

DRAFT SWFL STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION PRIORITIES

The Sanibel City Council is considering the following items as part of a list of state priorities to present to the Southwest Florida Legislative Delegation in November. This Council has not finalized the list. The Council has directed City staff to compile a similar list of priorities for Federal action.

Statement of the Problem:

1. The waters surrounding Southwest Florida define our area of the State.
2. Property values and tourism are at risk due to pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus.
3. Time is critical to avoid a coastal economic collapse.

Action needed by the Southwest Florida delegation:

- Ensure that funds from the State Legislature's Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Act are spent wisely and productively, Members of the SWFL Legislative Delegation must direct the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District agencies to fund the following projects:

1. Provide a Stormwater Treatment Area (STA) for the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir;
2. Acquire additional property in Glades County for water quality treatment of Caloosahatchee River;
3. Restore Lake Hicpochee, original headwaters of the Caloosahatchee River.

-Continue with efforts to support "Mod Waters", which would include an 11-mile bridge on the Tamiami Trail to allow a flow way into Everglades National Park

- Work to block any legislative action to pre-empt local government from establishing its own fertilizer regulations.

- Develop legislation providing a tax credit to property owners in south Florida who store excess water during wet years on an emergency basis to prevent discharges to the estuaries.

- Implement stricter regulatory standards for septic system construction, leaching and runoff, agricultural and residential development runoff, and sewage treatment plant wastewater and solids disposal.

- Formulate Legislation to make sale, possession or transport of Nile monitor lizards (*Varanus niloticus*) illegal in Florida.