



**May 1, 2019**

**Tom Frick  
Director - Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399**

Dear Tom:

On behalf of Waterkeepers Florida, thank you and your team for the pre-meeting to discuss the upcoming Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Triennial Review of state surface water quality standards as required by the federal Clean Water Act.

Waterkeepers Florida unites 13 Waterkeeper organizations working in the state of Florida to protect and restore our water resources. We offer you our support as you work to protect our water resources.

Our priorities include water conservation, stopping pollution at its source and sea level rise readiness.

As we discussed, we are concerned about any change that would legally allow more pollution into our waterways. We are deeply concerned that we are near a tipping point at which red tide, blue green algae, and brown algae may become a regularly occurring impediment to economic development and tourism as well as a pervasive threat to public health. Allowing more toxins to be added to this troubling mix without fully understanding the cumulative impacts is simply unacceptable.

Now is the time to aggressively embrace restoration and prioritizing reducing pollution in Florida waterways in an effort to reverse the impacts of years of degradation and preventing further problems.

To that end, we will fully engage with you and your team during this upcoming Triennial Review process and it is critical that all Floridians have the opportunity to do so as well. Unfortunately, limiting the public hearings to only three areas in a state as large as a Florida will leave people unable to engage.

We respectfully request that FDEP add three additional meeting locations to your schedule:

- Fort Myers
- Miami
- Jacksonville

Thank you for your consideration.

Please contact us at 904-256-7591 or at [lisa@stjohnsriverkeeper.org](mailto:lisa@stjohnsriverkeeper.org).



Respectfully,

Lisa Rinaman  
St. Johns Riverkeeper  
Board Chair of Waterkeepers Florida



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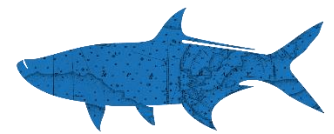
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