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August 1, 2007

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Paul Myers, C.B.O.
Putnam County Building and Zoning Division
515 Reid Street Building 1 - D
Palatka, FL 32177

RE: Wind Speed Map

Dear Mr. Myers:

I am working on a project with the Florida Department of Community Affairs, Codes and Standards Division to create updated wind speed line maps in a standard graphics format for all the counties of the state. These maps will be made available for public access on the DCA website. One of the tasks for this project involved the review of existing county wind speed maps and ordinances by DCA staff for compliance with the requirements of the current Florida Building Code. The review by DCA staff found the wind speed line for the current Putnam County Wind Speed Line Map to be correct, however the wind speed for the two wind speed zones for the county were found to be too low.

The 110 mph wind line, which passes through the eastern part of the county, represents the minimum wind speed value at that location. Wind speed increases seaward of this line and decreases landward of the line. The Putnam County Wind Speed Line Map currently shows wind speed zones of 110 mph east of the 110 mph wind speed line and 100 mph west of this line. Unless using engineering interpolation, the FBC requires that wind speed zones or categories between the wind speed contours as shown on Figure 1609 of the FBC (see enclosure) be interpreted using the most restrictive or worst case scenario values. This means for Putnam County that the 110 mph wind speed zone should actually be 120 mph and the 100 mph zone should actually be 110 mph.

I have enclosed a map and ordinance excerpt showing the necessary changes to the map and ordinance required by the DCA review. If you would please notify me or DCA when the required changes are made to the county map and ordinance, I will incorporate the changes into the wind speed line map for Putnam County to be displayed on the DCA website. DCA will not display county maps on the wind speed line website that are not in compliance with the requirements of the Florida Building Code. For counties with maps and ordinances that are not in compliance with

the FBC, the website will direct the internet user to contact the building department of the county for wind speed line information.

If you have any questions please contact me at 352-392-9406 or if you would like to discuss these required changes with DCA directly please contact Jon Caudill at 850-921-2282 or Mo Madani at 850-921-2247.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. S. Latimer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stanley S. Latimer
Research Faculty
GeoPlan Center

Cc: Jon Caudill, DCA, Codes and Standards Division
Mo Madani, DCA, Codes and Standards Division

Enclosures: Updated Putnam County Wind Speed Map; Ordinance Excerpt; Figure 1609 FBC