



**Florida
Oceanographic
Society**

890 NE Ocean Blvd
Stuart, FL 34996
(772) 225-0505
FAX: (772) 225-4725

January 24, 2022

Office of Governor Ron DeSantis
State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

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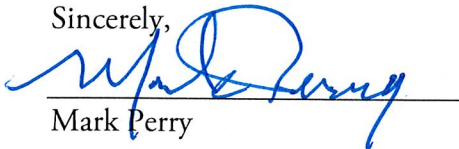
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Mark D. Perry

Dear Governor DeSantis,

The time to act is now. As we speak, there is a fundamental breakdown in the implementation of the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program (NEEPP). Water quality data collected by the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) clearly shows that pollution levels far exceed the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) which the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) established for critical waters and watersheds in central and south Florida. Furthermore, the landowners whose runoff is exceeding these pollution levels are not being held accountable by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) under current Best Management Practices (BMPs), which must be enforced. We request that you direct these three agencies to work together and implement NEEPP.

In the best interest of the citizens and the waters of the state of Florida, please act on this immediately. As a champion for Florida's environment, we ask that you order FDEP to enforce current water quality standards to meet the TMDLs for all watersheds through the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs) and base this enforcement on the best available scientific data collected by the SFWMD. And we also ask that you uphold water quality standards by ordering FDACS to hold landowners accountable for their actions, or inactions, on BMPs. Governor, it is time to achieve more now for Florida's environment. Thank you for taking action today for Florida's waters.

Sincerely,


Mark Perry

Executive Director, Florida Oceanographic Society


Bob Mathias

Board Chair, Florida Oceanographic Society

To inspire environmental stewardship of Florida's coastal ecosystems through education, research and advocacy.

