

Executive Office of Governor Rick Scott
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 3299

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Governor Scott

The recent wide spread and lengthy outbreak of red tide along the length of the west coast of Florida has brought forth a great deal of concern and even anxiety within the residents as well as the business community. Not only is there concern over the negative economic impact, the direct and indirect as well as short term and long term human health issues but also on the eco system for sea life.

Due to this situation there has been a intensive awareness by all parties concerning not only the present but more important the future level of water quality for all of Florida's wetlands, streams, ponds and lakes and eventually the Gulf of Mexico. The city council of Venice and its Environmental Advisory Board has conducted public meetings. These meetings have allowed various experts as well as ordinary citizens the opportunity to exchange knowledge and to learn more about what is red tide and the various environmental reasons that are the cause. Due to it's meeting the city has enacted several proposals concerning reducing the local human element as a factor.

Despite the positive action there has been a clear conscience that there is no one single solution. That any permanent solution must be a coordinated effort that includes cities, counties , state and even federal action. While it is essential that there be additional funding for further research there must be state wide programs that will take direct action on water quality.

Therefore the city of Venice respectfully request that the State of Florida approve, fund and enact the March 2010 draft of the Department of Environmental Protection

and Water Management Districts for Stormwater Quality. This program will adapt the best management practices on a state wide basis for the treatment and reduction of nutrients. It will also establish a systemic program of inspections and monitoring to assure that is operating as designed.

While independent action by local communities through the state are encouraging it is clear that without a state wide action which bring everyone into the process any progress will be limited. Therefore the leadership of the City of Venice, its staff and community at large stands ready as much as possible to work jointly with the State of Florida to working to resolve the issue of red tide.

Respectfully and on behalf of the City of Venice

cc: Greg Steube

cc: Julio Gonzalez