

Local officials and conservationists, including U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (far left) and South Florida Water Management District Executive Director Melissa Meeker (far right), gather for the October 28, 2011 groundbreaking ceremony on the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area in Indiantown, Florida.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE EVERGLADES

The final months of 2011 have brought exciting news for the future of Everglades restoration. A fully restored Everglades ecosystem will strengthen the economy and improve water quality and quality of life for people across South Florida. All of these benefits are now much closer to being realized.

Recent progress includes:

Central Everglades Planning: At an October 2011 South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force meeting, the Army Corps of Engineers announced an expedited

planning and decision-making process for the next phase of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. This new approach means essential water quality improvement and natural water storage initiatives will be completed much more quickly. The process will also include an active stakeholder participation component. Clean Water Action welcomes these changes.

C-44 Groundbreaking: Work began this October on construction of the C-44 Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area project, another important step forward for Everglades Restoration. Benefits will include more natural water

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*From the Florida
Program Director*

Kathy Aterno

What are our politicians thinking? Or are they thinking at all? 2011 will be remembered as one of the worst assaults on fundamental protections of our water, our air, and our public health. These trends lead me to believe 2012 could be even worse. With your help, Clean Water Action can stop that from happening.

In just ten months, the U.S. House of Representatives passed 170 votes on measures intended to weaken public health protections under the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act. Rather than support programs and policies that prevent pollution, they are encouraging pollution. The spin doctors have attempted to justify these attacks as “deregulation to create jobs and bolster our economy.” These claims could not be farther from the truth.

Florida’s Governor and our state legislature continue to show signs that they are replicating the actions of their counterparts in Washington. They have transformed the state Department of Environmental Protection into an agency that proposes weak water quality standards, speedy permitting for polluters, and non-existent enforcement.

Under Governor Scott’s administration, leadership positions are held by ex-lobbyists for industry whose objective is to make sure Florida’s economy is revived in a way that benefits their former employers. That means lax

oversight and regulation. We have seen Florida’s Water Management Districts — responsible for managing water flow for agricultural users, natural areas, and the public — suffer crippling 30% budget reductions, leaving our residents and businesses vulnerable, and jeopardizing the future of Everglades restoration.

If we lose our clean, safe drinking and recreational waters, we will be destroying the state’s bread and butter economy — our tourism, commercial and recreational fishing, and real estate markets. Maybe the medical profession and insurance industry will benefit from the increase in health related illnesses from air and water pollution, but is that the type of bolstered economy our residents need?

Please HELP! Don’t sit on the sidelines and allow your elected officials to get away with doing whatever they are told by high paid lobbyists. Their job is to represent your best interest before those of polluters and other special interests. We need to make sure they are held accountable for their decisions!

Join Clean Water Action’s POWER campaign today (p. 3).

Yours for Clean Water,

Kathy Aterno

Florida Director, Clean Water Action

ANNOUNCING THE CLEAN WATER CARD

Clean Water Action announces a new partnership with Capital One®.

Through this partnership, Clean Water Action and NJEF members and supporters applying for the **Clean Water Action VISA® credit card**, will be able to select between three different credit options to fit individual needs. Purchases made with your Clean Water Action VISA card will help support our Clean Water Action movement.

You can select between three great card art designs, and choose the credit option that you feel best meets your needs while showing your support for Clean Water Action. Great rewards, low introductory interest rate, or build your own credit — you decide.

Members who apply and qualify for the Rewards card will earn 1.25 miles for every \$1 spent on purchases with the card.

This Clean Water Action VISA® card is the only credit card offered to support our cause. Apply today at www.cleanwatercard.org!



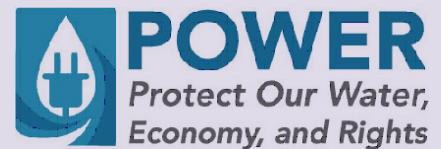
storage, cleaner and healthier water supply and improved wildlife habitat. Water quality improvement projects north of Lake Okeechobee will provide hundreds of construction jobs for local residents, bolstering South Florida's economy.

Everglades Legislative Caucus: State lawmakers announced formation of a new Everglades Legislative Caucus in late November. The bipartisan group will be led

by State Representative Steven Perman (D-Boca Raton) and State Senator Thad Altman (R-Viera). The Caucus will allow legislators to work together to maximize the benefits from full restoration of the Everglades. Working across party lines, the Caucus can focus on delivering real results for the region's water quality and wildlife habitat, and for Florida's vitally important fishing and tourism economies.

POWER! Protect Our Water, Economy and Rights!

Clean Water Action's new POWER campaign "is about real people in communities across Florida sending a message to local, state, and federal lawmakers," says Clean Water Action State Director Kathy Aterno.



"We want elected officials to represent our health and well-being regardless of partisan affiliation or political aspirations. It is about stepping up and taking back our basic rights. It is about being heard and seen during critical moments in the decision-making process on issues we care deeply about; issues that impact our water quality, environment, children, homes, jobs, education, and communities."

The POWER movement's Bill of Rights lists these guiding principles:

1. ENSURE CLEAN AND SAFE WATER FOR ALL

Safe and abundant drinking water is a basic human right

2. PROTECT OUR PUBLIC HEALTH FROM TOXIC EXPOSURE

Especially for vulnerable members of our communities, like children and the elderly

3. INVEST IN JOBS TO BOLSTER — NOT JEOPARDIZE — FLORIDA'S ECONOMY

Jobs in construction work on water quality improvement projects, creation and installation of clean energy, and building of public transit infrastructure

4. PROMOTE GOOD GOVERNMENT

Streamline and focus our government on protecting public interest over private profit

5. UPHOLD FLORIDA'S NATURAL LEGACY

Protect Florida's invaluable natural resources to ensure that our beaches, marine ecosystems and America's Everglades will be enjoyed by future generations

Getting involved in the POWER movement is easy. Clean Water Action will give you the tools you need. All you have to do is be heard, be seen, and be aware.

- Periodically send a targeted e-mail or make a phone call to one of your state, local, or federal elected officials.
- Join others in your community at face-to-face meetings with your elected officials.
- As you go about your daily life, read, watch, and listen to what your lawmakers are doing and pass it along.

Don't hesitate, get involved today. Visit www.cleanwater.org/power.

PREPARING FOR THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Florida's Legislative Session usually starts in January and ends in March. Because of this year's redistricting — a process that re-draws political district boundaries every ten years based on census data — the session may extend beyond the typical 60 days.

The Legislature's actions in 2011 have already jeopardized the health and vitality of Florida's communities. State lawmakers voted to slash budgets and otherwise weaken critical agencies such as the Department of Community Affairs, Department of Environmental Protection and Water Management Districts.

Now Clean Water Action is preparing to battle additional legislative changes in 2012 that could further jeopardize Florida's water supply, public health and economy. Priorities include:

Water Supply: Clean Water Action is concerned about efforts to double the length of consumptive use permits for public water from the current 20-30 years to 50 years. If approved, this change would give water utilities and industries — for-profit water users — half a century's control of water that should be managed, protected and conserved for the public's benefit. The proposed change would not include any requirements for water conservation strategies, frequent monitoring or reporting by permit holders.

Environmental Permitting: Clean Water Action will fight the creation of "speedy permit" programs that bypass a comprehensive review process and give permittees permis-

sion to pollute. Allowing polluters this kind of free pass would jeopardize the health of water resources and Florida's tourism and fishing economies.

Everglades Funding: Continued state and federal funding for Everglades Restoration will boost Florida's economy, create new construction and recreational jobs, benefit fishing and hunting industries, and provide safe drinking water for one-third of Florida's population. Creating natural storage areas that reconnect the historic flow of the Everglades will help retain water during the wet season for use during dry seasons. Policymakers should restore funding to levels received under Jeb Bush's leadership, which reached \$100 million annually for Everglades restoration projects.

Good Government: The Legislature should focus on Florida's economy, creating jobs and protecting water resources — not wasting taxpayer money by clouding the constitution with ballot initiatives that do not benefit Florida's families and businesses. More must be done to increase communication and cooperation between local, state and federal agencies to facilitate more effective partnerships.

Please contact your State Senator and State Representative today. Tell them to protect your interests, not special interests in the 2012 Legislative Session.

HOW THEY VOTED: FLORIDA'S LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

The U.S. House of Representatives is engaged in an all-out assault on the laws and regulations that have kept our water drinkable and our air breathable for decades. In addition to passing a bill that will gut the Clean Water Act, H.R. 2018, the House has also voted to make our air less breathable, with the passage this September of the TRAIN act. Representatives voted in October to reduce protection from emissions from cement plants and industrial boilers. Additional dirty water votes are expected.

Clean Water Action analyzed votes on 12 key bills. Scores for Florida's Representatives and Senators are shown below. More information and details on individual votes are available on Clean Water Action's web site: <http://www.cleanwateraction.org/feature/did-your-representative-vote-protect-environment>

FLORIDA		% PRO-ENVIRONMENT VOTES			
REPRESENTATIVES:		FL18 Ros-Lehtinen (R)	0%	FL23 Hastings, A (D)	92%
FL01 Miller, J (R)	0%	FL06 Stearns (R)	8%	FL11 Castor (D)	100%
FL14 Mack (R)	0%	FL19 Deutch (D)	92%	FL24 Adams (R)	0%
FL02 Southerland (R)	0%	FL07 Mica (R)	0%	FL12 Ross, D (R)	0%
FL15 Posey (R)	0%	FL20 Wasserman Schultz	100%	FL25 Rivera (R)	0%
FL03 Brown, C (D)	92%	FL08 Webster (R)	17%	FL13 Buchanan (R)	0%
FL16 Rooney (R)	0%	FL21 Diaz-Balart, M (R)*	0%	SENATORS:	
FL04 Crenshaw (R)	0%	FL09 Bilirakis (R)*	9%	Nelsen (D)	100%
FL17 Wilson, F (D)*	100%	FL22 West, A (R)	0%	Rubio (R)	50%
FL05 Nugent (R)	0%	FL10 Young, C.W. (R)	8%		

*Asterisk denotes that the representative did not vote on all bills. Percentages are based on total of number of bills voted on.

TAKE ACTION: Call or write your Congressperson and let them know how you feel about their votes. Urge them to let EPA do its job and tell them to protect us, not polluters! Go to http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/2155/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=8217#action

POLLUTERS' POLITICAL PRESSURE THREATENS FLORIDA'S WATER QUALITY AND ECONOMIC HEALTH

Pollution from Florida's sewage and wastewater plants and from agriculture is causing overloads of nutrient pollutants such as nitrogen and phosphorus. The pollution causes dangerous algae blooms in estuaries, lakes, streams and canals throughout the state. These blooms kill fish, close swimming and fishing areas, and harm Florida's tourism economy. They can also cause serious illness in people and animals exposed to the water and its fumes.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) response has been "severely inadequate," according to Clean Water Action. New DEP water quality standards that fall far short of the mark have nevertheless received preliminary approval from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

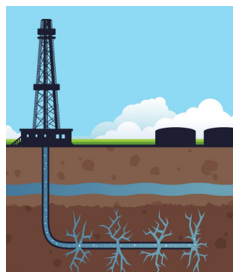
The fast-track process for creating these water quality criteria for estuaries and coastal waters discounted sound science and common sense, and disregarded impacts on Florida's economic future. Clean Water Action and others have charged. DEP's rules were released on September 28, only five days before the only public workshop held on them, and EPA did not consider any of the concerns or questions raised during the too-brief two-week comment period before issuing its preliminary approval.

Clean Water Action and other environmental groups have raised serious concerns with other recent DEP actions:

- ▶ The agency's water quality standards for "lakes and flowing waters" fail to protect downstream waters. Without strong upstream pollution controls, the ecological and economic viability for many resources may be permanently lost.
- ▶ DEP is also changing the "Impaired Waters Listing Process" through which the most polluted waters are supposed to receive priority attention. Now a new step would create a "study list" where a polluted water body could remain indefinitely without any cleanup action being taken.

Unfortunately, DEP has sided with polluting industries instead of standing up for the protection of Florida's waters, and EPA seems to be following the state agency's lead. Polluters claim that compliance with strict pollution standards will be costly and stifle business, and Florida's DEP has bought into this false argument.

Clean Water Action continues to make the case to both agencies that the cost of cleaning up water that is already contaminated dwarfs that of preventing the pollution in the first place — not even counting the damage to commercial and recreational fishing, tourism and waterfront real estate markets once water quality is lost.



FRACKING: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Recent news coverage has drawn attention to "fracking" and its many impacts. As a national leader on this issue active in more than a dozen states, Clean Water Action has developed special expertise on the risks and concerns associated with fracking.

So what exactly is fracking? It is a method of extracting underground natural gas and oil. Water mixed with sand and chemicals is injected into the ground at high pressure to fracture the rock around wells drilled for this purpose. The process releases the gas or oil, which is then pumped out. Fracking for oil and gas has been used for many years, but new technology now supports wells that reach as far as a mile underground. While drilling at this depth may allow companies to reach new deposits of oil and gas, it also greatly increases the risk of local water supply contamination in the process. Fracking presents a host of dangerous environmental and public health threats, including:

- Each fracking site requires 2-4 million gallons of fresh water. The demand would place additional heavy burdens on Florida's communities and economy.

- A number of toxins, often including diesel fuel, benzene and pesticides, are added to water before it is injected into the earth. Few formal studies have been conducted to assess the impacts of drinking water of potential contamination.

The wells require exceptionally large well pads — up to 5 acres each — and a series of roads and pipelines to connect them. These pads, roads and pipelines encroach upon pristine habitats, damaging streams and fragmenting Florida's native habitat.

Each fracking site produces a million or more gallons of heavily polluted water (six to ten times saltier than the ocean) which comes back to the surface and must be properly treated and disposed of. Treatment is dangerous and costly.

Clean Water Action members need to stay informed and engaged on this critical issue. Already, communities across America are being divided on the issue of fracking. The oil and gas companies continue to create hype about the number of jobs created at fracking sites and other possible local economic benefits. However, many more residents are speaking out against the harmful practice, making it clear that most communities value clean and safe water over more drilling and fracking.

Turn this:
CLEAN WATER
into this:
CLEAN WATER

When it comes to year-end giving, you already know that Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are smart choices to receive your financial support. Your gifts can have a huge positive impact, helping to protect water and health, now and for the future.

Here are four tips for how you can make the positive impact from your year-end giving even greater.

YEAR-END GIVING TIPS

1. Matching Gifts. Many employers will match donations made to **Clean Water Fund** dollar for dollar or sometimes even 2:1 or 3:1. That could allow your \$100 donation to have a \$200 or \$300 impact for our water.

2. Giving at Work. You can support Clean Water through your company's payroll deduction program. Federal employees can designate Clean Water Fund to receive their gifts through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10636). Contact us for help adding Clean Water Fund as a workplace giving option, or establishing a payroll deduction program in your workplace.

3. Retirement Resource Opportunity. 2011 is the last year for special retiree-only giving incentives created by the federal government. Until December 31, 2011, anyone 70^{1/2} or older can donate up to \$100,000 tax free to nonprofits like Clean Water Fund from their Individual Retirement Accounts (traditional or Roth IRAs). Mandatory IRA distributions are otherwise subject to income tax, but not if they're given directly to charities in 2011. Call Clean Water Fund for details, (202) 330-2379.

4. Give the Gift of Clean Water. You can designate your online donation(s) as gifts in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Visit the "Donate" buttons on the [Clean Water Action](#) or [Clean Water Fund](#) web sites to learn how.

Questions? Contact us by e-mail, development@cleanwater.org or phone (202) 330-2379.



Florida Currents

WINTER UPDATE 2011

Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

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Design: ES Design

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