



Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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County Manager

October 22, 2019

Thomas Frazer, Chief Science Officer
Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Dr. Frazer,

On behalf of the Board of County Commissioners, Alachua County would like to congratulate you on your new position as the State's Chief Science Officer and to commend the valuable work you are accomplishing with leading the Blue-Green Algae Task Force.

Alachua County recently adopted the most protective urban fertilizer ordinance in the state of Florida (which includes an eight month ban from July-February) because we recognize that fertilizer pollutes our surface waters, groundwater, and springs. Our ordinance is weakened by the State's preemption (F.S. 570.07(41)(a)) which prevents us from keeping fertilizers off retail shelves during the banned months. The Task Force's recommendations should include a recommendation to pass legislation to eliminate this preemption which denies local governments the least expensive method to enforce urban fertilizer ordinances.

Additionally, during the September 24th Task Force meeting the fact that current stormwater design requirements are not meeting the presumed treatment efficiencies was discussed. The State had attempted to adopt new design requirements as part of a Statewide Stormwater Rule in 2009-2010. The termination of this update effort left inadequate design standards in place. Alachua County has adopted a Countywide Stormwater Treatment Code, based on the previous draft Statewide Rule, to compensate for the lack of action at the State level. The Task Force should also recommend the adoption of an updated Statewide Stormwater Rule, based on the previous draft rule.

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Thank you for your service and continued commitment to our shared water resources. Please contact Stacie Greco, Water Resources Program Manager, with our Environmental Protection Department at 352-264-6829 or Sgreco@alachuacounty.us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Chr20.XXX

CSC/SG/sg

CC: Board of County Commissioners
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney
Mark Sexton, Legislative Affairs Director
Chris Bird, Director, Environmental Protection Department