

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

**Ron DeSantis**

Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD

State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

November 19, 2025

Indian River County Solid Waste Disposal District
1325 74th Avenue SW
Vero Beach, FL 32968

RE: Landfill Fee Allocation

Dear Himanshu:

Since April 2009, Florida Department of Health in Indian River County's Environmental Health section has been implementing the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH) in the Gifford, Fellsmere and Wabasso communities. One of the top issues that has been identified by the residents and the health department is abandoned homes. These abandoned homes are safety and health hazards and provide havens for drug dealers and other criminal activities.

In addition to PACE EH, Environmental Health responds to complaints associated with abandoned and derelict homes and structures throughout the county. Environmental Health staff also respond to illegal dumping complaints when there is a creation of a sanitary nuisance. This type of complaint response has increased with the current economic climate, aftermath tropical storms and continued mosquito concerns in the community.

In prior years, the Commission allocated \$6,000 to assist with landfill fees while labor and equipment were donated by private contractors to assist the very low-income property owners with demolishing the hazardous structures.

It has been determined that there are other abandoned structures and illegal dumping sites that need to be demolished and cleaned up to improve the well-being of the community. It is the request of the partners involved that the County Commission allocate funds to cover associated landfill fees. The total associated landfill fees are not expected to exceed \$6,000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Miranda C. Swanson".

Miranda C. Swanson, MPH
Health Officer