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City officials to discuss Everglades project

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SUNRISE, Fla. (WSVN) -- A proposed construction project is stirring up controversy in South Florida. City commissioners have delayed a decision on whether to permit a developer's plan to build an 11-story hotel and three office towers near the Everglades.

Those against the plan are concerned about what it will do to the delicate Everglades environment. "This is an area that's so precious. It's so sacred in terms of its ground and its impact in our environment, and in South Florida, water is like gold, and we need to really be very careful about that type of thing," said Mike Ryan.

The developer's attorney said they have a legal right to build in the area. "The property is already land use, zoned and planted for this use, invested for this use, so the only issue is, is the hotel 14 stories or is it 11? But, not is there no hotel at all, that's not an alternate," said the Developers' Attorney, Dennis Mele.

City officials are expected to take up the issue at their next meeting later this month.

The project would be the first commercial development on the west side of the Sawgrass Expressway.

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