

South
Florida
Regional
Planning
Council



MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #16

DATE: MARCH 3, 2008
TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: STAFF
SUBJECT: CORRESPONDENCE AND ATTENDANCE FORM

Information only.

	1/8	2/4										
Ex Officio Members –												
WATERS, Bert SFWMD	P	P										
DONN, Gary Florida Dept. of Trans.	A	P										
KENNEDY, Chad Dept. of Environmental Protection	D	A										

P = Present

A = Absent

D = Designee Present

* = Excused Absence

- = Not Yet Appointed

CC = Via Conference Call

** Please note - August Meeting Executive Committee Only

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February 5, 2008

Letter to the Editor:

I have written two previous letters concerning the 300 million plus gallons of lightly treated sewage that is pumped into the ocean each day by Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach County's. Between the part of this toxic effluent that returns to near shore waters and makes its way to the Florida Keys and the nutrient rich fresh water run-off from the Everglades that is pouring into Florida Bay the Keys eco-systems are being bombarded by other peoples waste.

Meanwhile the residents of the Keys are, as a critical concern county, mandated to remove their septic tanks, (we have no outfalls) replacing them with central sewer systems and advanced wastewater treatment (you can drink the final flow) to insure the continued health of our Florida Keys near shore waters and reefs.

If we do not reach these standards by a 2010 deadline our limited building permits will be further reduced and other sanctions i.e. moratoriums on construction will most certainly be imposed.


Miami Dade meanwhile recently announced a 2.9 billion dollar urban renewal plan to build a new Marlins stadium, a port tunnel etc, etc. and Miami-Dade, Palm Beach and Broward continue to build thousands of new housing and commercial units annually thus insuring even more millions upon millions of galleons of toxic wastewater is pumped into the ocean.

In my opinion, as we are blessed with living in the Keys, we should continue to build our sewer systems in an attempt to do the right thing and to exist here, as much as possible, in harmony with nature. However I must ask, how does it make any sense that our nearest neighbors continue, with seeming impunity, to dump their waste into the same waters that our Nation Marine Sanctuary purports to protect and that we are required to protect by meeting very strict waste disposal criteria?

Would it be too much to request that our State Department of Environmental Protection, NOAA (the federal agency responsible for our sanctuary programs, the governor, and cabinet and our South Florida Regional Planning Council require of Miami Dade, Palm Beach and Broward the same water quality thresholds, that we must meet? Isn't it reasonable that "what is good for the goose is good for the gander" in that like us they would meet a timetable to clean up their mess and that sanctions for their failure to do so

reflect the same reaction from the State and the Federal governments. Why shouldn't they be required to enact moratoriums on growth and building until they come into compliance. In fact why shouldn't Miami Dade be put under State "Critical Concern" legislation? The cost to clean up Miami-Dade's multimillion gallon a day sewage outfall is one billion dollars. One third the cost of their proposed mega-deal to build the ball park /tunnel/museum project. In closing might I ask just what are our state agencies priorities? IS their concern for the environment stop at the Monroe County line? How can our neighbors continue to spoil our waters and finally, "is their concern for saving the Keys nothing more than a ploy to make good press as environmentalists while they avoid the political perils of stepping on the toes of the vote rich mega counties to the north?"

Sincerely,



Edwin O. Swift, III

EOS/mhc

File: Ltr.Editor -Citizen