



March 30, 2000

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James Robinson
President
Coastal Environmental Consulting, Inc.
6280 S.W. 82nd Street
Miami, Florida 33143

RE: REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION 00-12

Dear Mr. Robinson:

The Commission on Ethics and Public Trust considered your request for an advisory opinion at its meeting on March 29, 2000 and rendered its opinion based on the facts stated in your memorandum.

You requested an opinion regarding any restrictions on his ability to contract with companies who conduct business with DERM.

In your letter, you advised the Commission that you are currently president of Coastal Environmental Consulting, Inc. During your county employment, you worked as a Biologist for DERM and conducted biological evaluations of projects that were seeking DERM permits.

In your new company, you will assist companies who are seeking permits from DERM. You will also answer questions from DERM regarding the permit applications and other information needed to process the application.

The Commission found that the Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance permits you to work with companies doing business with the county as long as you do not lobby any county officials. Section 2-11.1(q) restricts former employees from lobbying

Miami-Dade County in connection with any judicial or other proceeding, application, RFP, RFQ, bid, request for ruling or other determination, contract, claim, controversy, charge, accusation, arrest or other particular subject matter in which Miami-Dade County or one of its instrumentality has any interest whatever, direct or indirect. Therefore, you may advise companies of permit requirements and conduct necessary biological evaluations but you may not lobby any department official in regard to permit applications by your clients.

This opinion construes the Miami-Dade Conflict of Interest and Code of Ethics ordinance only and is not applicable to any conflict under state law. Please contact the State of Florida Commission on Ethics if you have any questions regarding possible conflicts under state law.

If you have any questions regarding this opinion, please call the undersigned at (305) 579-2594 or Ardyth Walker, Staff General Counsel at (305) 579-2653.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert Meyers", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ROBERT MEYERS
Executive Director