



## SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# GET THE FACTS

**News outlets and social media sites continue to falsely report that South Florida's water is polluted and toxic, untouchable and filled with sludge.**

**These allegations cannot be backed up by the facts. So-called "expert sources" are spewing emotion instead of science.**

### Here are the facts:

- **South Florida's water – especially water moved into Everglades National Park by the South Florida Water Management District – is cleaner than it has been in generations.**
- In the 1980s, water flowed into the Everglades with more than *150 parts per billion* of nutrients, harming the natural environment.
- Florida invested \$1.8 billion to fix this problem and improve Everglades water quality by building 57,000 acres of treatment wetlands to reduce nutrients to healthy levels for the ecosystem.
- **This goal has been achieved, far beyond the prediction of skeptics.** During the past 5 years, strict science monitoring shows nutrient discharges into Everglades National Park averaged *9 parts per billion*, **exceeding** water quality standards.
  - In fact, in the last three months, water flowing into the park has been even cleaner, ranging from 5 to 8 parts per billion on average.
- Florida continues this work. As part of Gov. Scott's Restoration Strategies Plan, an additional \$880 million is being invested to build more treatment wetlands and water storage capacity to ensure that Everglades National Park will be healthy for decades to come.

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*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.*