City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

www.mysanibel.com

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October 26, 2011

The Honorable Gary Aubuchon
Florida House of Representatives, District 74
3501 Del Prado Boulevard
Suite 305
Cape Coral, FL 33904

Subject: Lee County Legislative Delegation Meeting

Dear Representative Aubuchon:

The purpose of this letter is to register a request to make a general presentation at the Lee County Legislative Delegation meeting on November 8, 2011.

It is respectfully requested that the City of Sanibel be permitted to make a short presentation regarding local fertilizer regulations and water quality as it relates to Florida's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ruane
Mayor, City of Sanibel

Cc: Sanibel City Council
Lee County Legislative Delegation

Impacts of Red Drift Algae on Sanibel Beaches

Between 2003 and 2007, Sanibel experienced extensive algae blooms that occurred throughout the coastal waters of Lee County. **These blooms blanketed area beaches and resulted in huge impacts to our local tourism-based economy.** In 2008, the City of Sanibel and Lee County funded a $768,000 study conducted by researchers from Florida Gulf Coast University, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Nova Southeastern University National Coral Reef Institute, University of New Hampshire Jackson Estuarine Laboratory, and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to investigate the conditions that caused the algae blooms. **Results of this scientific study clearly indicate that increased nitrogen loading from stormwater runoff, including fertilizer, contributed to the extensive algae blooms in our coastal waters.** Furthermore, they recommended implementing Best Management Practices, including fertilizer ordinances, as one way to address nutrient sources.

OVER

Impacts of Nutrient Runoff in the Caloosahatchee River

The pictures above show extensive blue-green algae blooms occurring within the Caloosahatchee in spring of 2011. **Toxic algal blooms (*Microcystis* sp.) in the Caloosahatchee River were so extensive that they prompted the Health Departments from Lee, Hendry and Glades counties to post warnings against swimming, drinking, and fish consumption.** These pictures provide examples of the magnitude of our region's water quality problems and the need for reducing nutrient loading to local waters.

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