

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: Marili Cancio <marili.cancio@cjelaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 21, 2019 5:13 PM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Cc: Daryl Johnson
Subject: Comments - Water Quality Standards Review

Ms. Sutton,

I am submitting public comments to be included with the state of Florida's review of water standards as required by the Federal Clean Water Act.

As a resident of the Village of Key Biscayne, a barrier island located outside Miami, Florida, I have seen firsthand the effects of pollution in our waters.

The main effects in addition to increased bacteria levels, decreased marine life, the smell and darker water color.

Although I am very optimistic of Governor DeSantis efforts, including but not limited to, the creation of the Blue Green Algae taskforce which will find ways to reduce the flow of nutrients into our waterways, I am not so optimistic about our local governments in addressing infrastructure problems that cause leaky pipes and septic tanks that contribute to pollution in our waterways and beaches.

I believe that water and sewer treatment plants should not be located in barrier islands and that more testing be conducted at the state and federal level to confirm that treatment plants are indeed in compliance of existing legislation.

You may also want to consider changing the way that waters are tested. The University of Miami has conducted testing near Key Biscayne and they have found more contamination in the sand than on the water.

It is still being debated whether the practice of "cleaning" the beach on a daily basis by tractors burying seaweed and other debris could be a contributing factor.

The cause of why the beaches in Crandon Park have been so often closed remain a mystery. What is no mystery is that Crandon Park/Key Biscayne are located near the Virginia Key Treatment plant which is suspected of leaking nutrients.

Florida is the sunshine state but we are also the state of some of the most beautiful beaches in the country that must be protected as well as the Everglades.

Thank you.

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