



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
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Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Shawn Hamilton
Secretary

Memorandum

TO: Justin Martin, P.E. – Director, Public Works
FROM: Benjamin Ralys, Environmental Consultant, Watershed Assessment Section
SUBJECT: Approval of the Marco Island Pollutant Reduction Plan
DATE: September 8, 2023

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) received the Marco Island 4e documentation on June 14, 2023. Following review of the documentation, I am pleased to inform you that the Marco Island document satisfies all the department's requirements. We recommend that this waterbody be removed from the state's Verified List for nutrients (total nitrogen) and delisted into assessment category 4e. This change in assessment status will be finalized when the DEP Secretary takes final agency action during the current 2022-2024 biennial assessment listing cycle. The updated lists are scheduled for adoption by Secretarial Order in the spring of 2024.

The acceptance of this document represents DEP's acknowledgement of proactive efforts led by stakeholders, through a process of compilation and demonstration that completed, ongoing and/or planned activities will likely lead to the impaired parameter(s) attaining water quality standards. However, the department's acceptance of this document is independent of the agency's permitting processes. The projects and activities outlined within the document are still required to meet all applicable permitting requirements prior to their implementation.

The City of Marco Island is 15.6 mi² in size and is located within Collier County, about 20 miles south of Naples. Marco Island is the largest barrier island within southwest Florida's Ten Thousand Islands. The City boundary is the extent of the main island, which is essentially built out with primary residential and supporting retail land uses throughout the island.

The department's Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration (DEAR) is charged with monitoring and assessing Florida's surface water and groundwater quality; identifying, verifying and prioritizing pollution problems; developing strategies to resolve the problems; and implementing those strategies through comprehensive restoration actions in partnership with local stakeholders.

The department believes that supporting water quality projects in conjunction with our local partners can enhance our ability to protect Florida's water resources. Stakeholder participation is a fundamental component in making natural resource management decisions. It leads to better outcomes and decision-making for the continued improvement of our water resources.

Local stakeholders developed the Marco Island 4e Plan through a coordinated effort that identified the water quality impairments, sources of pollutants, local restoration goals, funding sources, and outlined a timeframe for achieving the restoration goals.

We want to thank the stakeholders who worked diligently on all the details necessary to develop the Marco Island 4e Plan, and you and your staff for your continued commitment to protect Florida's natural resources. We appreciate your work and cooperation in assisting our efforts toward achieving the restoration of Florida's waters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Ralys".

Benjamin Ralys
Environmental Consultant
Watershed Assessment Section
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

cc: Kevin O'Donnell – Program Administrator, Water Quality Evaluation and TMDL Program
Jessica Mostyn – Environmental Administrator, Watershed Assessment Section
Ansel Bubel – Environmental Administrator, Total Maximum Daily Load Section