



City of North Port

Office of the City Manager

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December 18, 2018

The Honorable John Holic
Mayor
City of Venice
401 West Venice Ave.
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Mayor Holic:

On December 11, 2018, the City Commission for the City of North Port unanimously passed Resolution No. 2018-R-34 which requests the Governor of the State of Florida to reinstitute the public hearing and adoption process for the Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule. The City of North Port requests that you adopt and transmit a similar resolution of support to the Governor and other appropriate State officials.

The State of Florida's waters continue to experience severe and prolonged harmful algae blooms associated with red tide and blue-green algae. These harmful algae blooms have had, and continue to have, an adverse impact on both the State of Florida's economy and natural ecology. Harmful algae blooms are fueled by nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients which have been increasing in Florida's waterways.

A significant source for these nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients is stormwater runoff from suburban and urban landscapes. Stormwater best management practices (i.e., stormwater ponds) are required to intercept this stormwater runoff and reduce these pollutants prior to their discharge to waters of the State of Florida (i.e., bays, estuaries, rivers, etc.). It has been assumed that such stormwater best management practices reduce pollutant loads, including nitrogen and phosphorus nutrients, by 80% based upon the State of Florida's presumptive criteria.

The State of Florida, through the Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts collected water quality data. This led to a recognition that this presumptive criterion was inadequate to assure that state water quality standards were being mitigated with respect to nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient pollutant loads. In response to this recognition, the State of Florida embarked on a multi-year process that engaged Florida's academic research institutions, stormwater experts, and water quality stakeholders. This process culminated in 2010 with an updated Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule and a design manual to specifically address nitrogen and phosphorus nutrient runoff. This Statewide Stormwater Treatment Rule was scheduled for public hearings and adoption in 2011 but was abandoned by the incoming governor of the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Lear, CPA, CGMA
City Manager

PDL/srt