



PHONE (850) 425-6654 FAX (850) 425-6694 WEB WWW.RADEYLAW.COM
MAIL POST OFFICE BOX 10967 | TALLAHASSEE, FL 32302 OFFICE 301 SOUTH BRONOUGH ST. | STE. 200 | TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

tcrabb@radeylaw.com

May 28, 2026

Via Hand Delivery

Florida Public Service Commission
Office of Commission Clerk
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

COMMISSION
CLERK

2026 MAY 28 PM 12:28

CONFIDENTIAL

RE: New Docket

In re: Application for transfer of facilities of River Ranch Water Management, L.L.C., Water Certificate No. 603-W, and Wastewater Certificate No. 519-S to CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC, in Polk County

Dear Commission Clerk:

On behalf of Applicant CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC, please find enclosed a Request for Confidential Classification concerning the engineering reports of the River Ranch Water Management water and wastewater systems: 1) Water Treatment Facility Report; 2) Wastewater Treatment Facility Report; and 3) Appendix D-Site Photos. Redacted copies of the reports have been filed in the docket via the Commission's online filing portal attached as Exhibits II-1 and H-2 to CSWR-Florida's transfer application. Pursuant to Rule 25-22.006(4)(a), Florida Administrative Code, please find attached in an envelope marked CONFIDENTIAL an unredacted copy of the documents on a USB flash drive, with the confidential information highlighted.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas A. Crabb

Thomas A. Crabb
Jordann L. Wilhelm
Attorneys for Applicant
CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Application for transfer of facilities of
River Ranch Water Management, L.L.C.,
Water Certificate No. 603-W, and Wastewater
Certificate No. 519-S to CSWR-Florida
Utility Operating Company, LLC, in Polk
County.

Docket No.: _____

**REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL CLASSIFICATION OF
WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEM ENGINEERING REPORTS**

CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC (“CSWR-Florida”), pursuant to Section 367.156, Florida Statutes, and Rule 25-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, requests that the Commission classify portions of the Weston & Sampson Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility Reports (Exhibits H-1 and H-2 to the Application) as proprietary confidential business information. In support, CSWR-Florida states:

1. CSWR-Florida filed its Application on May 28, 2026.
2. Rule 25-30.037(2)(q), F.A.C., requires the applicant to provide information on the condition and compliance status of the system being acquired. Pursuant to that requirement, engineering reports relating to the condition of the water and wastewater systems of River Ranch Water Management, L.L.C. are attached as Exhibits H-1 and H-2 to the Application.
3. The Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility Reports were prepared by the engineering firm Weston & Sampson as part of the acquisition due diligence process at significant expense to CSWR-Florida.
4. In this Request, the Weston & Sampson Water and Wastewater Treatment Facility Reports will be referred to as the “Engineering Reports.”
5. CSWR-Florida’s purchase of the assets of River Ranch Water Management, L.L.C. will not close unless and until the Commission approves the transfer.

6. The Engineering Reports contain detailed engineering information relating to River Ranch Water Management's water and wastewater facilities, including a detailed description of the facilities and systems and recommended repairs and improvements, as well as capital estimates for triage and other improvements and repairs.

7. More specifically, the Engineering Reports address:

- General system information
- Description of the facility system components including age and condition
- Analysis of regulatory issues
- Recommended repairs and improvements
- Capital estimates for both triage repairs and other improvements and repairs

8. If for any reason, CSWR-Florida's acquisition of the assets of River Ranch Water Management does not close, and the Engineering Reports are not protected as confidential, another prospective purchaser could freeride on the Engineering Reports to formulate its own offer without having to expend the time and significant expense invested by CSWR-Florida in having them prepared.

9. CSWR-Florida accordingly requests that the Engineering Reports be classified as confidential until such time as the asset sale closes, at which point the competitive value of the Engineering Reports will have diminished. If for any reason the asset sale does not close, then CSWR-Florida requests that the Commission return to it the unredacted version of the Engineering Reports without them having been publicly disclosed.

10. Pursuant to Section 367.156(1), Florida Statutes, the Engineering Reports are confidential and exempt from Section 119.07(1), Florida Statutes, and Article I, Section 24(a) of the Florida Constitution because they contain proprietary confidential business information.

11. Section 367.156(3), Florida Statutes, defines proprietary confidential business information as "information, regardless of form or characteristics, which is owned or controlled

by the person or company, is intended to be and is treated by the person or company as private in that the disclosure of the information would cause harm to the ratepayers or the person's or company's business operations, and has not been disclosed unless disclosed pursuant to a statutory provision, or order of a court of administrative body, or a private agreement that provides that the information will not be released to the public."

12. The Engineering Reports are information owned and controlled by CSWR-Florida, the public disclosure of which would harm CSWR-Florida's business operations as described above. The Engineering Reports have not been previously disclosed.

13. Section 367.156(3), Florida Statutes, provides a non-exhaustive list of examples of proprietary confidential business information that includes: trade secrets; information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms; and information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive businesses of the provider of the information.

14. The Engineering Reports are trade secret.

15. The Florida Legislature has expressly made trade secrets confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Florida Public Records Act. Section 815.045, Florida Statutes, provides:

The Legislature finds that it is a public necessity that trade secret information as defined in s. 812.081 be expressly made confidential and exempt from the public records law because it is a felony to disclose such records. Due to the legal uncertainty as to whether a public employee would be protected from a felony conviction if otherwise complying with chapter 119, and with s. 24(a), Art. I of the State Constitution, it is imperative that a public records exemption be created. The Legislature in making disclosure of trade secrets a crime has clearly established the importance attached to trade secret protection. Disclosing trade secrets in an agency's possession would negatively impact the business interests of those providing an agency such trade secrets by damaging them in the marketplace, and those entities and individuals disclosing such trade secrets would hesitate to cooperate with that agency, which would impair the effective and efficient

administration of governmental functions. Thus, the public and private harm in disclosing trade secrets significantly outweighs any public benefit derived from disclosure, and the public's ability to scrutinize and monitor agency action is not diminished by nondisclosure of trade secrets.

(underlining added)

16. Section 812.081(1)(f), Florida Statutes, defines "trade secret" as follows:

"Trade secret" means the whole or any portion or phase of any formula, pattern, device, combination of devices, or compilation of information which is for use, or is used, in the operation of a business and which provides the business an advantage, or an opportunity to obtain an advantage, over those who do not know or use it. The term includes any scientific, technical, or commercial information, including financial information, and includes any design, process, procedure, list of suppliers, list of customers, business code, or improvement thereof, whether tangible or intangible, and regardless of whether or how it is stored, compiled, or memorialized physically, electronically, graphically, photographically, or in writing. Irrespective of novelty, invention, patentability, the state of the prior art, and the level of skill in the business, art, or field to which the subject matter pertains, a trade secret is considered to be:

1. Secret;
2. Of value;
3. For use or in use by the business; and
4. Of advantage to the business, or providing an opportunity to obtain an advantage, over those who do not know or use it,

when the owner thereof takes measures to prevent it from becoming available to persons other than those selected by the owner to have access thereto for limited purposes.

17. This statutory definition of "trade secret" has four required elements: (1) a "compilation of information"; (2) "for use or is used in the operation of a business"; (3) "which provides the business an advantage or an opportunity to obtain an advantage, over those who do not know or use it"; and (4) the owner of the information "takes measures to prevent it from becoming available to persons other than those selected." *Managed Care of N.A., Inc. v. Fla. Healthy Kids Corp.*, 268 So. 3d 856, 860 (Fla. 1st DCA 2019), *reh'g denied* (Apr. 24, 2019). "Value" is not an element of this test. "Instead, the enumerated portion of the statutory subsection establishes a presumption of what a trade secret is 'considered to be' once the required elements

of a trade secret are established, as set forth in the first sentence of the statutory subsection.” *Id.* In other words, once the elements of the test are established, “the trade secrets are considered, as a matter of law, to be ‘of value.’” *Id.*

18. The Engineering Reports are a compilation of information, including both objective data and the expert opinions of Weston & Sampson. The fact that public information is periodically referenced by the experts in the reports does not alter their trade secret status. *See Managed Care of N.A., Inc.*, 268 So. 2d at 861 (noting that “[p]ublic information can be subject to trade secret protection, as the time and effort spent compiling and the unique presentation thereof, may render the product a trade secret”).

19. The Engineering Reports are used in the operation of CSWR-Florida’s business, including as part of the due diligence process in evaluating River Ranch Water Management’s systems and by being produced in this transfer docket.

20. The Engineering Reports provide an advantage to CSWR-Florida, or opportunity to obtain an advantage, over any competitors interested in acquiring the River Ranch Water Management systems. The Engineering Reports provide comprehensive information relating to the systems that are presently unknown to competitors.

21. In satisfaction of the last element of the test for trade secret material, CSWR-Florida has taken “measures to prevent it from becoming available to persons other than those selected” including by filing this Request for Confidential Classification.

22. In addition to being trade secrets, the Engineering Reports include both “information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms” and

“information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive businesses of the provider of the information.” § 367.156(3), Fla. Stat.

23. If a competitor could obtain the Engineering Reports, it could freeride on the time and expense required to generate them, impairing the efforts of CSWR-Florida to contract on favorable terms as CSWR-Florida’s costs are made higher by the costs of the Engineering Reports. This would similarly “impair the competitive business interests” of CSWR-Florida.

24. In sum, the Engineering Reports meet the general definition of proprietary confidential business information in Section 367.156(3) as well as the examples in that statute relating to trade secrets, information concerning bids or other contractual data, and information relating to competitive interests. The value invested by CSWR-Florida in the Engineering Reports is entitled to protection on these bases.

25. Similar engineering reports prepared for CSWR-Florida acquisitions have previously been found by the Commission to constitute proprietary confidential business information that is confidential and exempt from public disclosure. *See, e.g., In re: Application for transfer of wastewater Certificate No. 318-S from BFF Corp to CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC, in Marion County*; Docket No. 20220061-SU, Order No. PSC-2023-0219-CFO-SU (Fla. PSC August 3, 2023); *In re: Application for transfer of water and wastewater facilities of Tradewinds Utilities, Inc., water Certificate No. 405-W, and wastewater Certificate No. 342-S to CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company, LLC, in Marion County*; Docket No. 20220063-WS, Order No. PSC-2023-0296-CFO-WS (Fla. PSC September 29, 2023); *In re: Application for transfer of water and wastewater facilities and Certificate Nos. 600-W and 516-S from Orchid Springs Development Corporation to CSWR-Florida Utility Operating Company,*

LLC, in Polk County; Docket No. 20250110-WS, Order No. PSC-2025-0381-CFO-WS (Fla. PSC October 15, 2025).

26. CSWR-Florida is not requesting confidential classification of the entirety of the Engineering Reports. The Water Treatment Facility Report is 521 pages, the Wastewater Treatment Facility Report is 244 pages, and the separate Appendix D (photos) for the Engineering Reports consists of 335 pages. Regarding the Water Treatment Facility Report, confidential classification is requested for the Engineering Memo (pages ES-1 and 1-1 through 4-2), Appendix A-Area Map, Appendix B-Vicinity Map, Appendix C-Process Flow Diagram, Appendix E-Carter Burgess Inventory (Existing Site Utility Inventory), Appendix F-Capacity Analysis Report, and Appendix I-As Built. Regarding the Wastewater Treatment Facility Report, confidential classification is requested for the Engineering Memo (pages ES-1 and 1-1 through 4-2), Appendix A-Vicinity Map, Appendix B-Site Map, Appendix C-Process Flow Diagram, and Appendix F-2022 Capacity Analysis. In addition, confidential classification is requested for the 335 pages of Appendix D-Site Photos.

27. The remaining pages of the Engineering Reports are either publicly available or are otherwise documents over which the CSWR-Florida does not request confidential classification.

28. Exhibit A to this Request For Confidential Classification is a justification table that specifies the information in Application Exhibits H-1 and H-2 that CSWR-Florida asks the Commission to classify as confidential and the statutory justification for each such request in compliance with Rule 25-22.006(4), Florida Administrative Code.

29. In compliance with Rule 25-22.006(4)(a), Florida Administrative Code, CSWR-Florida has filed a redacted copy of each report with the Commission via the online filing portal as Exhibits H-1 and H-2 to the Application. In addition, CSWR-Florida will hand deliver to the

Commission Clerk's office a highlighted copy of the Engineering Reports and Appendix D-Site Photos that CSWR-Florida seeks to protect through this Request for Confidential Classification.

WHEREFORE, CSWR-Florida respectfully requests that the referenced portions of the Weston & Sampson Engineering Reports be classified as confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Public Records Act, chapter 119, Florida Statutes, and Article I, Section 24(a) of the Florida Constitution until CSWR-Florida's acquisition of the assets of River Ranch Water Management closes.

Respectfully submitted this 28th day of May, 2026.

/s/ Thomas A. Crabb

Thomas A. Crabb (Fla. Bar No. 25846)

Jordann L. Wilhelm (Fla. Bar No. 1003182)

Radey Law Firm

301 S. Bronough Street, Suite 200

Tallahassee, Florida 32301-1722

(850) 425-6654

tcrabb@radeylaw.com

jwilhelm@radeylaw.com

*Counsel for CSWR-Florida Utility Operating
Company, LLC*

EXHIBIT A

Exhibit A - Justification Matrix

Location (Document name and location of information)	Justification
Water Treatment Facility Report (engineering report at Exhibit H-1 to the transfer application): Engineering Memo (pages ES-1 and 1-1 through 4-2); Appendix A-Area Map; Appendix B-Vicinity Map; Appendix C-Process Flow Diagram; Appendix D (335 photos in separate document); Appendix E-Carter Burgess Inventory (Existing Site Utility Inventory); Appendix F-Capacity Analysis Report; and Appendix I-As Built Wastewater Treatment Facility Report (engineering report at Exhibit H-2 to the transfer application): List of Tables and Figures (pages iii-iv) Engineering Memo (pages ES-1 and 1-1 through 4-2); Appendix A-Vicinity Map; Appendix B-Site Map; Appendix C-Process Flow Diagram; Appendix D (335 photos in separate document); and Appendix F-2022 Capacity Analysis Site Photos-Appendix D to both engineering reports: 335 photos for the engineering reports at Exhibit H-1 and H-2 to the transfer application	§ 367.156(3)(a), Florida Statutes (trade secrets); § 367.156(3)(d), Florida Statutes (information concerning bids or other contractual data, the disclosure of which would impair the efforts of the utility or its affiliates to contract for goods or services on favorable terms); § 367.156(3)(e), Florida Statutes (information relating to competitive interests, the disclosure of which would impair the competitive businesses of the provider of the information)