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**Apr 03 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
In the Court of Appeals

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APPEAL FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LAW COURT

Deborah Brooks Durden, Administrative Law Judge

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ALC Docket No.: 24-ALJ-07-0088-CC to 24-ALJ-07-131-CC  
Appellate Case No.: 2025-000379

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South Carolina Coastal Conservation League,

Appellant,

v.

South Carolina Department of Environmental Services and  
Pulte Homes, LLC,

Respondents.

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**MOTION FOR SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL**

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This case comes before the Court on appeal from the South Carolina Administrative Law Court (“ALC”). Sara V. Martinez was counsel of record for the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (the “Department”), along with Joseph A. Giordano, before the ALC. However, Ms. Martinez is no longer employed with the Department and cannot continue with representation of the Department on appeal.

Accordingly, pursuant to Rule 240, SCACR, the Department respectfully requests that this Court issue an Order substituting the undersigned for Ms. Martinez as counsel for Department. Mr. Giordano and Christopher P. Whitehead will continue to represent the Department on appeal. Furthermore, although W. Marshall Taylor Jr. and Bradley Churdar were listed as the counsel of record for the Department in Appellant’s Notice of Appeal, the Department respectfully requests

that the Court's Order removes Mr. Taylor and Mr. Churdar from the Department's counsel of record for this appeal.

Counsel for Appellant and counsel for Respondent Pulte Homes, LLC, have consented to this motion.

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph A. Giordano, S.C. Bar No. 104500  
Assistant General Counsel  
Christopher P. Whitehead, S.C. Bar No. 100264  
Assistant General Counsel  
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April 3, 2025  
Columbia, South Carolina

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SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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Appeal from the Administrative Law Court

The Honorable Deborah Brooks Durden  
Administrative Law Judge

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Appellate Case No. 2026-000379

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SOUTH CAROLINA COASTAL CONSERVATION LEAGUE, APPELLANT,

v.

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
CONTROL AND PULTE HOMES, LLC, RESPONDENTS.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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I, Joseph A. Giordano, attorney for the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, hereby certify that I have on this 3rd day of April, 2025, served the Department's **Motion for Substitution of Counsel** upon all parties via e-mail sent to the primary AIS e-mail address for counsel of record, as follows:

Amy Armstrong, Esquire  
Leslie Lenhardt, Esquire  
Monica Whalen, Esquire  
South Carolina Environmental Law Project  
Post Office Box 1380  
Pawleys Island, South Carolina 29585  
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Attorneys for Respondent South Carolina  
Department of Environmental Services

April 3, 2025  
Columbia, South Carolina

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**SCCCL v. SCDES/Pulte Homes (Case No. 2026-000379) Motion to Substitute**

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**From** Joseph A. Giordano <Joseph.Giordano@des.sc.gov>

**Date** Thu 4/3/2025 9:57 AM

**To** amy@scelp.org <amy@scelp.org>

**Cc** leslie@scelp.org <leslie@scelp.org>; monica <monica@scelp.org>; Mary D. Shahid <mshahid@maynardnexsen.com>; Cheryl D. Shoun <CShoun@maynardnexsen.com>; Christopher P. Whitehead <Christopher.Whitehead@des.sc.gov>; Sandra R. Wessinger <Sandra.Wessinger@des.sc.gov>

 1 attachment (145 KB)

Motion to Substitute Counsel.pdf;

Good Morning,

Attached is a copy of SCDES's Motion for Substitution of Counsel and accompanying Certificate of Service for the above-referenced matter.

**Joseph A. Giordano (he/him)**  
**Assistant General Counsel**  
**Office of General Counsel**  
**South Carolina Department of Environmental Services**

**Office:** 803-898-1309

[Joseph.Giordano@des.sc.gov](mailto:Joseph.Giordano@des.sc.gov)

**DES.SC.gov**



Please note my new email address with the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES), which [launched as a new state agency](#) on July 1, 2024. While my old DHEC email will direct to me for a while, please update your address book with my new SCDES contact information.



SC DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENTAL  
SERVICES**

**Joseph A. Giordano**  
**Office of General Counsel**  
2600 Bull Street  
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

April 3, 2025

Via Email: [ctappfilings@sccourts.org](mailto:ctappfilings@sccourts.org)

Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings  
Clerk, South Carolina Court of Appeals  
Post Office Box 11629  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

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**Apr 03 2025**

**SC Court of Appeals**

Re: South Carolina Coastal Conservation League vs. South Carolina Department of Environmental Services and Pulte Homes, LLC  
Appellate Case No.: 2025-000379

Dear Madam Clerk:

Please find enclosed the Department's **Motion for Substitution of Counsel** and accompanying **Certificate of Service** for filing in the above-referenced matter.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter. Please contact our office should you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph A. Giordano

Joseph A. Giordano  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosures

cc: Amy Armstrong, Esquire ([amy@scelp.com](mailto:amy@scelp.com))  
Leslie Lenhardt, Esquire ([leslie@scelp.com](mailto:leslie@scelp.com))  
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