



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jeanette Nuñez
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary



August 22, 2019

Mr. Michael McNees
City Manager
City of Marco Island
50 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, FL 34145

Dear Mr. McNees,

This letter is intended to provide the City of Marco Island updated information about the water quality assessment status of waters in and around the City. The department has recently completed its evaluation of available water quality data and has determined that several waterbody segments do not meet nutrient water quality standards. These waterbody segments have been placed on the State's Verified List of Impaired Waters, indicating they are in need of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).

This scientific determination may impact stormwater management and development in Marco Island. Once a waterbody is identified as impaired, the law requires the department to prioritize the waterbody for development and adoption of a TMDL. A TMDL identifies the maximum amount of a given pollutant a waterbody can assimilate and meet water quality standards. A TMDL assigns pollutant allocations that limit the amount of pollutants into the waterbody so that all designated uses of the waterbody may be attained. These limits apply to discharges from both point (wastewater facilities) and non-point sources (MS4s) which must not cause or contribute to poor water quality.

One way of accelerating restoration for an impaired waterbody is for local governments to begin pollutant reduction activities and/or develop a restoration plan. Early implementation of restoration activities is more cost effective and may allow the department to forgo certain regulatory steps, most notably, the development of TMDLs and still move forward improving the waterbody. The benefit is that local and state resources may focus their efforts on measures that will improve water quality sooner. Thus, it is in the best interests of the affected parties, both state and local, to perform actions that will preclude the development of a TMDL. For more information about stakeholder-driven restoration plans, please visit this webpage: <https://floridadep.gov/dear/alternative-restoration-plans>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Espy".

Julie Espy
Water Quality Assessment Program Administrator
Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration

Cc: Mr. Sam Young