

CAPTIVA COMMUNITY PANEL WATER QUALITY RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Captiva's Community Planning Panel (the Panel) recognizes the fragile balance between humans and nature is easily upset, often with disastrous results; and

WHEREAS, the Panel, as inhabitants of our barrier-island home, recognizes the interdependence of humans and a healthy, thriving environment; and

WHEREAS, the recent beach closures and other persistent local water quality concerns have underscored the need to proactively investigate the underlying causes of such water pollution as well as potential solutions for improving water quality; and

WHEREAS, the Panel desires to work urgently and cooperatively to address any actions by which Captiva may be contributing to the degradation of the waters surrounding their island; and

WHEREAS, the Panel recognizes that such solutions will require a coordinated effort of the Captiva community with neighboring entities such as: the City of Sanibel, Lee County, Florida State Govt. and all existing wastewater treatment facility operators, and that all such entities recognize they too have a vested interest in resolving these pollution issues.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Panel formally endorses the following urgent actions in response:

FIRSTLY, regular monitoring of Captiva island's near-shore waters needs to be undertaken by appropriate entities to help determine the kinds and sources of pollution that may be emanating from the island. The Panel will work with such appropriate parties to ensure such monitoring is done.

SECONDLY, the Panel in conjunction with the aforementioned monitoring information will commit its resources to investigate alternatives to the current On-Site Treatment and Disposal of Sewage (OSTDS) systems in place on the island, with the recognition that such systems may be a major source of pollution affecting our waters. As the first best step, we also strongly encourage Captiva island commercial and residential communities/entities have their own OSTDS systems monitored and maintained to ensure they are working to standards in accordance with the state's latest "best practice" requirements.

THIRDLY, the Panel calls on Lee County and the state of Florida to assist Captiva in addressing the water quality issues facing Captiva Island and this region, with any and all such assistance including, but not limited to time, treasury and expertise as necessary to effectively address the problems. This may include facilitating implementation of potential solutions, funding feasibility studies, reaching out to the federal government for assistance, working with existing OSTDS operators and all other appropriate actions.

FOURTHLY, the Panel will engage the city of Sanibel in these efforts, seeking assistance as may be appropriate and in recognition of the unique relationship and interdependence of the two islands, particularly as regards our common environmental issues.

LASTLY, the Panel will consider any all other alternatives not expressly stated herein that may prove beneficial in our efforts to controlling and/or curing contributing water pollution sources as may emanate from Captiva island.

APPROVED on the 13th of November, 2007, by a unanimous vote of the Captiva Community Panel.