



Pam Iorio, Mayor

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor, State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Subject: City of Tampa's Support for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Rulemaking to Revise the Classification of Waters for Designated Uses; Chapter 62-302, Florida Administrative Code

Dear Governor Crist:

The City of Tampa has been actively involved in the protection of the waters in this region for many years. The City continues to be a leader in the efforts to restore Tampa Bay, including participating in the implementation of federally recognized Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards. As such, this letter is the City's statement in support of the Department of Environmental Protection's recently initiated rulemaking efforts to refine the system of classifying waters and determining their use in Florida.

The current classification system has been in effect for over forty years. It was initially established well before the passage of the Federal Clean Water Act, and the creation of the TMDL program in Florida. Scientific knowledge has advanced with the collection of better data on surface waters.

The current classification system identifies the vast majority of waters as Class III "Swimmable and Fishable" waters. This classification system encompasses such a wide variety of water bodies in one class that the ensuing result is a system where the same standards and criteria are applied to man-made ditches, and urban stormwater conveyances, as are applied to streams, lakes, and springs.

Especially in this time of economic challenge, the City believes that an examination of the current waters classification system is necessary. A scientific determination that will properly identify the designated uses of waterbodies is required in order to allow for the most effective application of government resources to achieve the protection of the State's waters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Iorio

cc: Michael W. Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Scott Dudley, Florida League of Cities
Kurt Spitzer, Florida Stormwater Association
Chip Fletcher, City Attorney