

INPUT PUSHES GOVERNING BOARD IN RIGHT DIRECTION

Thanks to emails sent by Sanibel citizens, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) has decided not to ask the Army Corps of Engineers to revert to the old Lake Okeechobee Regulation (water release) Schedule. The old release schedule resulted in a great deal of damage to Sanibel's water quality. Under the old Water Supply/Environmental (WSE) schedule, the Caloosahatchee River was impacted by extreme releases of polluted freshwater that caused water quality problems from which our region is still trying to recover.

After discovering that the SFWMD Governing Board was considering going back to the old schedule, Sanibel residents, who helped fight for the new plan, once again made a difference. Some governing board members received as many as 160 emails asking them to keep the new Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP).

While the TSP won't solve all of the region's water quality issues, it is a step in the right direction to protect area waters. The TSP was developed as an alternative to better protect area estuaries.