

MEMORANDUM

TO: Orange County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Craig Benedict, Planning Director and
R. Kevin Lindley, PE, Staff Engineer

THROUGH: Frank Clifton, Jr., County Manager

DATE: January 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Using EPA Grant Money for Rogers Road Sewer Improvements

At the October 20, 2009 regular BOCC meeting, a citizen raised the question of whether money from the EPA Special Appropriations (SPAP) grants could be used to provide public sewer service to the Rogers Road community. Staff has determined that using this money for a Rogers Road public sewer extension project is not possible. The money from the grants has already been committed to the extension of sewer service in the North Buckhorn and Central Efland communities. These projects will not be financially viable without the money from the EPA grants. The entire funding scheme for the Central Efland/North Buckhorn Sewer project has been predicated upon using the full amount of the two SPAP grants for construction of the sewer extension.

The money from these two particular SPAP grants has been committed to the Central Efland/North Buckhorn sewer projects. After completion of these projects, there may be a possibility to request a similar grant/earmark to help pay for sewer extension into the Rogers Road community. In addition, there are low cost loans available from the State's Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund that may be available to fund the construction portion of the Rogers Road project. There is currently a work group comprised of elected officials set up to study and discuss strategies regarding infrastructure, such as public sewer, in the Rogers Road community. The work group may be able to offer financing suggestions for such a project in the future.