

Cape Coral has applied to permanently remove the Chiquita Lock. The lock is meant to help isolate and treat stormwater runoff from the city in the South Spreader waterway system to prevent impacts downstream public waters. The City is claiming the lock is poorly maintained and represents a boater safety issue.

Calusa Waterkeeper is challenging the application because the receiving waterbody, the Caloosahatchee Estuary is already impaired for nutrient pollution.

Cape Coral is prohibited from contributing additional nutrients to an already impaired waterbody. Lack of maintenance on behalf of Cape Coral should not be justification to permanently remove the structure and the ability to effectively treat nutrients as currently required by their stormwater permit.