



Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers State Legislative Priorities for Water Quality

The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers is a coalition of Southwest Florida chambers of commerce committed to advocating at the local, state and federal levels to improve Southwest Florida’s quality of life and to serve as a catalyst for positive change impacting business, environment and tourism.

We are diligently working with our elected leaders to improve water quality and mitigate the devastating impacts on our tourism-based economy from the harmful algal blooms that had a significant economic impact in 2018 and threaten the region’s environment, human health, recreational industry, and a cross-section of business interests.

The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers supports the strong commitments to water quality, Everglades restoration, and significant funding levels in Governor DeSantis’ Executive Order (19-12) and asks for the support of our state delegation to appropriate funds and take action to combat Florida’s water quality crisis.

Establish cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) standards & protocols, including public notification requirements:

- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** the establishment of standards for cyanobacteria toxins in water, air, and beaches (22 other states have already adopted standards).
- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** the creation of clear agency responsibility and protocols for public notification and posting of beach, boat ramp, and park access points.

Focus efforts on stopping pollution at its source:

- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** updating and strengthening stormwater standards for urban landscapes (statewide stormwater rule) and agricultural runoff, particularly for nutrient pollution from nitrogen and phosphorus that feed harmful algal blooms.
- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** advanced wastewater treatment to reduce nutrients in reuse/reclaimed irrigation water with monitoring of nutrient concentrations.
- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** the establishment of statewide septic tank inspection and maintenance requirements.

Priority Restoration Projects:

- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** beginning construction of the Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir in 2019 with the goal to finish the project within four years.
- The Southwest Florida Alliance of Chambers **supports** the development and implementation of a water quality treatment component for the C-43 Reservoir to coincide with finishing construction of the reservoir.