



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
33 East Quay Road  
Key West, FL 33040

March 12, 2013

Mayor George Neugent  
Monroe County Board of County Commissioners  
25 Ships Way  
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

Kevin Claridge  
Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas / Director  
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 235  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Dear Sirs:

I am writing to provide the support of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for two applications for proposed water quality infrastructure improvement and restoration in the Florida Keys. Funding for these projects would address and implement the Water Quality Action Plan from the 2007 Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan.

The Water Quality Action Plan identifies priorities for local, state and federal entities to implement solutions to restore healthy water quality in sanctuary waters. Building regional treatment plants, including one to serve the Cudjoe Key region is a component of Activity No. 3, Implement a Master Plan, described in Strategy W.3 Addressing Wastewater Management Systems, in the Water Quality Action Plan.

Reducing pollution from storm water runoff is another high priority action item from the Water Quality Action Plan. Stormwater is addressed in Strategy W.11, Stormwater Retrofitting, of the and Activity No. 1 which calls for using engineering methods including structures to control storm water runoff. Canal restoration is critical item identified in Strategy W.10, Addressing Canal Water Quality, and Activities Nos. 1 through 7 describe the need to conduct pilot restoration projects and implement technologies designed to improve canal water quality.

The Management Plan and Water Quality Action Plan were developed after extensive public input, support from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and adopted by the State of Florida and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2007. The proposed projects would go far in implementing the Sanctuary's goals and should be considered a high priority for the Sanctuary and the Florida Keys community.

Sincerely,

Sean Morton  
Superintendent

