

FLAMINGO DITCH (OUTFALL #5) – WOODEN STRUCTURE REMOVAL

The City of Venice Stormwater Maintenance Crew is in the process of removing the old wooden structure at Flamingo Ditch (Outfall 5) just south of W. Flamingo Drive. This structure was installed in the mid-1990s and allowed stormwater to flow through a 5-foot wooden channel into the Gulf of Mexico. It had deteriorated beyond repair and was creating a flow “bottleneck” during heavy rain events. The City obtained a Field Permit from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to remove the wooden structure and to restore the outfall to a natural channel, which will get planted with native dune vegetation. This natural outfall channel will function better during rain events, improving drainage in an area which experienced street and structure flooding during August 2017.

The result of this work will not release any additional stormwater to the Gulf of Mexico. The same volume of stormwater will discharge from Outfall 5, as did before the structure was removed, it will just flow through a natural, vegetated channel. This beach outfall drains the Flamingo Ditch lagoon, which is a healthy water body and provides natural stormwater treatment to the water prior to discharging to the Gulf of Mexico. The City Stormwater Crew has been wearing respirators due to the red tide conditions at the beach; however, this project is scheduled maintenance and not related to the ongoing red tide event.



