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Wakulla Springs Alliance

"Protecting and restoring water quality, spring flow and ecological health of Wakulla Spring."

Mr. Ricardo Fernandez, City Manager
City Hall
300 S. Adams St.
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Mr. Fernandez:

You are aware that the Wakulla Spring Alliance is striving to protect the ecological health of Wakulla Spring as well as visitor enjoyment and safety. We are aware that you and the City's staff have been working overtime to repair damages caused by Hurricane Hermine. We also understand that power outages have been your main priority.

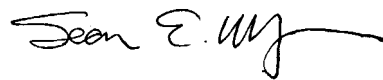
We have learned that 1.6 million gallons of raw sewage was dumped into Munson Slough on September 1 due to loss of electric power during the hurricane due to failure of the backup generator at the Smith Wastewater Treatment Plant on Springhill Road. Scientific research conducted in 2004 demonstrated that the waters of Munson Slough flow to Wakulla Spring.

We are pleased with the City's commitment to reduce nitrate so as to protect Wakulla Spring as required by the legal settlement agreement of 2006. However, we find the dumping of sewage into Munson Slough to be alarming. We commonly hear of such sewage spills occurring in other cities in Florida and the nation but frankly, such calamities are unacceptable in Tallahassee. The health of our lakes and springs should be held to a higher standard.

We understand that you reported this and other sewage discharges to DEP on September 2, but the harm is done. Why did it take nearly two weeks for the public to be informed? How will you avoid this problem from reoccurring during the next power failure? What was the date of the last maintenance inspection of the Smith facility generator? Was the generator tested when the hurricane warning was issued? Have the residents of Bradford Brook in the vicinity of Ames Sink been advised of the potential risk to their drinking water? Will Lake Munson fishermen and duck hunters be informed?

It is unacceptable to merely flush the problem downstream to Wakulla Spring and family wells and rely on dilution to be the solution. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Seán E. McGlynn, Ph.D.
Chair, Wakulla Springs Alliance

cc: City Commissioners