BIG SUGAR BLOCKS THE TRUTH

THE ONLY FIX IS
“RESTORE THE RIVER OF GRASS FLOW”

Citizens:
When will we ever stop doing the damaging discharges that send dangerous quantities of polluted water to both our coasts? The sad truth is that none of the projects now in the works will stop the Lake Okeechobee dumps.

In order to keep Big Sugar land perfect for sugar cane and other crops, billions of gallons of water from Lake Okeechobee are shuttered into the St. Lucie Canal to the east and the Caloosa-hatchet to the west. Our communities cry for real answers instead of more fast talk and empty promises.

Brainstorm:
Why don’t we turn to independent scientists and hydrology experts?

207 scientists signed a petition calling for increasing the storage, treatment, and flow of Lake Okeechobee water south to the Everglades and Florida Bay where it is needed. This can be done on a small percentage of Big Sugar land. Every credible scientist and engineer agreed. As usual, Big Sugar and their friends in office ignored the experts.

Mother Nature was also right about the “River of Grass” south of the lake to the Everglades. It’s time to restore that flow.

Sixty years ago, the Army Corps of Engineers promised us a “Third Outlet” from the lake to stop the damaging discharges. Twenty years ago the Army Corps of Engineers offered the “Plan Six” of way to stop the damaging discharges. Big Sugar and their friends in office smoothed it out.

Ten years ago a federal court called the discharges a “travesty”, commended the river advocates “tireless” efforts, and sent us to Congress for a solution. Again, the power of Big Sugar and their friends in office ignored the experts.

The long distressing story of how Big Sugar subverted our democratic process can’t be told instead of more fast talk and empty promises.

RIVER OF GRASS, THE MISSING LINK

- Stops polluted discharges from Lake Okeechobee to the coastal estuaries
- Requires less than 15 percent of sugar cane-growing land
- Simpler and cheaper than current plans
- Brings back estuary wildlife and plant life
- Restores natural sheet/f_l ow to the Everglades
- Prevents Lake discharges that contain toxins that threaten human health
- Takes no residential, commercial or industrial land
- Impacts no towns or villages and creates local jobs

Damaging discharges from Lake O result in an estimated $488 million reduction in Martin County’s aggregate property value alone.

The Economic Council of Martin County claims the local waterways provide $640 million in total economic benefit and support 3,750 jobs.

Lake O discharges are adversely impacting human health through toxic blue-green algal blooms making waterways untouchable and dangerous.

Massive Lake O discharges have caused devastating impacts to the living ecosystems of the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon. They have killed oysters and sea grasses both and damage nearshore hard bottom and coastal reefs. Fish suffer lesions and other abnormalities.

- To secure flowway land south of Lake O is the single biggest obstacle to long-term protection of the St. Lucie and Caloosa-hatchet ecosystems, and providing the Everglades and Florida Bay with much-needed fresh water and drinking supplies.

AMENDMENT ONE
MONEY WOULD PROVIDE THE FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

The Plan is there, the Army Corps developed it, the money is there, Floridians voted for it! Buy The Land

For more information visit Riverscoalition.org or Like us on Facebook! PO Box 2627, Stuart, FL 34995, 772-225-6849, info@riverscoalition.org