THESE ARE FLORIDA WATERS

THIS IS THEIR DESTRUCTION

It doesn’t matter where you live in Florida, or where you stand politically, because we have reached a critical stage where everything is at stake – our economy, our health and our environment.

“Everyone in Florida relies on clean water. People visit Florida and choose it for their home because of the beautiful environment – the entire economy is driven by the environment.”

– Henley Shotwell, Florida business owner, fisherman and concerned citizen

Steps to Take Action

• Call or email your legislators today - Find them at www.SendCleanWaterSouth.org
• Spread the word on social media using #SendCleanWaterSouth
• Sign up for important updates

THE LEGISLATURE IS NOW IN SESSION!

LET FACTS UNITE US

According to research produced in part by the University of Florida...Over half of possible visitors to Florida are concerned enough by the spread of harmful algae blooms to delay or alter their travel plans.*

1.2 Million
Number of Florida jobs that depend on tourism**

$1 Billion
Decrease in property values in Lee and Martin counties attributed to water quality***

$4 Billion
Economic impact of the marine industries in the four counties that were declared in a state of emergency for 242 days in 2016*****

37,000
Employees in the marine industries impacted by the four-county 242-day state of emergency in 2016*****

61%
Hotels in the Greater Fort Myers Beach and Sanibel & Captiva Islands area reporting cancellations or guests leaving early because of the water issue.****

* 2016 study by Black Hills State University and the University of Florida’s Tourism Crisis Management Initiative
** Employment data from the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (as reported by Visit Florida)
*** 2015 study by the Florida Realtors’ Association
**** Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce and Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce 2013 Survey
***** Economic Contributions of Marine Industries in Southwest Florida, Indian River Lagoon Valuation Update, and Economic Impact of the Recreational Marine Industry in South Florida
The Problem

The discharge of water from Lake Okeechobee impacts Florida’s economy, health and environment.

- **Harmful algae blooms and red tide** caused by nutrient pollution infect estuaries and coastal waterways
- Residents and visitors experience the **health impacts** of algae blooms and red tide, including respiratory issues, skin irritation and nausea
- Residents and visitors witness **wildlife death toll**, including massive fish kills and manatee deaths, due to harmful blue-green algae
- Gov. Scott declared a **state of emergency** in four Florida counties for 242 days in 2016
- National news coverage about the fallout **harms the Florida brand** statewide
- Documented **economic impacts**, particularly in tourism, real estate and sport fishing industries
- Releases **kill off juvenile oyster beds and seagrasses**, which serve as nursery, feeding and shelter areas for marine life including manatees

The Solution

Support EAA Reservoir to **REDUCE HARMFUL LAKE OKEECHOBEE DISCHARGES**

- **Use available funds** to **purchase land for water storage and treatment** south of Lake Okeechobee to reduce harmful discharges by at least 50%
- More naturally mimics water flow of the historic Everglades and **improves conditions** in Florida Bay
- Provides an **alternative source of water** to reduce competition for water supply and benefits Florida businesses
- **Protects the ecosystem** and fisheries of Lake Okeechobee by creating more natural water level changes
- Creates **recreational opportunities for tourism** – fishing, hunting and bird watching
- **Uses funds from Florida’s Land Acquisition Trust Fund**, which was overwhelmingly backed by Florida voters to support this critical project with money that is already dedicated for the Everglades
- **Supported by the vast majority of scientists and experts**
- Creates temporary and permanent jobs in the Glades and **protects jobs throughout Florida**

KEY

- **A** Estuaries negatively impacted by Lake Okeechobee discharges now
- **B** New flow possible with southern storage in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA)
- **C** New flow more naturally mimics historic Everglades and reduces the high salinity conditions in Florida Bay

"[The solution] will require additional land between the lake and the EPA [Everglades Protection Area]..."
– University of Florida Water Institute Study

LEARN MORE: sendcleanwatersouth.org