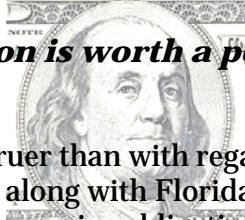


Fiscal Coalition for Water Quality

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” – Ben Franklin



This prudent wisdom has never been truer than with regard to the mounting costs of meeting water quality standards. Federal laws, along with Florida's reliance on cities and counties to manage stormwater, have created an expensive obligation for local taxpayers. Communities facing water quality challenges must not be constrained by state imposed limitations on reasonable local management of water pollution prevention programs.

Water Drives Florida's Economy – Florida's water is its most valuable resource!

- It is the basic driver for our number-one industry – tourism, much of which is attributed to the state's unique physical characteristics, especially its lakes, rivers and beaches. Environmental preservation legislation has enabled the tourism industry to flourish, boosting the economy and growing jobs across in our state.
- Without clean drinking water, communities cannot continue to grow or exist. An adequate supply of clean drinking water is critical to our economic health.

Fiscal Responsibility – It is infinitely less expensive to prevent pollutants from entering our waters than it is to remove pollutants after they have been introduced.

- **A \$50 Billion Problem** – The Florida Stormwater Association estimates that it will cost \$50 billion in capital costs alone to implement Best Management Practices and retrofit existing stormwater systems in order to remove pollutants already in our waters. Removing nutrients from polluted water is proving to be especially costly in urban areas, with median costs of \$11,000 per pound of phosphorus removed per year.
- **Wetlands** – Protecting wetlands is an integral part of a comprehensive approach to protecting water quality. Existing regulations are still not adequate to protect our wetland resources. Removing protections will only add to the problem.

Current Economic Condition – Environmental protections are not the root cause of the current economic crisis, so measures to permanently eliminate those protections should be approached with great caution.

- **Falling Home Prices and Tightening Credit** – According to the Legislative Office of Economic and Demographic Research, these are the root causes of Florida's current economic crisis.
- **Excess Supply of Homes** – The supply of homes for sale in Florida is in excess of 300,000 more than our normal inventory of 50,000. Adding to the supply of homes without an increase in demand will result in housing prices falling lower, further worsening our economy.
- **Stimulate Jobs** – Measures to “turn dirt” create jobs and can be used as a tool to improve water quality. Legislation implementing alternative sources of revenue to fund the Water Sustainability Trust Fund should be considered and adopted.

Fiscal Coalition for Water Quality



Membership

Audubon of Florida

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Florida Association of Counties

Florida Chapter, American Planning Association

Florida League of Cities

Florida Local Environmental Resource Agencies

Florida Stormwater Association

Florida Wildlife Federation

1000 Friends of Florida

The Nature Conservancy

United Waterfowlers – Florida