



## 2020 Florida Legislative Delegation Priorities

### Support Water Quality Legislation

SCCF asks the Legislature to support the Governors recently announced proposed large scale water quality bill based on the findings and recommendations of the Blue Green Algae Task Force.

The bill will address a suite of water pollution sources including:

- **Stormwater update standards.** Stormwater is a major source of pollution, current standards are over 25 years old, they do not account for the environmental impact from pollution that's carried. **Request** the state adopt new rules using sound science to abate pollution before it is discharged.
- **Discharges from Wastewater Treatment facilities.** In 2017 -18, 320 million gallons of sewage was dumped to state waters. Inspecting, maintaining and replacing faulty infrastructure is the most cost efficient solution. **Request** support to authorize DEP to work with facilities on the front end instead of after a damaging discharge.
- **Septic Tanks.** Florida has 2.6 million septic systems, 10% of the entire nation. Transfer inspection authority from Dept of Health (DOH) to the Dept of Environmental Protection (DEP) to address the environmental impacts as well as the health impacts. **Request** a mandatory inspection and maintenance program be initiated. Incorporate septic remediation plans to qualify for credit in the Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) review.
- **Runoff From Ag** Require DEP to work with DACS to assure BMPs are using the best science, that thresholds for nutrient reductions are identified, monitored and enforced. Mandate enrollment in the BMP program. Eliminate agricultural “presumption of compliance” . **Request** Require mandatory BMPs for all agricultural lands just as urban lands have stormwater requirements. Require DEP set standards for ag stormwater and require remediation.
- **Biosolid regulation.** Biosolids are a source of nutrient pollution. Currently AA biosolids are not monitored or tracked by any agency. **Request** Assign oversight and tracking of AA biosolids to DEP and establish strict application controls to protect surface and groundwater.
- **Establish cyanobacteria standards** . Health effects from harmful algal blooms are a serious threat to our state. **Request** Fund DEP to establish and implement thresholds for exposure to protect the public



## **Funding**

Continue to support funding of water quality programs with \$625 million for water quality initiatives mentioned above and projects including:

- **EAA Reservoir** Dedicate funding and initiate construction of the EAA Reservoir.
- **C-43 Reservoir** Continue funding for construction of the C-43 West Basin Reservoir
- **C-43 Water Quality Treatment** Commence design and Fund a Water Quality Treatment Component to coincide with the construction of the C-43 West basin Reservoir to improve water quality. The current C-43 reservoir project does not have a water quality treatment.
- **Sanibel's Donax Wastewater Treatment Plant** Support funding for Advanced Treatment of reuse or gray water. Sanibel has been a leader in applying solutions and advancing technology to demonstrate how programs can address water quality issues.
- **Support Florida Forever Funding** - Support a bill to extend LATF bonding authority and increase the allocation to historic levels of \$300 million