requesting reconsideration of the venue and format of a public engagement meeting for the Blue Origin permit renewal. Enclosed is the Letter.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK


Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

Encl. (1)

cc: Each Commissioner



BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Katie Delaney
District 1

Tom Goodson
District 2

Kim Adkinson
District 3, Vice-Chair

Rob Feltner
District 4

Thad Altman
District 5, Chair

January 13, 2026

Secretary Alexis A. Lambert
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 10
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Re: Request for Reconsideration of Meeting Format and Location – Blue Origin Permit Renewal Public Meeting

Dear Secretary Lambert,

On behalf of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, I respectfully request reconsideration of the format and location for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's January 30 public meeting regarding the proposed renewal of Blue Origin's industrial wastewater discharge permit.

Brevard County values its longstanding partnership with the Department and appreciates DEP's continued efforts to engage the public in an effective and transparent manner. We understand that the Department has historically conducted regulatory public meetings using an open-house format and recognize that this approach can be effective in many circumstances. However, given the significant level of public interest in this permit and its potential implications for the Indian River Lagoon and surrounding communities, the Board believes this particular meeting warrants a modified approach.

Accordingly, the Commission respectfully requests that the Department consider:

- Relocating the meeting to a larger venue that can accommodate anticipated attendance and provide adequate parking and livestream capability; and
- Utilizing a presentation-style meeting format that includes a structured overview of the proposed permit, followed by questions and answers and an opportunity for formal public comment.

A presentation-style format would ensure that all attendees receive the same information simultaneously, promote clarity and consistency in responses, and enhance transparency for residents who are unable to attend in person. The County has made available facilities at the Viera Government Center campus, which can accommodate these needs, including overflow space and livestream capability, at no cost to the Department.

Commissioners are hearing increasing concern from residents regarding the ability to meaningfully participate under the currently proposed venue and open-house format. Given the level of public interest and the importance of this permit decision, the Board believes it is essential that the Department take these concerns into account and adjust the meeting format and location to ensure meaningful, accessible, and transparent public participation.

We respectfully request reconsideration of the Department's determination regarding this matter as soon as practicable, in advance of the currently scheduled meeting date of January 30, 2026.

Respectfully,



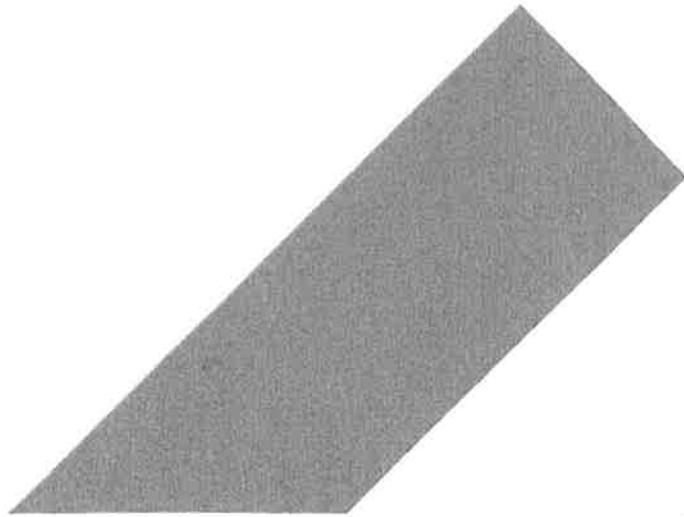
Thad Altman
Chair, Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

cc:

The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor of Florida
The Honorable Debbie Mayfield, Florida Senate
The Honorable Tom Wright, Florida Senate
The Honorable Chase Tramont, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Tyler Sirois, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Brian Rodgers, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Monique Miller, Florida House of Representatives
The Honorable Robert Brackett, Florida House of Representatives
Aaron Watkins, Central District Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Nathan Hess, Assistant Director, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Reggie Phillips, Permitting Administrator, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Randall Cunningham, Engineering Specialist, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Sarah Fayed, Ombudsman/Media & External Affairs, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Agenda Item J.9

January 13, 2026



LETTER TO FDEP FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

I am requesting that BOCC sign a joint letter requesting the community engagement meeting be moved to a larger venue with **adequate parking and livestream access**, and formatted with a **structured presentation, Q&A, and time for formal public comment.**

Katie
Delaney
DISTRICT 1
COUNTY COMMISSION



Photo Credit: Blue Origin