The South Spreader Lock in Cape Coral is not rusted open, and is in operation; see photos attached. The tide was high and the water level on both sides of the lock was about the same.

The manager at the Harbormasters office for the adjacent Marina at Cape Harbor says the tide range is about the same as Saint James City and that at low tide it could be three feet lower than it was now. He said removing the lock could put the Marina out of business, because the harbor bottom is down to bedrock and cannot be deepened. A three foot drop would make the Marina unusable for many of the boats. Attorneys for the Marina at the Cape Harbor complex are contacting the City. He also mentioned that the only time the lock was left open for four hours was to let some dolphins or manatees pass through.

City of Cape Coral should keep the southern spreader lock and should be persuaded by the advantages of a northern spreader lock. First, that it would provide a stable, navigable water level in their canals, and would be a benefit to their boating community. Second, that it would also provide storm water detention as required by Federal Stormwater Management Regulations.

We want to prevent:
(1) The silting and killing of sea grasses from their one point Big Flush.
(2) The high volume of fresh storm water from a storm event.
(3) The storm water flushing of nutrients from grass clippings, fertilizers, dog poop and failing septic systems.

These are causing the death of fish and shellfish, and are devastating the commercial and recreational fishing industry. They are also causing the expansion of green algae slop, smelly seaweed and toxic red tide. Dead fish and stinking waters destroy property values as well as the resort and vacation industry. Putting in a lock would be a net win for the property owners, boaters and businesses of Cape Coral.

Roger Wood, Pres. GPICA