

February 3, 2020

Wade Lehman, EPA, Co-Chair
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Jon Iglehart, FDEP, Co-Chair
jon.iglehart@floridadep.gov

Re: Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program

Mr. Lehman and Mr. Iglehart,

Our environmental and civic organizations listed below represent thousands of residents in the Florida Keys.

We want to thank both the EPA and the DEP for listening to our concerns about continuing and deteriorating Keys water quality problems, and for doing something about it. We also appreciate the help of FKNMS Superintendent Sarah Fangman; Karen Bohnsack, the Sanctuary's Associate Director, Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration; and others we don't know about!

We were delighted to be able to advise our supporters and members about the newly-approved grant to Pennsylvania State University: **“Quantifying the impact of shallow wastewater injection on groundwater nutrient fluxes to surface waters in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.”**

We ask for your assistance in enabling a representative of our groups to participate in the conversations and meetings between the Penn State grant team members and the WQPP or the City of Marathon as well as the onsite work. We know we've already missed at least one such meeting, but we'd like to attend any others.

It's important that this process be transparent, and we feel that enabling us to observe and comment on the study development and implementation will help us explain and present it to the community.

Please advise us what can be done to enable this stakeholder participation.

Please distribute this letter to the WQPP prior to the February 10, 2021 meeting and place into the record of the meeting.

Thank you.

Florida Keys Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America; Florida Keys Citizens Coalition; Friends of the Lower Keys (FOLKs); Island of Key Largo Federation of Homeowner Associations; Key Deer Protection Alliance, Inc.; Last Stand; Save Summerland Native Areas; South Point Homeowners, LLC.

Cc:

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