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Congressman Francis Rooney  
1039 SE 9th Avenue, Suite 308, Cape Coral, FL 33990  
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Dear Congressman Rooney,

I am pleased to hear that you view Storm Water Management to be of critical importance to our region. I think we agree that the negative economic impact on Real Estate values and the Resort and Boating Industries is huge.

I am writing in regard to a Permit Application by Cape Coral to the Florida DEP to remove the Chiquita Boat Lock. This would destroy the existing South Spreader Canal storm water treatment system. This presently buffers, treats and improves the water quality released.

The Greater Pine Island Civic Association understands Cape Coral's desire to make boating easier for their residents. However, if that effort results in storm water releases that damage the Waterways they are trying to use, then they will suffer the same consequences as we do. Sedimentation from flash flooding will kill shellfish, sponges and seagrasses, and will destroy the commercial and sport fishing industry. Lawn fertilizer, dog waste and lawn clippings will accelerate Red Tide and Noxious Seaweed. Boaters will not be able to swim in the water, or even breath the air in a serious bloom.

The Florida DEP, Annual Basin Management Action Plan (Tidal Caloosahatchee Report) projects that almost 54,000. pounds of Total Nitrogen will have to be removed per year from Cape Coral Storm Waters releases.

Why should future Basin Management Action Plans and Total Maximum Daily (Pollution) Load Alternatives be developed? The Storm Water Treatment Systems of the Chiquita Lock - South Spreader Canal, and the North Spreader Canal already exist or existed. It would be much better economically and environmentally to restore and maintain the Spreader Canals with NEW Double Two Way Locks. This is a huge Storm Water Infrastructure Project and worthy of Federal Funds.

Please familiarize yourself with this issue, and work with the City of Cape Coral, Lee County, the State of Florida, and the Coastal Islands to fund these two sets of Locks.

Sincerely, Roger Wood, Retired Architect, President GPICA