

August 05, 2013



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, Florida 33957-4096

www.mysanibel.com

AREA CODE - 239

CITY COUNCIL	472-4135
ADMINISTRATIVE	472-3700
BUILDING	472-4555
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	472-3111
FINANCE	472-9615
LEGAL	472-4359
NATURAL RESOURCES	472-3700
RECREATION	472-0345
PLANNING	472-4136
POLICE	472-3111
PUBLIC WORKS	472-6397

The Honorable Trey Radel
United States Congress
1123 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: WRDA Funding for Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Reservoir

Dear Congressman Radel:

The City of Sanibel urges you to pass the 2013 Water Resources Development Act and fund the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. This project is desperately needed to reduce impacts to the Caloosahatchee Estuary resulting from massive freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee during the rainy season and a lack of freshwater to maintain appropriate salinity conditions in the estuary during the dry season.

The C-43 Reservoir Project will add 170,000 acre-feet of critical water storage within the Caloosahatchee basin. This will help reduce the volume of polluted water delivered to the estuary during the rainy season that can feed harmful algal blooms, choke sunlight from seagrasses, and can be dangerous to swimmers and beachgoers. During the dry season, freshwater will be released from the reservoir to help lower salinity in the estuary, providing more suitable conditions for estuarine organisms.

Since July 1st, 2013, daily flows to the Caloosahatchee Estuary have exceeded 6,500 cubic feet per second, resulting in mortality of seagrasses, oysters, and other aquatic life throughout the estuary, Pine Island Sound, and the Gulf of Mexico. As you can see in the attached map and photographs, a dark plume of polluted freshwater is extending out in to the Gulf of Mexico, impacting our coastal waters and beaches, the heart of our economy, and way of life. Please authorize funding immediately for this critical project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin Ruane", is written over a circular blue stamp.

Kevin Ruane
Mayor

Cc: Sanibel City Council
Judith A. Zimomra, City Manager
Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney

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The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
2000 Main Street, Suite 801
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Subject: WRDA Funding for Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Reservoir

Dear Senator Nelson:

The City of Sanibel urges you to pass the 2013 Water Resources Development Act and fund the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. This project is desperately needed to reduce impacts to the Caloosahatchee Estuary resulting from massive freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee during the rainy season and a lack of freshwater to maintain appropriate salinity conditions in the estuary during the dry season.

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The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: WRDA Funding for Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Reservoir

Dear Senator Rubio:

The City of Sanibel urges you to pass the 2013 Water Resources Development Act and fund the Caloosahatchee River (C-43) West Basin Storage Reservoir Project. This project is desperately needed to reduce impacts to the Caloosahatchee Estuary resulting from massive freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee during the rainy season and a lack of freshwater to maintain appropriate salinity conditions in the estuary during the dry season.

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Kenneth B. Cuyler, City Attorney

82°18'0"W 82°15'0"W 82°12'0"W 82°9'0"W 82°6'0"W 82°3'0"W 82°0'0"W 81°57'0"W

26°36'0"N

26°33'0"N

26°30'0"N

26°27'0"N

26°24'0"N

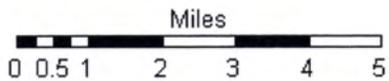
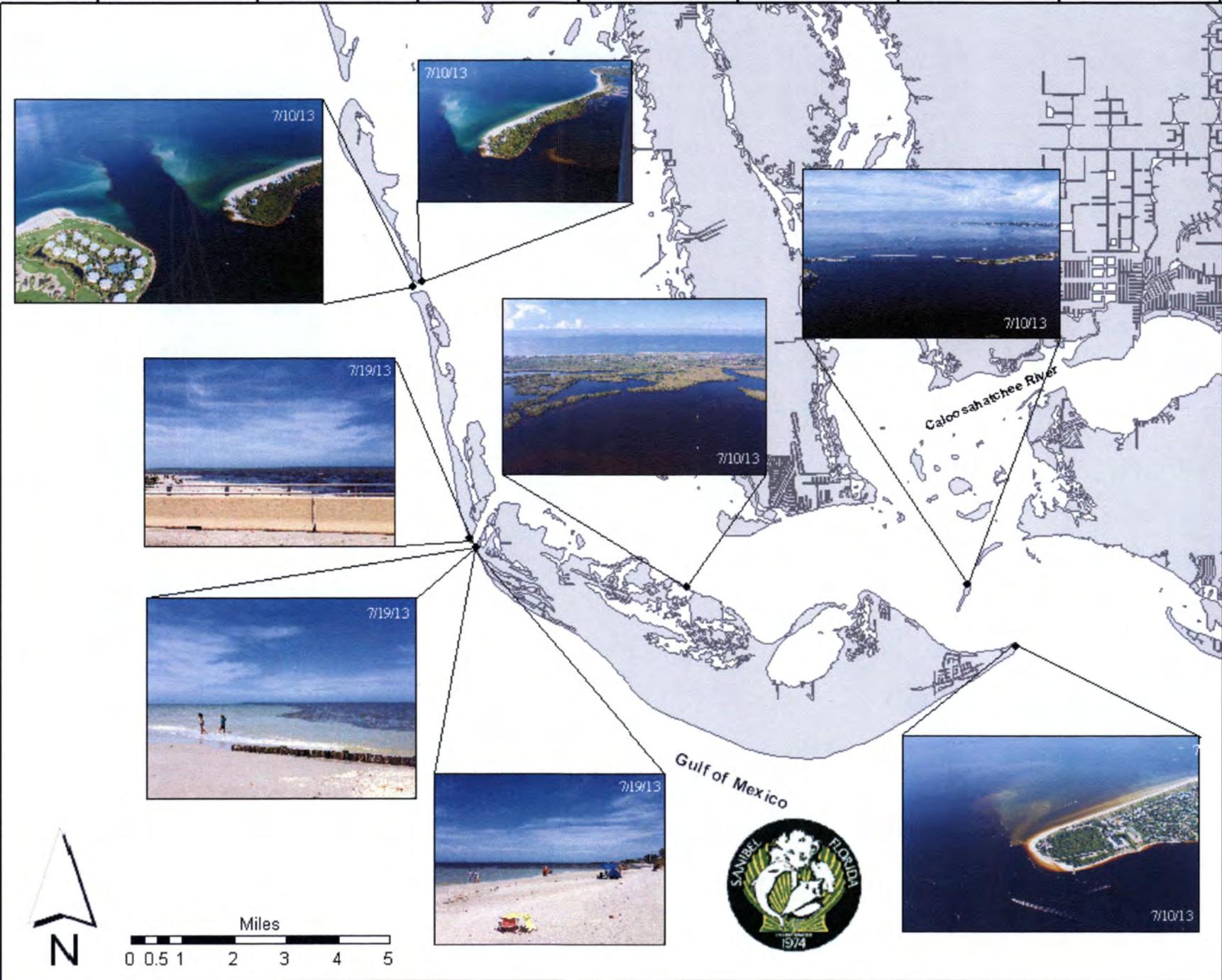




Photo 1: Sanibel Causeway 7-10-13, photo taken by SCCF



Photo 2: Sanibel Causeway 7-10-13, photo taken by SCCF



Photo 3: Sanibel Lighthouse 7-10-13, photo taken by SCCF



Photo 4: Mouth of the Caloosahatchee 7-10-13, photo taken by SCCF



Photo 5: Redfish Pass 7-10-13, Photo taken by SCCF



Photo 6: Redfish Pass 7-10-13, Photo taken by SCCF



Photo 7: Redfish Pass 7-10-13, Photo taken by SCCF



Photo 8: Redfish Pass 7-10-13, Photo taken by SCCF



Photo 9: Blind Pass 7-19-13, Photo taken by City of Sanibel



Photo 10: Blind Pass 7-19-13, Photo taken by City of Sanibel



Photo 11: Blind Pass 7-19-13, Photo taken by City of Sanibel



Photo 12: Blind Pass 7-19-13, Photo taken by City of Sanibel