

The Environmental and Economic Value of the Florida Keys....

- Monroe County's coast line extends from the Everglades to the Dry Tortugas, and encompasses the **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, 3 National Parks** (Everglades, Dry Tortugas and Biscayne), **4 National Wildlife Refuges, 5 State Parks, and 3 State Aquatic Preserves.**
- Monroe County is designated by the State of Florida as an **Area of Critical State Concern.**
- The Florida Keys economy generates over **\$4B in gross sales.** (FDOR, FY 2014)
- Monroe County's tourism industry alone creates approximately **33,000 jobs and \$2.7B in sales.** There were **4 million visits to Monroe County** in 2011. (Monroe County TDC Report, 2011)
- Monroe County's marine ecosystem supports over **6,000 species of fish, invertebrates and plants, and critical spawning habitats to over 520 species** of recreational and commercial migratory, endemic, coastal & pelagic finfish and shellfish, providing unparalleled support to fisheries and essential habitats throughout Florida and the Gulf. (NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan, 2007.)
- Monroe County's **nearshore waters alone provide habitat for 80 percent of the fish species in the U.S.** and most commercially valuable fish species depend on Monroe County nearshore waters at some point during their development. (US Army Corps' Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program Management Plan, 2006.)
- With the highest number of recognized International Game Fish Association (IGFA) "World Record Game Fish" records, and generating **\$433M** in direct sales, Monroe County is **the global center of recreational and sport fishing.**
- Monroe County is the only port in the entire State of Florida to rank among the nation's top 50 ports in landings tonnage or landings value. It is the **13th most valuable port in the nation and the 5th most valuable port in the Gulf of Mexico.** (NOAA's Fisheries of the United States, August 2012.)
- Monroe County is home to **Naval Air Station Key West**, the U.S. Navy's premiere training facility hosts **60,000** training operations a year and generates nearly **\$800M in economic activity.**
- Monroe County's population is **74,206** (EDR, Dec 2015); however, the County's functional population is twice that at **157,063** (combined residents and visitors on any given day.)
- Monroe County **generates over \$200M in sales tax revenue annually** for the State of Florida.



STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

Senate District 39:
Sen. Dwight Bullard

House District 120:
Rep. Holly Raschein

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Mayor Heather Carruthers, District 3
BOCCDIS3@monroecounty-fl.gov

Mayor Pro Tem George Neugent, District 2
BOCCDIS2@monroecounty-fl.gov

Danny Kolhage, District 1
BOCCDIS1@monroecounty-fl.gov

David Rice, District 4
BOCCDIS4@monroecounty-fl.gov

Sylvia Murphy, District 5
BOCCDIS5@monroecounty-fl.gov

County Administrator
Roman Gastesi
Gastesi-roman@monroecounty-fl.gov
Office: 305-292-4441
Cell 305-394-1332

Director of Legislative Affairs
Lisa Tennyson
Tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov
Office: 305-292-4444

1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-205
Key West, FL 33040

Monroe County

Board of County Commissioners

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2016



#1 PRIORITY:

PASSAGE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS STEWARDSHIP BILL (HB 447/SB 770) TO PROVIDE:

- **FUNDING FOR WATER QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WILL PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE OUTSTANDING WATER QUALITY OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**
- **FUNDING FOR LAND ACQUISITION THAT WILL PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, CRITICAL HABITAT, PROPERTY RIGHTS, PUBLIC SAFETY and MILITARY VALUE OF THE FLORIDA KEYS**



The Florida Keys Stewardship Bill will invest in critically important WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

WHY IS INVESTMENT IN WATER QUALITY SO IMPORTANT IN THE FLORIDA KEYS?

- **Unique Ecosystem:** The degradation of water quality threatens the fragile and complex marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys, one of the most unique ecosystems in the world and home to the **only living coral reef in the continental U.S. and the third largest barrier reef in the world.**
- **Unrivaled Economic Impact:** This ecosystem is the lifeblood of marine-based tourism and fisheries economy unrivaled in the State of Florida generating over **\$4B in economic activity**, enabling the Keys to generate **\$200M in sales tax revenue** for the State last year.
- **Federal Mandate:** In 1990, Congress created the **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary** and directed the US EPA and the State to develop a Water Quality Protection Program to restore and protect water quality.
- **State Regulations:** The State recognized the need for special protection of the Keys water quality and marine ecosystem with the designation of **Outstanding Florida Waters** in 1985.

The implementation of Advanced Wastewater Treatment, storm water management and canal water restoration in the Florida Keys are all pursuant to and in furtherance of the **Federal Water Quality Protection Program mandates**, and **State Outstanding Florida Waters regulations** that apply to all of the waters surrounding the Florida Keys.



- **Costs:** The construction costs for Advanced Wastewater Treatment facilities exceed **\$800M**. Continued critically important water quality protection measures like storm water and canal water restoration are required. These investments in Keys' waters have and will continue to yield a **significant ROI for the State.**

Keys' Wastewater Costs

| Entity | Project | Cost |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Village of Islamorada | Islamorada | \$ 160 M |
| City of Marathon | Marathon | \$ 139 M |
| Key Largo WW Treatment Distr. | Key Largo | \$ 160 M |
| Monroe County | Cudjoe | \$ 196 M |
| Monroe County | All other sewer projects | \$ 66 M |
| City of Key West | Key West | \$ 80 M |
| City of Key Colony Beach | Key Colony Beach | \$ 4 M |
| Florida Keys Aqueduct Auth. | Layton, Long Key, Conch Key, Duck Key, Bay Point | \$ 42 M |
| TOTAL | | \$ 847 M |

The Florida Keys Stewardship Bill will invest in critically important LAND ACQUISITION

WHY IS INVESTMENT LAND ACQUISITION SO IMPORTANT IN THE FLORIDA KEYS?

- **Area of Critical State Concern:** The State of Florida designated the Florida Keys an **Area of Critical State Concern**, in recognition of its unique and significant environmental resources.
- **Public Safety:** The **State's hurricane evacuation rules for the Keys** safeguard our residents and visitors — but they also result in severely restricted development potential by limiting the total number of building permits.
- **Property Rights/Takings:** The State will allot the Keys **350 permits each year for the next 10 years, for a total of 3,550 permits.** After that we will reach "build out," when no further development will be permitted. **After "build out" there will still be 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped parcels potentially with no ability to develop — a potential \$318M liability.**

Gradual acquisition of these parcels through continued partnership with the State **and local commitment** will protect property rights and curtail the threat of significant future takings liability.

| # Privately-Owned, Vacant Parcels after "Build-Out" (Keys-Wide) | Avg Parcel Value | Apprx Total Land Value of Those Parcels |
|---|------------------|---|
| 7,814 | \$ 40,664 | \$ 318M |

- **Florida Forever/ARC list:** The Keys have two prioritized Florida Forever projects. **Of the 7,800 privately-owned, undeveloped properties that could be left without permits almost half — 3,400 — lie within these Florida Forever projects.** Therefore, purchase of land within the FF projects advances not only conservation and habitat protection, it also simultaneously mitigates potential future (and much more costly) property takings lawsuits and judgements.

| Florida Forever Project Name (Rank) | Remaining Acres | # Privately Owned, Vacant Parcels within that Acreage | Apprx. Land Value of Remaining Acreage (Per DEP 2012 WkPlan) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|
| Florida Keys Ecosystem (CCL 1/High) | 7,330 | 2,423 | \$ 38M |
| Coupon Bight/Key Deer (CCL 5/Low) | 1,155 | 1,047 | \$ 9M |
| TOTAL | 9,349 | 3,470 | \$ 47M |

- **Military Base Encroachment:** The Keys are home to the **U.S. Naval Air Station Key West.** We are working to get prioritized within the State's Military Base Protection Program, land that presents encroachment threats to the base's operation. **Another 500 of the privately-owned, undeveloped parcels lie within military buffer areas.**

Additional Priorities:

ENSURE AFFORDABLE WIND and FLOOD INSURANCE;
PRESERVE/ENHANCE STATE FUNDING;
LIMIT COST SHIFTS,
UNFUNDED MANDATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PRE-EMPTIONS

- **SUPPORT** state legislative efforts that recognize the importance of affordable wind and flood insurance to home-owners, local businesses and local economies.
- **OPPOSE** legislation that **increases present insurance premiums and/or limits the availability of Citizens' coverage** (particularly in areas, such as Monroe, where there is no reasonable degree of competition for windstorm insurance.)
- **SUPPORT** equitable calculation of Citizens' **wind insurance premiums** for condo owners. (**HB 715/SB 842**)
- **SUPPORT** to legislation to enhance coordination of statewide efforts to address and mitigate **severe weather impacts.** (**HB 1223/SB1544**)
- **SUPPORT** a fair and equitable cost-share arrangement with the State for **DJJ.** (**SB 1279**)
- **SUPPORT** adequate and fair **funding for Clerks' offices.**
- **SUPPORT** **affordable housing funding** for Florida Keys for critically needed workforce housing.
- **SUPPORT** DEP funding to address safety concerns of the **historic, pedestrian bridges** along the iconic Florida Keys Overseas Heritage Trail.
- **SUPPORT** funding for **vessel pump-out** services to protect water quality in the National Marine Sanctuary, funding for the **removal of derelict vessels,** and efforts to **prevent derelict vessels.** (**HB 7025/SB1300**).
- **SUPPORT** efforts to allow local coastal communities to ban the use of **single use plastic bags.** (**SB 306/HB143**)
- **SUPPORT** legislative reforms that enhance and improve coordination of **mental health** services, and adequate mental health funding.
- **OPPOSE** efforts to shift costs of services, mandate unfunded services, and pre-empt local government authority (eg, COPCNs, Balance Billing for EMS, Utility Relocation, Local Surtax, Hydraulic Fracturing, Medical Examiners' fees.)